

Lower Thames Crossing: Health Impacts

Thurrock Task Force
23rd April 2018

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Introduction

■ Where are we now:

- EIA Scoping Opinion received from PINS on 13 December 2017.
- Design is still under development.
- Gathering baseline data.
- Engagement with LAs and stakeholders to inform design, technical assessments and mitigation for social and health impacts.

■ Aim:

- Outline and explain LTC's proposed approach to assessing social and health impacts.
- Set out how LTC will address Thurrock's comments in relation to Health Impact Assessment (HIA) raised in the EIA Scoping Opinion, Task Force and Technical Meetings.

EIA Scoping Opinion

Caroline Soubry-Smith

EIA Scoping Opinion

SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed Lower Thames Crossing

Case Reference: TR010032

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)
pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning
(Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

December 2017

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- Circa. 1700 comments received. Thurrock Council provided 269 comments.
- LTC is in the process of reviewing and tracking each comment. How we address each comment will be discussed with LAs and stakeholders (where necessary), and included in a table appended to the Environmental Statement (ES).

Thurrock Council Scoping Response - Key Health Comments

- *“The Council strongly requests that a **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** is required...”*
- In addition to a separate HIA, *“The Council requests that a **dedicated chapter** be provided to cover the subject of Human Health.”*
- *“The Council agrees that a **separate equalities impact assessment** needs to be undertaken”. **Severance and health inequalities** should be considered.*
- *“**PM2.5** needs to be considered within the air quality assessment.”*
- *“...precedents have been set by several NSIP developments...”*
- *“Consideration will need to be paid to implementing appropriate **mitigation measures to reduce the impact of noise on local residents** in Thurrock..”*

- Thurrock Task Force 9 Key Priorities – Key Priority no. 7d Environmental and ecological impacts:

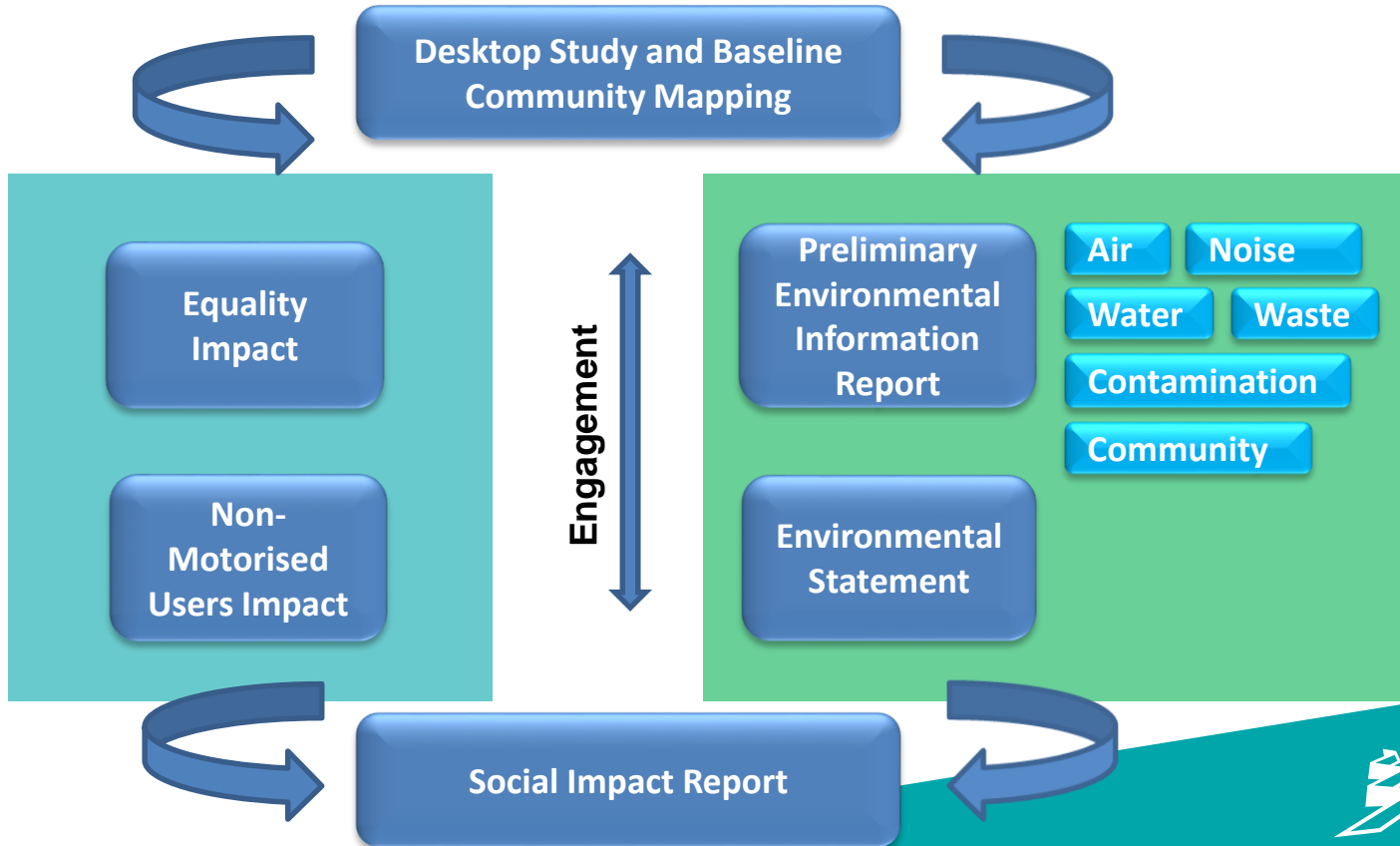
*“More road trips will result in greater pollution than would otherwise be the case. **A Full Health Impact Assessment must be produced by HE.**”*

