

Healthy Streets Challenge (HSC)

Workshops - Skanska

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General Background of the project

Air pollution is contributing to about 40,000 early deaths a year in the UK. The threat of poor air quality is growing into a 'health crisis' and is largely a result of human behaviour.

Around half of London's air pollution is caused by road transport and analysis suggests that three quarters of journeys now made by car could be done on foot, by bicycle, or by public transport.

The impact of our driving habits on our health is clearly profound, and that is before we even consider the resulting inactivity. So why are we doing this to ourselves and each other? Surely if we better understood the impact of our behaviour, we would change it... right?

Purpose of Project

The HSC frames a prominent and topical environmental issue into a commercial strategy game where teams will competitively 'tender' their proposals for improving air quality in their local area. The key objectives of the HSC are to:

- Raise awareness of urban (poor) air quality as a health threat and consider strategies for mitigation
- Provide an insight into the types of challenges organisations face and their environmental, commercial, political, and community implications
- Give groups experience of the competitive tender process

Key Activity of the Project

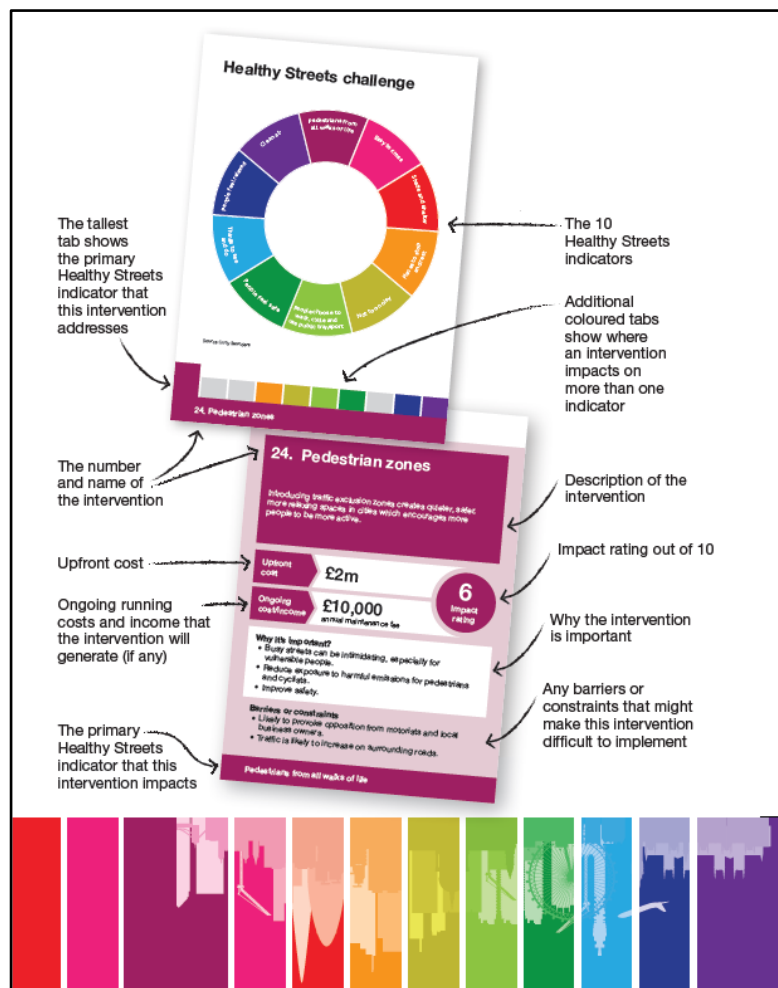
The workshop looks in more detail at the issue of poor air quality in the UK and strategies for dealing with it. We are attempting to answer, in cities and urban environments how can we implement an air quality strategy to budget, in a way that is palatable to a complex range of stakeholders, and in a way that does not hinder the growth of our economy?

