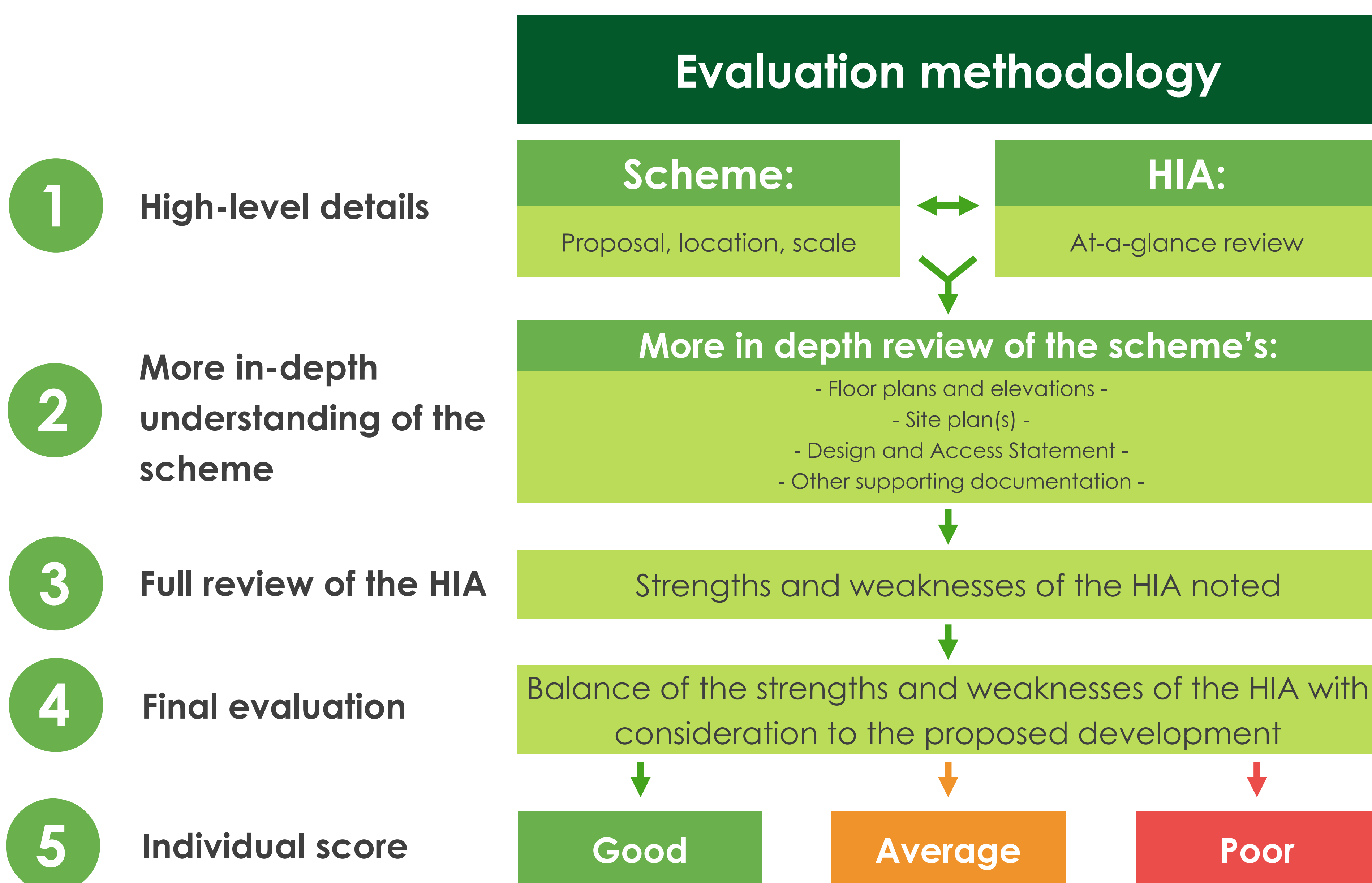


# Lessons from the last five years of Health Impact Assessments at Wakefield Council