Scope of Technical Assessments

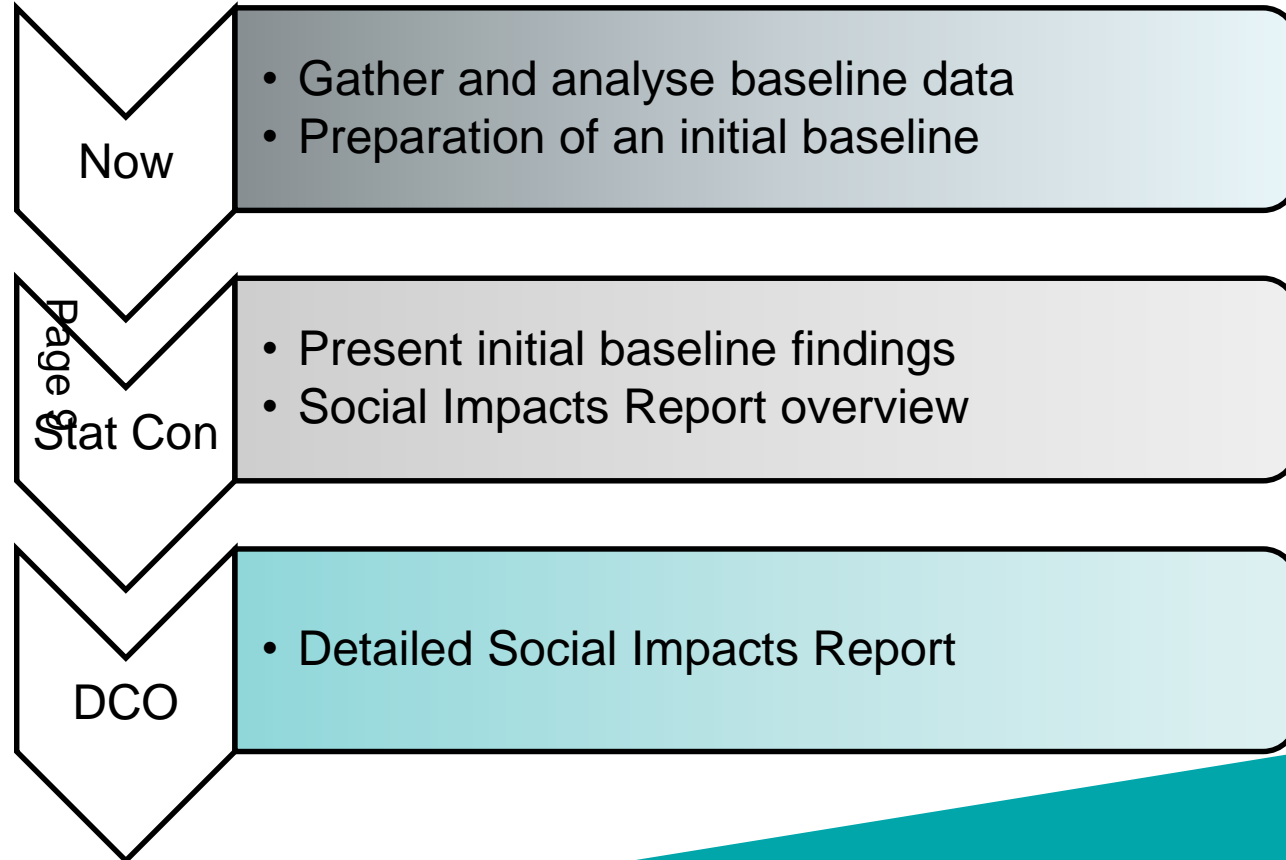
Caroline Soubry-Smith

Scope of Technical Assessments

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Social Impacts Report – Timeline



Noise and Vibration - Health

