



Galway Healthy Cities Project  
Gaillimh Tionscnamh na gCathracha Sláintiúla

# Health Impact Assessment Forum

7<sup>th</sup> May, Galway

Fiona Donovan

On behalf of Galway Healthy Cities Forum

# Why Cities?

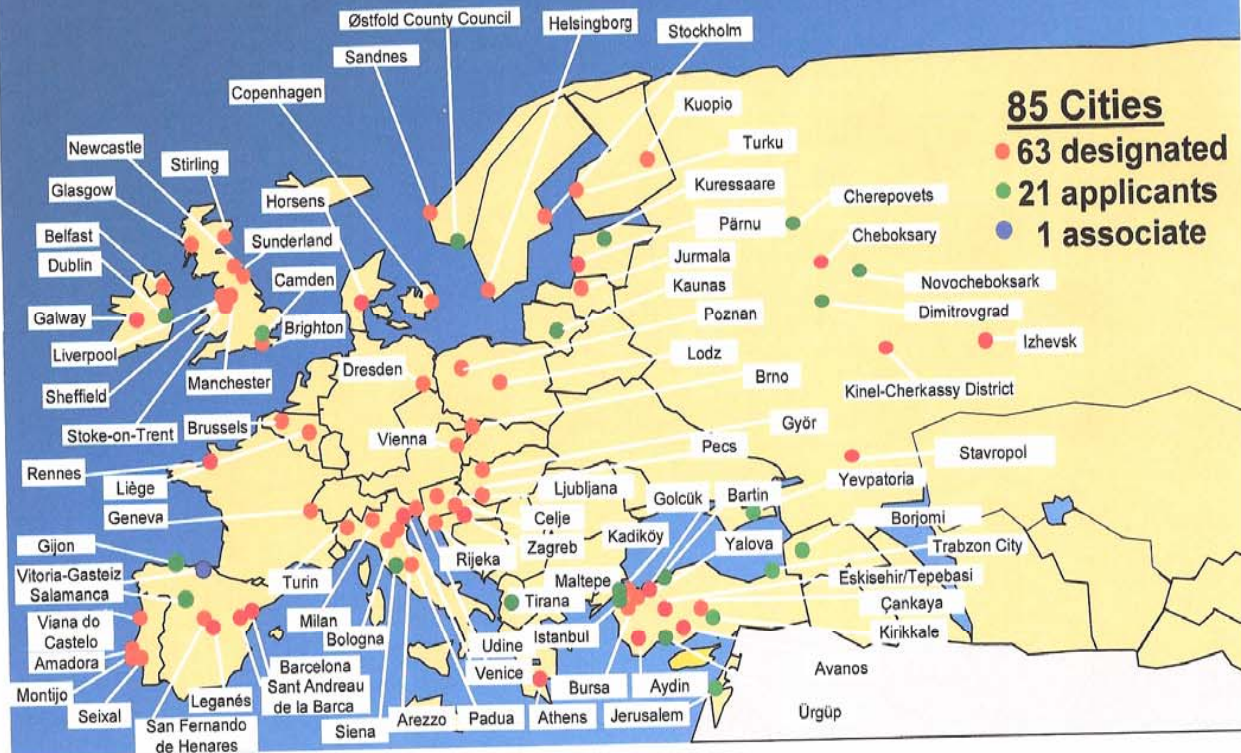
- Long history of involvement in providing health enhancement services
- People identify with the culture, economy and environment of cities
- Cities are key players in the promotion and maintenance of health
- Most people live in cities

# Cities should work towards..

- **Generating visibility** at the local level for health issues
- Move health high on the **political agenda**
- Create **innovative action** for health that emphasises the interaction between people, environment, lifestyles and health
- Facilitate change through **cooperation** between key city sectors and promote community participation