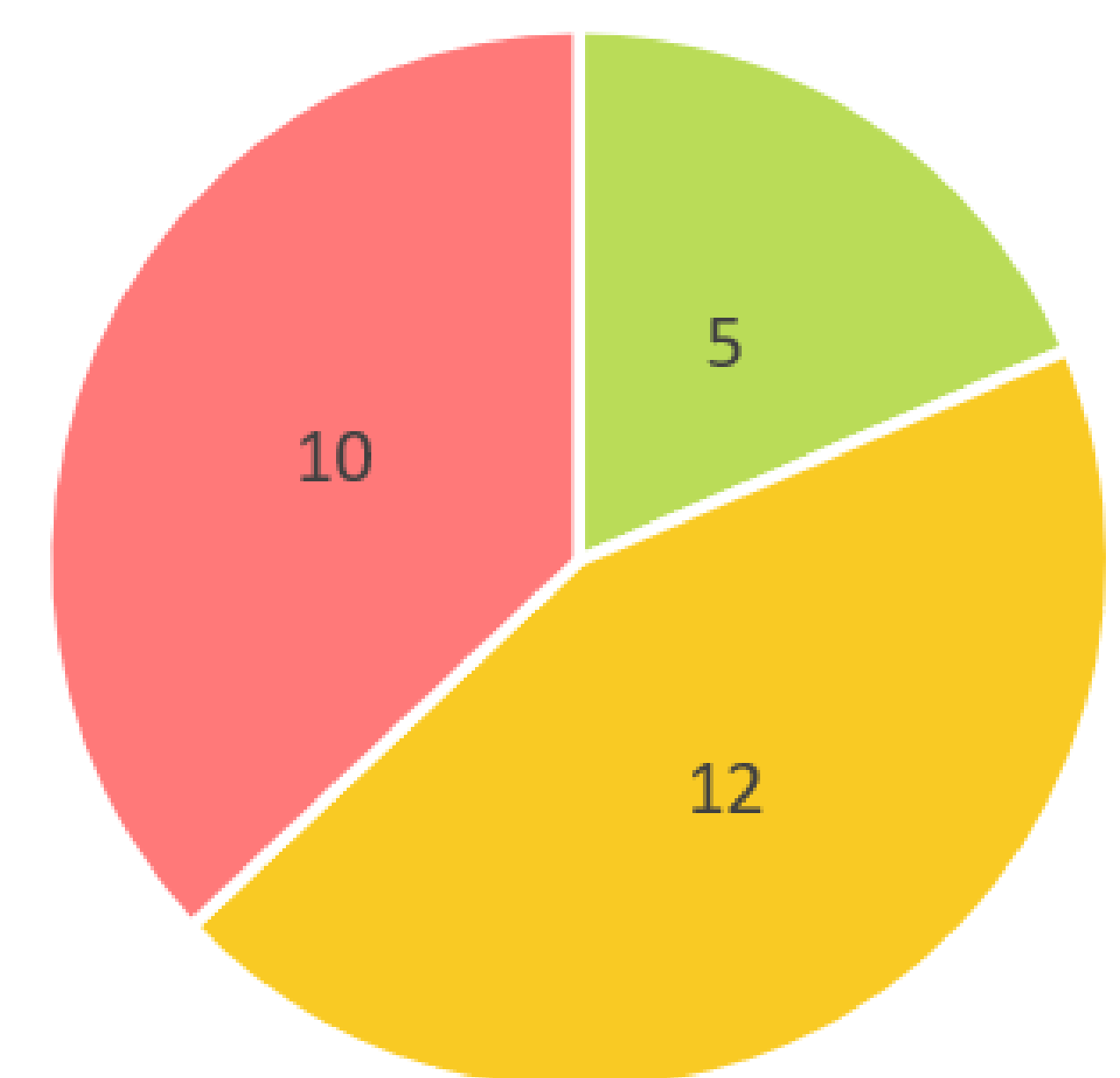
## Evaluation of recently submitted Health Impact Assessments for planning applications

Setting: a