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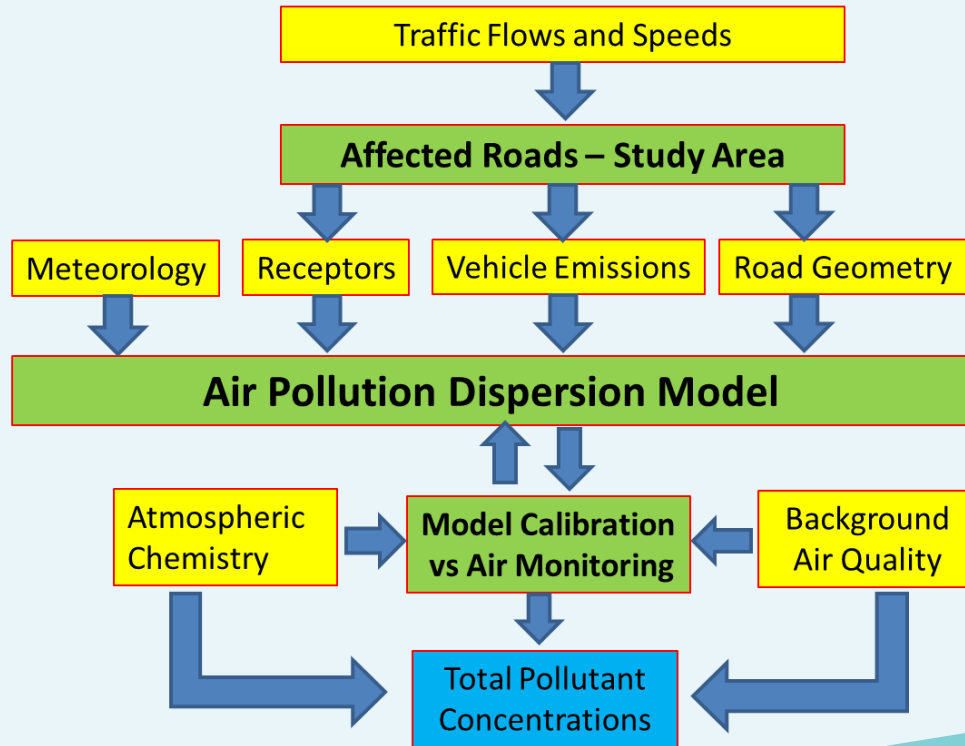
- Noise and vibration health impacts will be assessed taking into account factors such as traffic flow, composition and speed, the alignment and distance of the road relative to property, road surface type.

