



HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY RISK MATRIX

THE PROBLEM



The Wakefield Council Healthy Places Team review and provide Public Health input to planning applications for **new hot food takeaways (HFTs)**.

The team use planning policies, such as those included in the Wakefield District Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as a basis for recommending applications be refused or amended where there is **evidence that they are likely to cause harm**. For example, if a new takeaway selling predominately high fat, salt and sugar food were to be proposed near to a school.



For these recommendations to be implemented, comments need to be supported by **robust evidence** that aligns to the relevant planning policies. To achieve this, Wakefield Public Health Intelligence and Healthy Places Teams collaborated to create a Power BI risk matrix of measures related to the **impact of hot food takeaways** in the district. The risk matrix is designed to inform and increase the effectiveness of Public Health responses to planning applications.

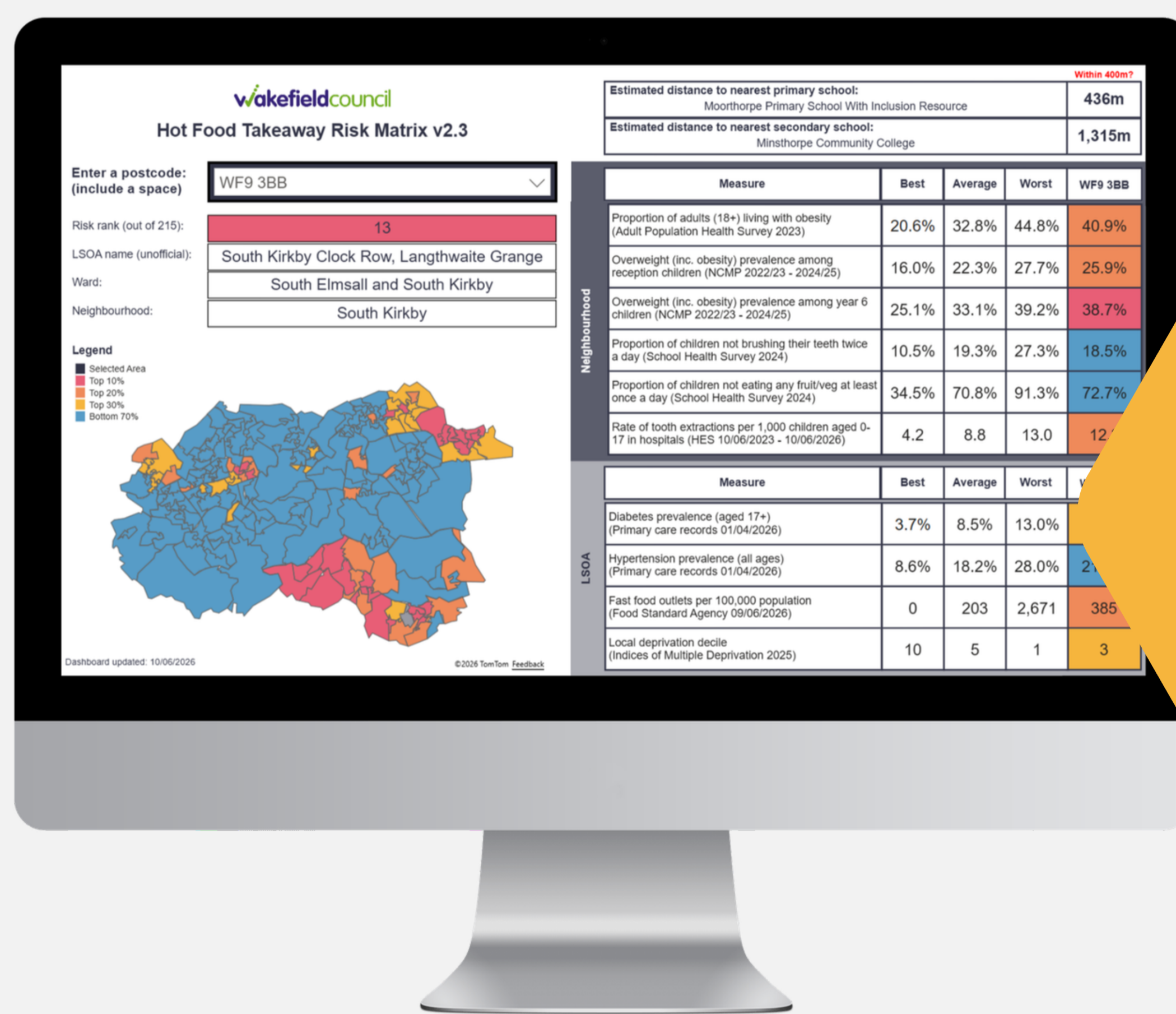
Data from **local surveys and primary care data**, as well as national datasets were considered. Ten measures related to the commercial determinants of health were available at sub-local authority level. Measures include **obesity prevalence, oral health, diet, long term health conditions, and fast-food outlet counts**.