Public Health team with limited capacity (until 2022) to review HIAs and an aging HIA framework



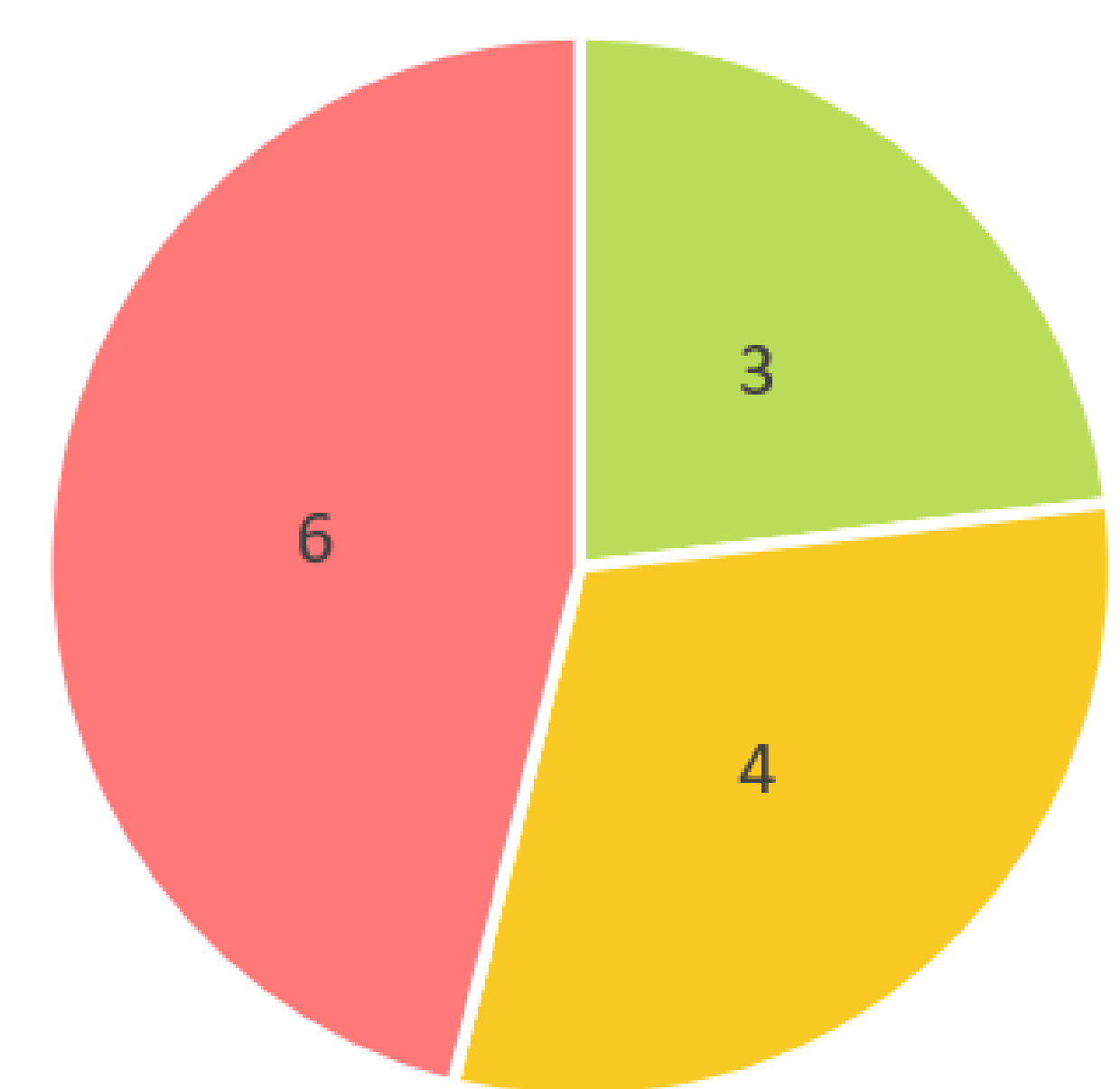