14 September 2006

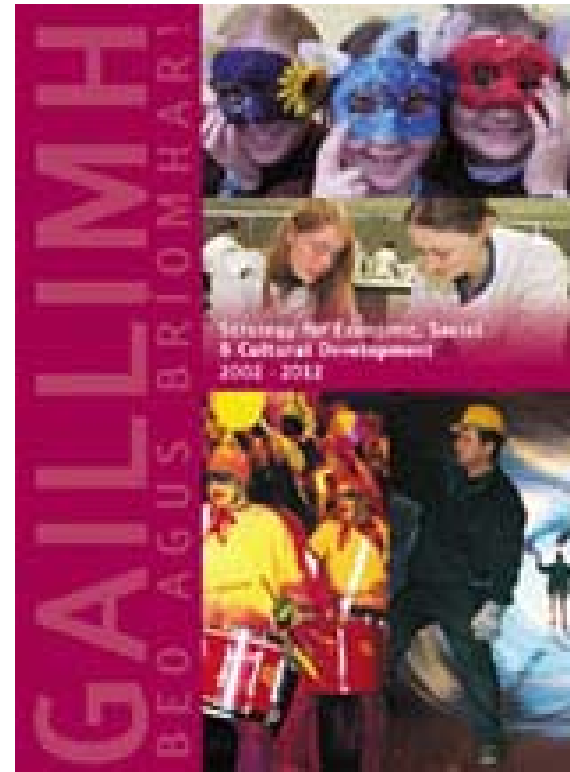
## WHO Healthy Cities Network Phase IV (2003-2008) in the WHO European Region (Designated, Applicants, Associate)



# Background

- Galway City Development Board
- Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development 2002-2012

*Gallimh Beo agus Briomhar*



# Galway CDB



- 13 Coordinating Mechanisms
  - Community Development Group
  - Creative City Group
  - Economic Development Group
  - Galway Healthy Cities Forum
  - Integrated Transport Coordinating Group
  - Regional Group
  - Social Inclusion Group
  - Spatial Planning Group
  - Sports and Recreation Forum
  - Strategic Learning Network
  - The Natural Environment and Waterways Group
  - Galway City and Childcare Committee
  - Galway Tourism Forum

# Healthy Cities Forum



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council



National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh*



# Structure of HC Project

- Phase I            1987 – 1991
- Phase II           1992 – 1997
- Phase III          1998 – 2002
- Phase IV          2003 – 2008.....

Phase V            2009 – 2012

# WHO Phase IV Priorities (2003-2008)

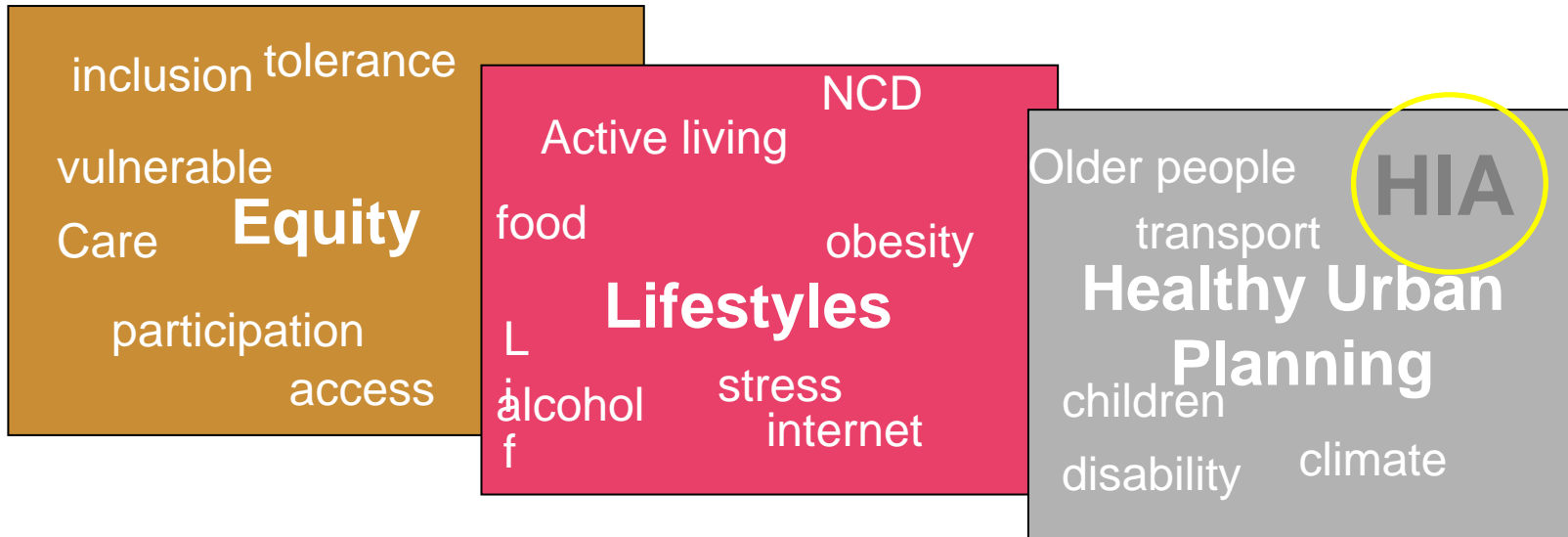
- Healthy Ageing
- Health Impact Assessment
- Healthy Urban Planning
- Physical Activity/Active Living