The assessment identifies the number of dwellings predicted to experience a noise change, the magnitude of that change, and whether that change is considered to be perceptible.

- Reference is made to:
 - LOAEL (Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level); and
 - SOAEL (Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level) criteria;
 - these are the levels used to define the potential for adverse effects on health and quality of life.

Air Quality Assessment Overview

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Air Quality – Human Health

- Traffic pollutants will be predicted at sensitive human receptors such as residential properties, schools and hospitals with and without the LTC Scheme.
- Pollutant concentrations will be compared against Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) set by UK Government and Air Quality Limit Values (LVs) set by EU.
- The AQOs and LVs are thresholds expressed as a maximum concentration not to be exceeded, either without exception or with a permitted number of exceedences within a specified timescale.
- The thresholds are based on scientific and medical evidence on the effects of pollutants on health including effects on sensitive subgroups and are based on World Health Organisation guidelines.
- Air quality mitigation will be required where significant air quality effects are predicted in relation to the AQOs and LVs.

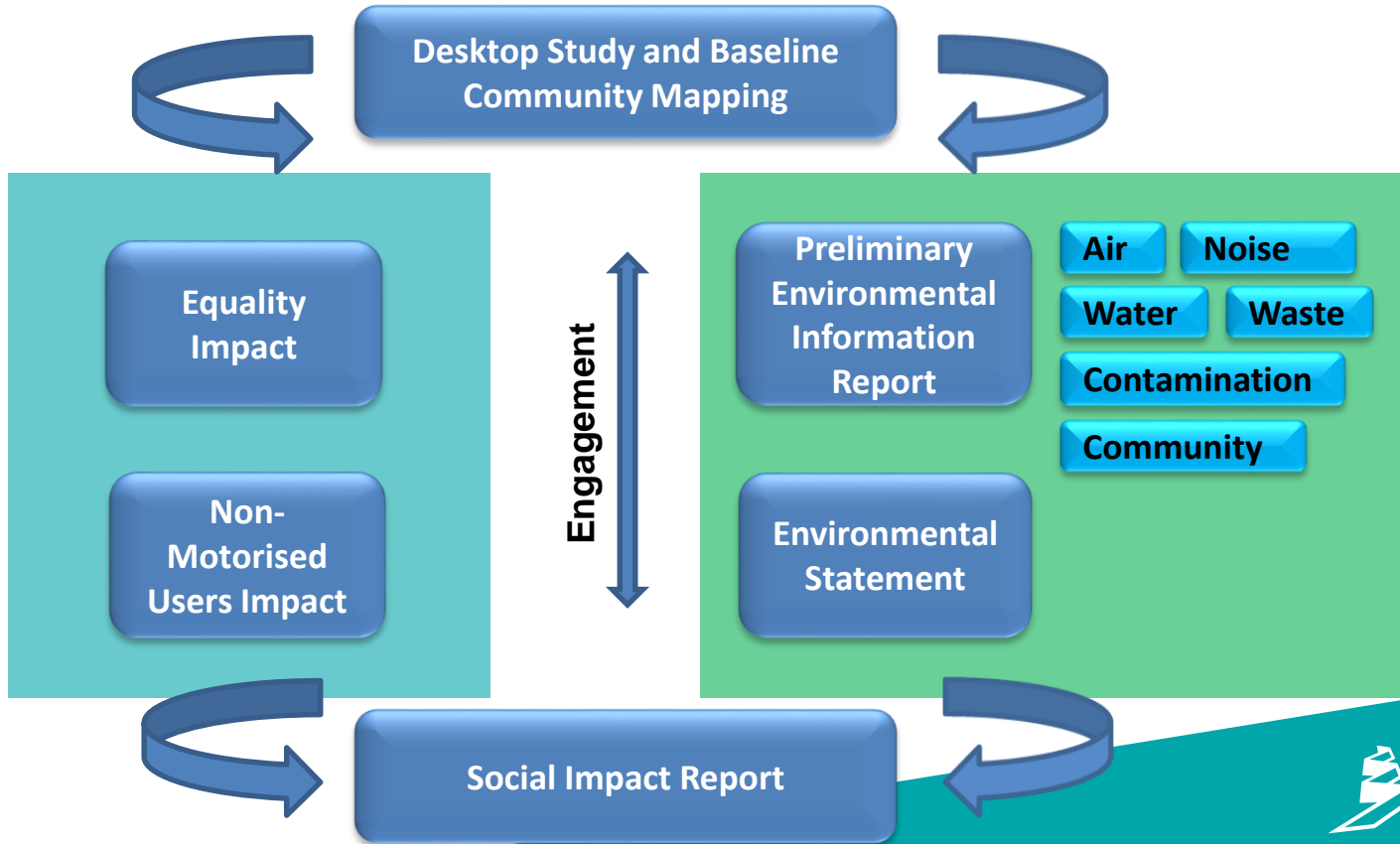
Introduction to Social Impact Report Concept