Some of the measures are available at lower super output area (LSOA), whilst others are calculated at a neighbourhood level. For each measure, the **LSOAs / neighbourhoods are ranked** from 1 to 215 (LSOAs) or 1 to 27 (neighbourhoods). They are then given a score from 1 to 4 depending on the position in the ranking.



An overall risk score is then calculated by totalling the measure scores. This overall risk score indicates where the **presence of a takeaway is likely to cause harm**. These scores are then ranked again from 1 to 215 and the worst 10%, 20% and 30% are highlighted on a colour coded map of the district.

THE SOLUTION



The dashboard has been purposefully designed to be simple and eye catching. Screenshots can be included in planning responses without the need for lots of explanatory text.

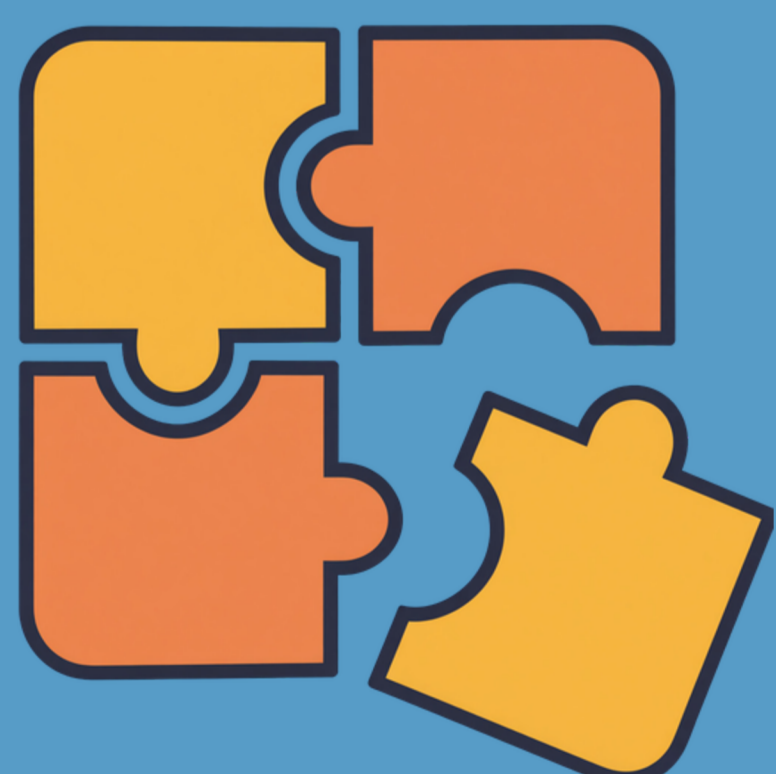
VISUALS:

- Postcode lookup: Slicer with search
- Thematic map: Azure Map with LSOA reference layer and conditional formatting
- Measure table: Cards with multi-card layout set to table and conditional formatting

MEASURES:

- RANKX to calculate risk ranks

THE OUTCOME

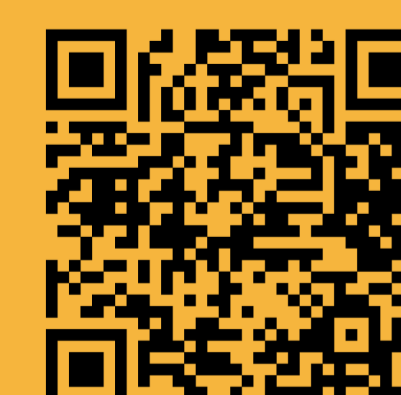


The implementation of the HFT Risk Matrix in late-2024 has enabled the Wakefield Healthy Places Team to make, present and defend planning comments and recommendations more effectively by:

- **Ensuring evidence is used** to develop and support HFT planning recommendations that are aligned to current planning policies (such as the new NPPF paragraph 97).
- **Complimenting other planning and health tools** to support healthy placemaking in Wakefield. For example, the Wakefield District Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning Tool.
- **Supporting the decision-making process** relating to applications for new HFTs by clearly presenting and visualising the risk around HFTs to decision makers (e.g. case officers, planning committee members).

WITHDRAWN

The team have noted a number of HFT planning applications have been withdrawn or amended following comments informed by the risk matrix.



AS SEEN ON
BBC NEWS