Develop healthy public policy

Promote action to address inequalities in health

# Health in all local policies

## Phase V 2009 - 2012



**Creativity Happiness Wellbeing Quality of life**  
*Social Marketing*

COORDINATION

&

INNOVATION

# Work of Galway Healthy Cities

- Age-Friendly City
- Playground Markings
- Safety
- Organic Gardens
- Cookery courses
- European Healthy Stadia programme
- Research
- Communications
- European Technical Business meeting
- UK & Ireland Network
- Healthy Urban Planning

# Definition of HIA

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, a program or project may be *judged* as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of effects within the population”

*WHO Gothenburg Consensus Paper, 1999*

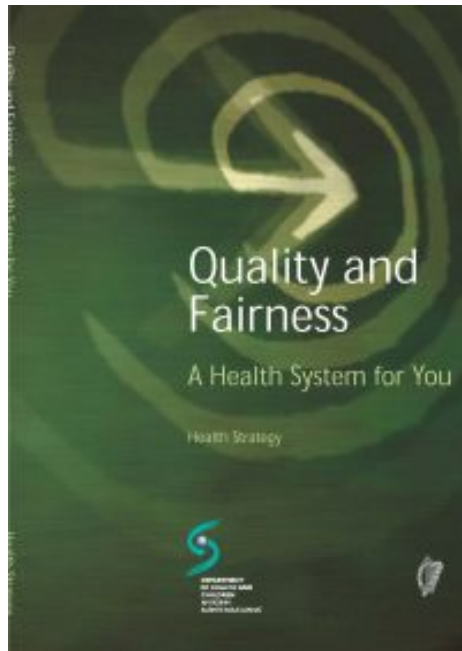
# Why do we identify a proposal's impacts on health?

To explore the *possibilities* of making changes to the proposal and/or its implementation to achieve health gain by:

- protecting health
- improving health
- reducing health inequalities

# National Health Strategy: Quality & Fairness

The health of the population is at the centre of public policy:



- Health impact assessment
- Explicit commitment to improving health status in Government Business Plans
- National Environmental Health Action Plan
- Population Health Division in DOHC and Health Boards

# National Obesity Strategy



All state agencies and government departments, as part of a health impact assessment, need to develop, prioritise and evaluate schemes and policies (including public procurement) that encourage healthy eating and active living, especially those aimed at children and vulnerable groups.

# What is the purpose of doing HIA?

To provide information to politicians, and other decision-makers, so that:

- They are able to *take health into account* when making decisions about a particular proposal
- They can *consider ways of changing the proposal* to protect and improve health, and reduce inequalities

# Challenges in conducting HIA

- Proposal analysis
- Understanding social determinants of health/health equity/vulnerable groups
- Availability of local data/accuracy/accuracy of data within proposal
- Ability/willingness of other professionals to challenge proposal
- Allocated time to conduct HIA
- Knowledge/capacity/expertise/facilitation skills/report
- Additional resource

# Success Factors for engagement

- Training & understanding of health/health equity/HIA
- Community profiles/data/evidence
- Support and networks
- Pre-existing culture of intersectoral working
- Supportive national policy context for HIA
- Political support

# Realistic expectations of HIA

- Systematic framework to bring attention to health and health-related issues during decision-making
- Health may not be the only priority
- Politicians and other decision-makers need to consider the information from HIA in conjunction with information about other priorities