Benefits of the project

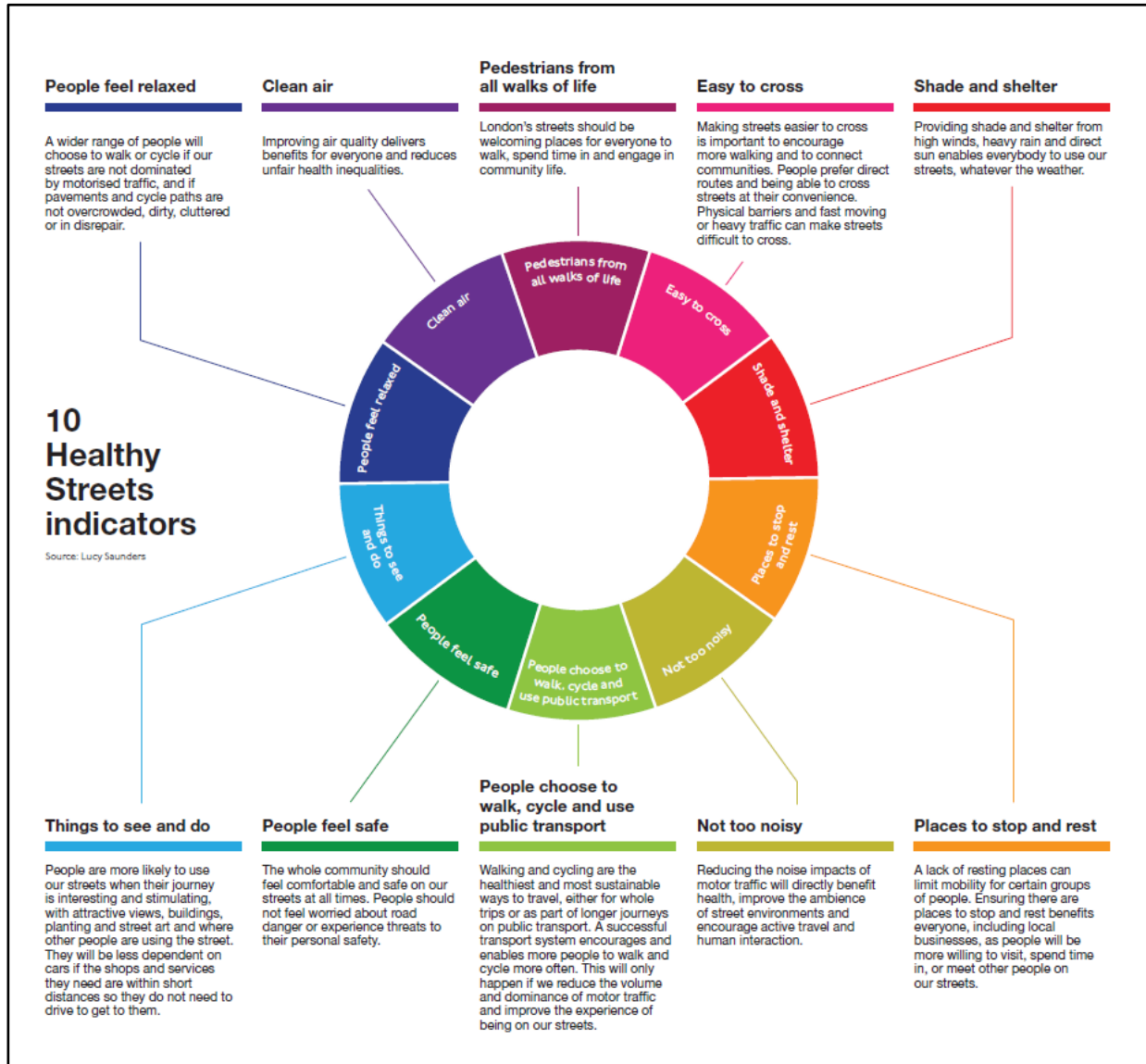
We have run the HSC workshops both externally and internally within Skanska. An external workshop was run with students from South Bank Engineering UTC (Brixton, South London) during Skanska's "Take Over Day" in November 2017. 75 Skanska UK employees were involved in the event that set a bespoke curriculum for the day around the Healthy Streets Challenge. Internal workshops have been run with more planned in June around UN WED and UK Clean Air Day. Delegates have provided feedback to say that the workshop has:

- Given them a better understanding of the issues around air pollution / quality
- Improved their financial awareness, teamwork, presentation and environmental skills
- Enabled them to identify the opportunities to influence at the design stage to reduce air pollution.

Continue running HSC workshops both internally and externally to raise awareness of air pollution and how it can be combatted. If anyone wants to attend a workshop or Skanska to run one of these workshops at their work location, let us know! nigel.sagar@skanska.co.uk



Example of the cards used



Taken from the Mayor of London, London Environment Strategy, May 2018