Alison Powell

Social Impact Report – Our Approach

- What does it cover?
- Why take this approach?
- What baseline information is included?
- What will be our approach to assessment?
- Timeline and information available by statutory consultation

Scope of Technical Assessments



Social Impact Report – Our Approach

- Linking methodologies
- Enabling a holistic understanding of Scheme impacts on particular communities
- Utilising quantitative and qualitative data
- Enhanced by input at statutory consultation

Social Impacts – Baseline Data

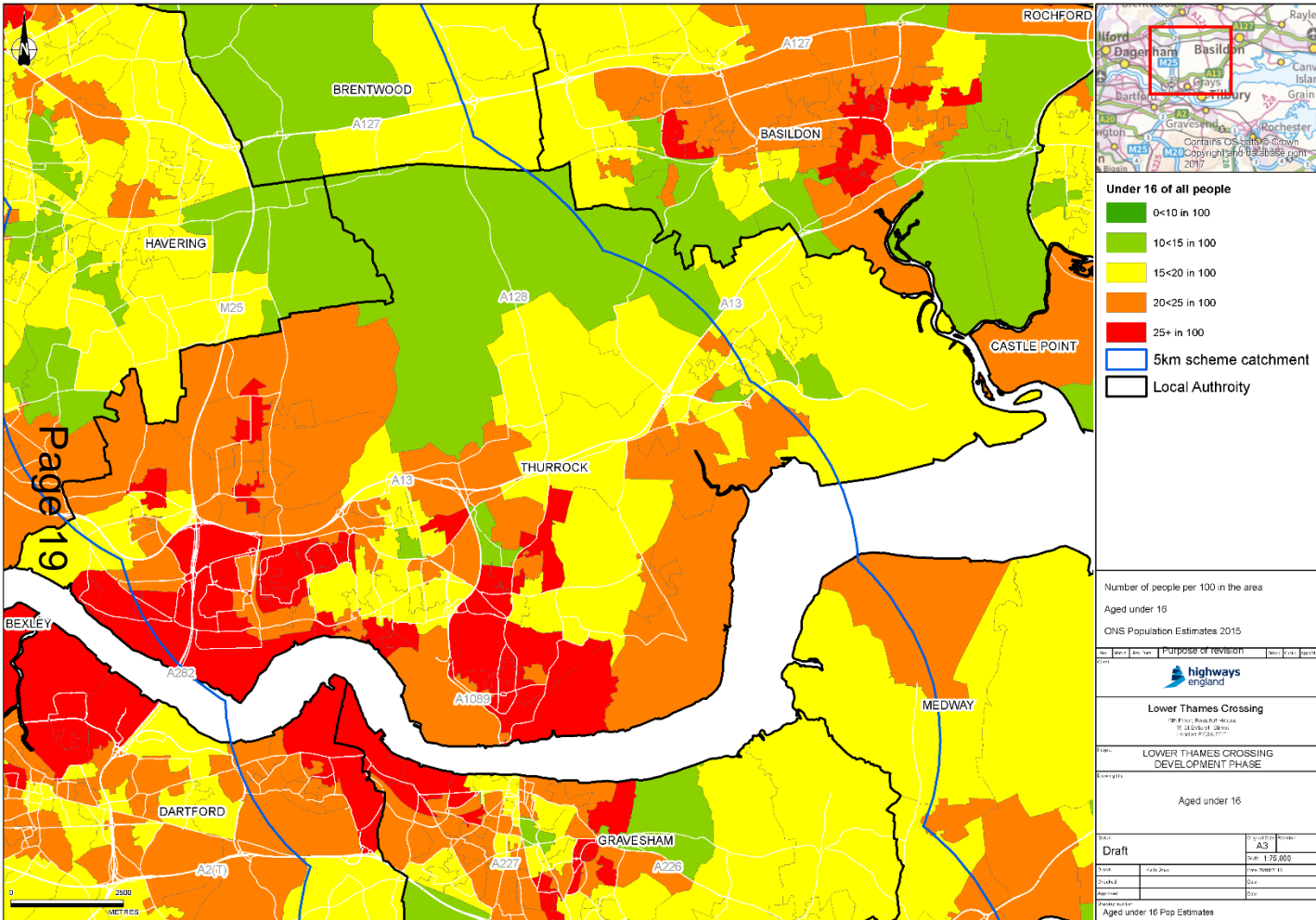
- Population
- Age Structure – children, young people (16-25), the elderly
- Gender
- Disability
- Economic activity / inactivity
- Benefit claimants
- Deprivation – all subsets plus IMD
- Access to private transport
- Faith
- Ethnicity
- Open space, leisure and recreation
- Public rights of way
- Location of community infrastructure and catchment areas where possible – education, healthcare, community centres