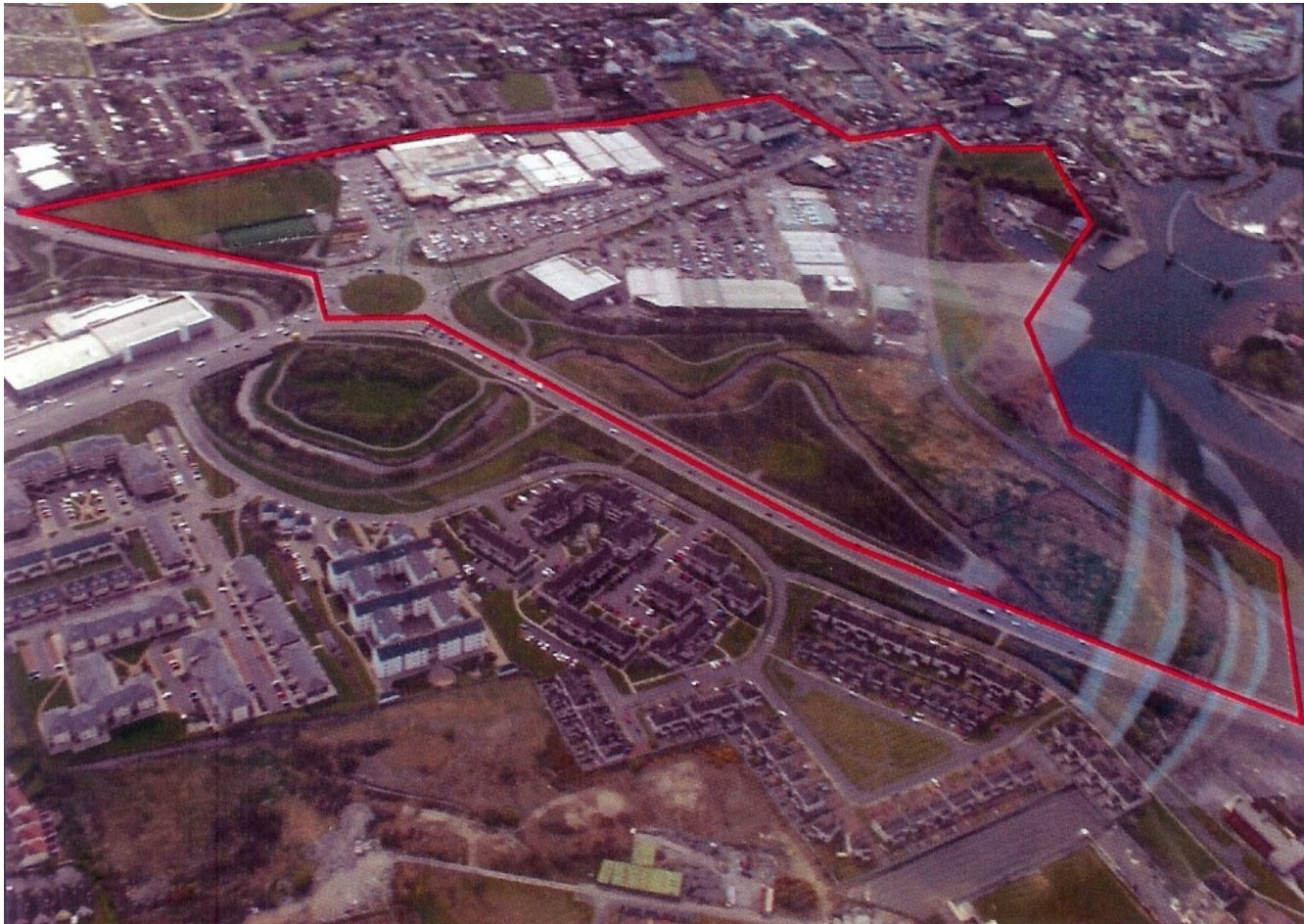
# Benefits of HIA

- Healthier decision-making
- Optimises investment of public money
- Tackles health and other inequalities
- Options for constructive change
- Tool for incorporating public concerns into policies
- Improves the quality of partnership working
- Integrated approach to give better health for all
- Politicians/decision makers are aware of the health implications of their decisions

