Health Impact Assessment of Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility

Roger Barrowcliffe – 24 May 2010
ERM and HIA

• HIA is a relatively new activity in the planning process
• ERM is one of the few consultancies to offer HIA as a service to clients
• Some of the HIAs we have completed to date are:
  • proposed second runway at Stansted airport
  • London’s Low Emissions Zone
  • Docklands Light Railway extension
  • open cast coal mine proposals in south Wales
What is Health?

• *Health* is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity  - *WHO 1948*
Socio-Economic Model of Health
Why do HIA?

- Health is often a concern for host communities
- Projects can influence community health in a number of ways and these can be modified by good management
- Perceived health impacts can turn into real health impacts.
- The complete range of health effects is not captured in other documents that form part of a planning application
What is HIA?

• A tool to *identify* and *manage* the potential human health impacts resulting from a project

• HIA gives communities a voice in the process, to ensure that all effects are captured
How to undertake an HIA?

Environmental Statement → Scoping and profile → Community Data Collection → Impact Assessment → Recommendations

Stakeholder Consultation & Interaction with Project

Covanta
Some of the factors that might affect health and wellbeing:

- Air quality
- Noise
- Land take and landscape / visual impacts
- Traffic and road safety
- Employment
- Education
- The natural environment / green space
- Social capital
Current health status in Bedfordshire

(based on self reported census data)
HIA timetable

- data collection, profile and scope: May 2010
- stakeholder engagement: 24 May – mid June
- workshops on 25 May, 5 June and 8 June
- assessment phase: June
- report submission: mid July