Social Impacts – Baseline Data

Health-Specific Baseline

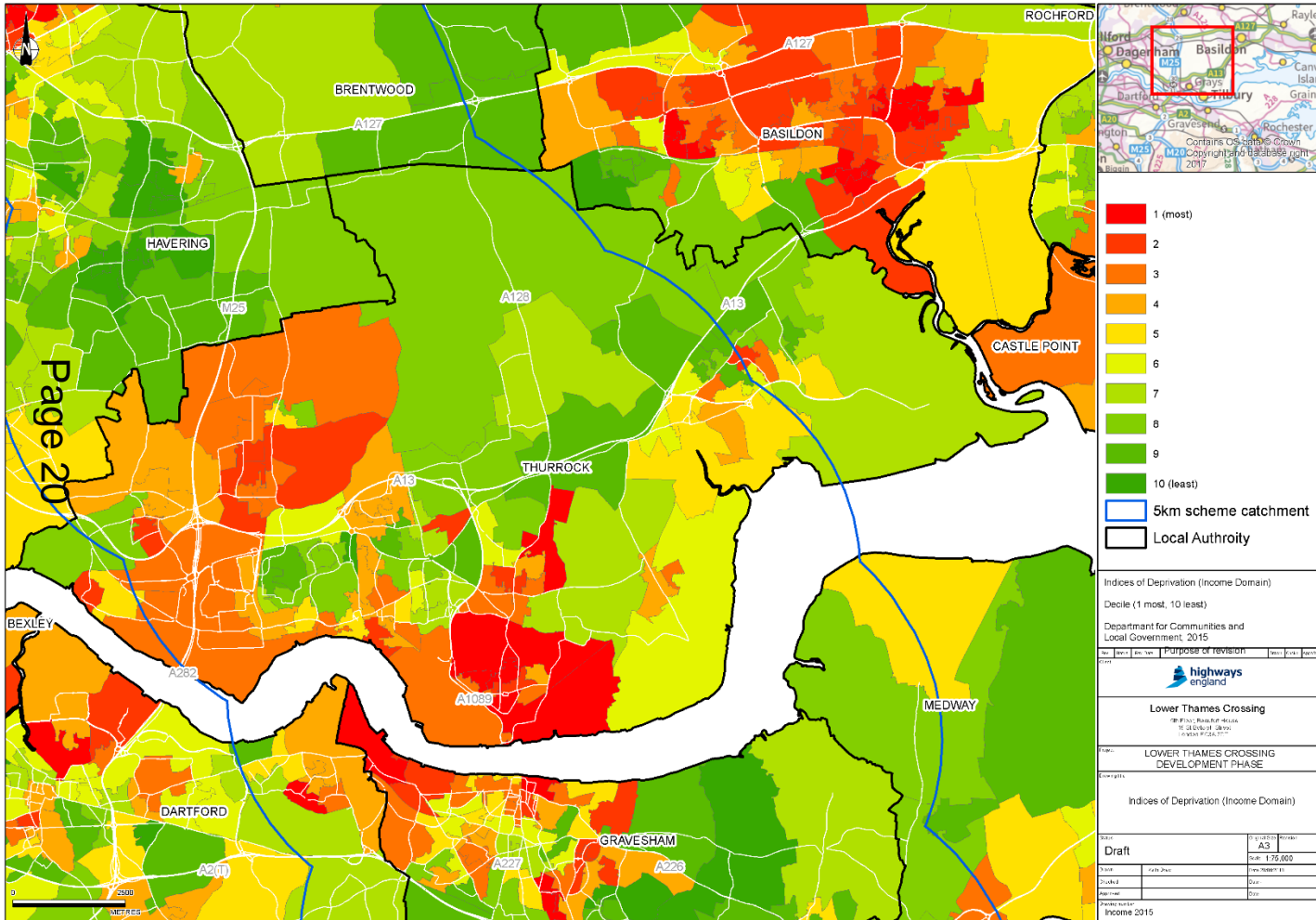
- General health (bad/very bad)
- Limiting long-term illness or disability
- Obese adults
- Obese children (Reception / Year 6)
- Emergency hospital admissions (COPD)
- Incidence of all cancer
- Life expectancy (male / female)
- Deaths from respiratory disease (all ages)
- Identification of health inequalities

Aged under 16



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Indices of Deprivation (Income Domain)



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Technical Approach to Assessing Health Impacts

- Health assessment drawn together in the People and Communities chapter of the ES
- Based on Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) guidance
- Assessment of duration, exposure and intensity of change of health determinants

Health - a Summary of What We Are Doing

- Comprehensive health baseline for Thurrock at the **local level**

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Identification of vulnerable populations

Applying HIA guidance to undertake an assessment

- Covering duration, exposure and intensity of change
- Combining health assessment with other social impacts

Scheme	Health Impact Assessment Overview	Guidance Used	Baseline Comments	Are we doing this for LTC?
A14 Page 23	Desktop exercise bringing together ES topics findings on human health and 'applies some of the techniques used in the practice of HIA'	Includes HUDU	Used PHE indicators for Cambridge, South Cambs, Huntingdonshire	YES
M4	Desktop exercise bringing together ES topic findings on human health	HUDU / Merseyside Guidelines	Community profile by local authority area Identification of vulnerable / priority groups	YES

Next Steps

Caroline Soubry-Smith

Next Steps

- In addition to ongoing technical meetings, looking into options for further consultation with LAs and Public Health England e.g. meetings or Steering Group.
- Statutory Consultation to inform assessment of social and health impacts and obtain further ideas for mitigation and enhancement.

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