# Health Impact Assessment

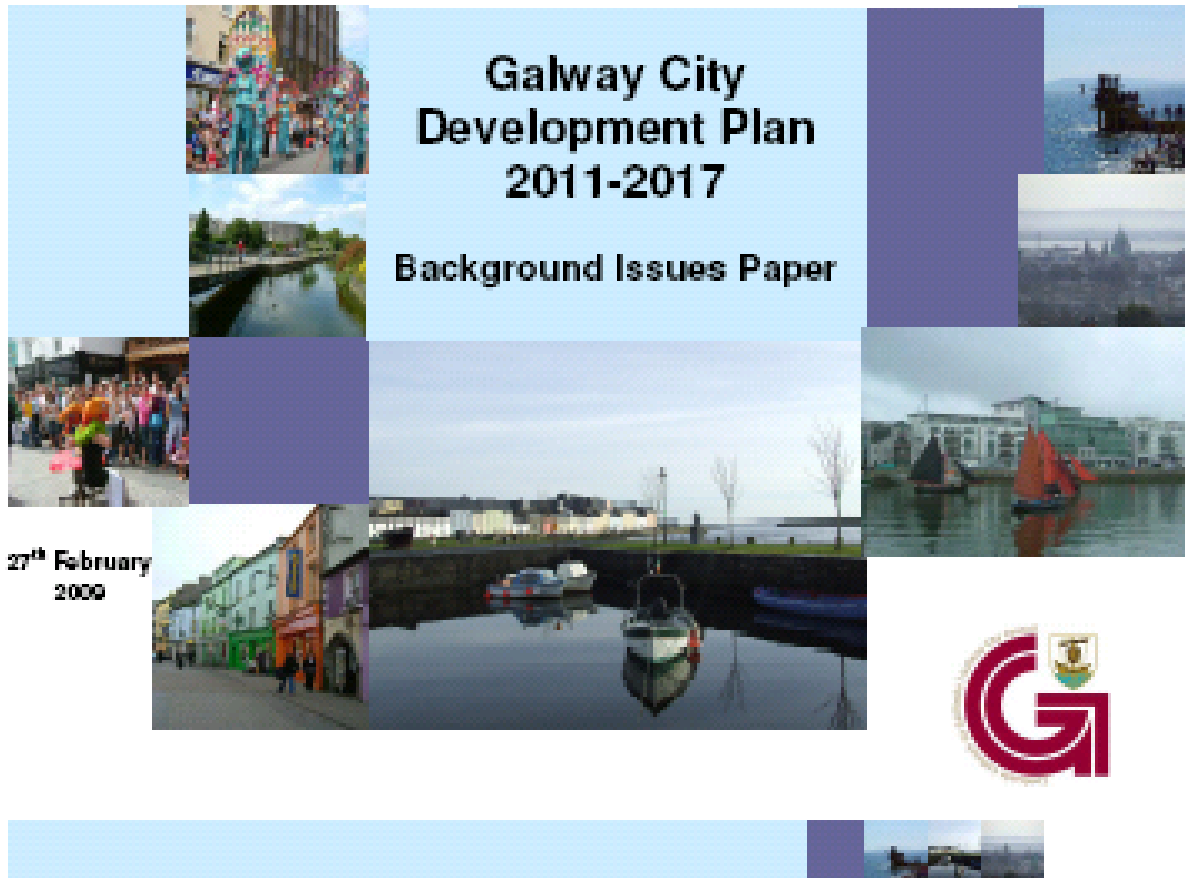


HIA Seminar – June 2007



HIA – Headford Rd Framework Plan


# City Development Plan



**Galway City  
Development Plan  
2011-2017**

**Background Issues Paper**

27<sup>th</sup> February  
2009



The image is a collage of various photographs related to Galway, Ireland, used as a background for a document cover. The central text is overlaid on a light blue rectangular area. The collage includes: a street scene with colorful decorations; a canal with a bridge; a harbor with a large structure; a cityscape from a distance; a crowd of people; a street scene with colorful buildings; a harbor with boats; a harbor with a large building and sailboats; and a street scene with colorful buildings. The date '27<sup>th</sup> February 2009' is located in the bottom left corner. The Galway City Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

# Galway Public Transport Study

## Report Due – June 2009

- **5 Objectives**
- Road traffic **flows freely** without extra roads, and
- There is **increased capacity** for movement, which, in turn
- Allows for **future economic growth** without transport constraints, whilst giving a
- Better **ambience** in the city centre; and ensuring
- **Accessibility and inclusively** irrespective of car availability

# Galway Public Transport Study

## 4 Options:

- High density/ low capacity vehicle bus network
- Enhanced conventional buses on more direct routes
- Bus Rapid Transit with enhanced conventional bus to infill the network
- Light Rail Transit with bus feeders and complementary services



Galway Healthy Cities Project  
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- Partnership
- Integrating health in to all policies
- Coordination and innovation...
- Integrating/intersectoral planning
- Profiles/gathering evidence base
- Understanding social determinants of health & inequalities in health