### Quality of submitted HIAs:

All HIAs (n = 27)



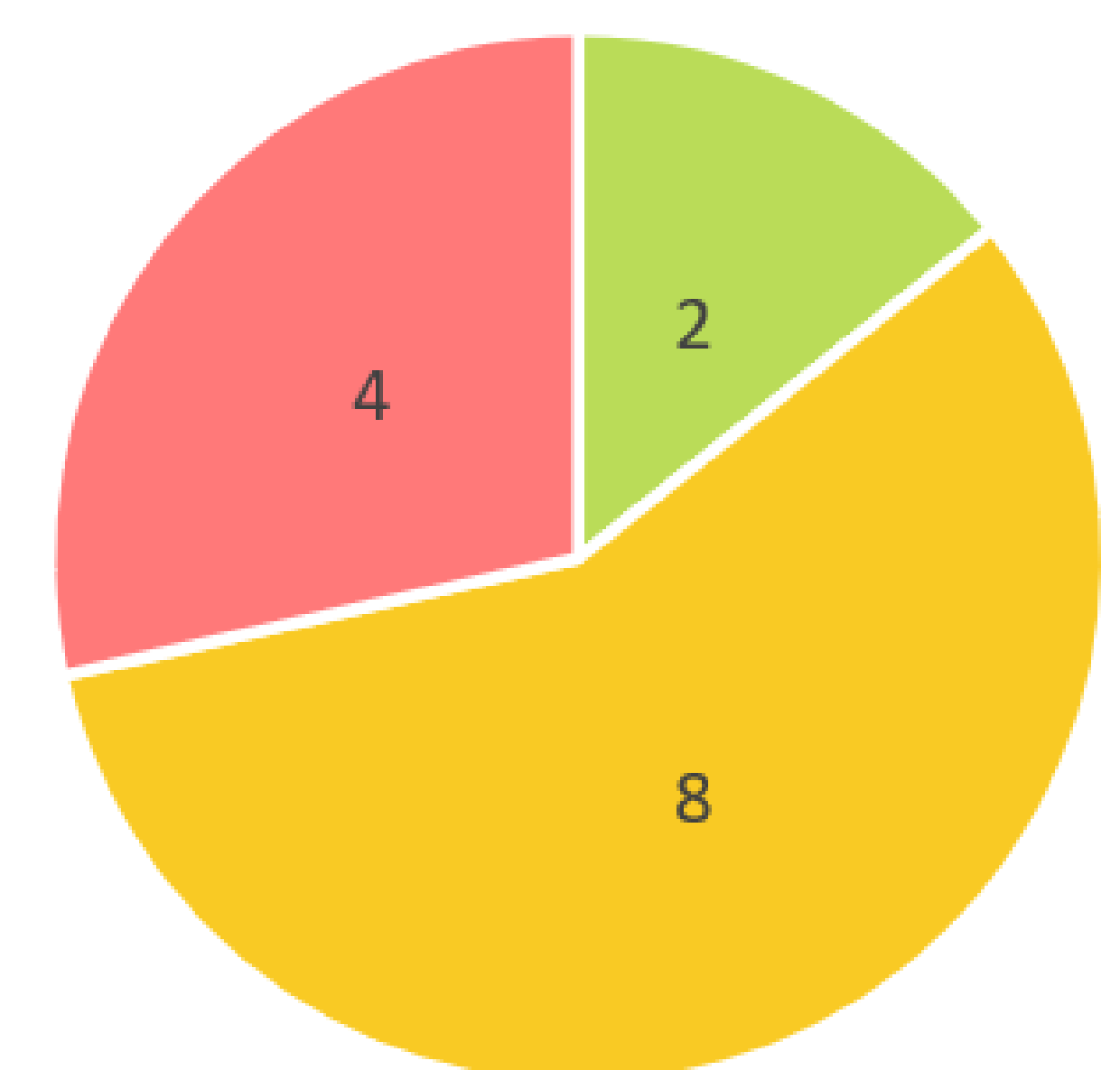
Legend: Good (Green), Average (Yellow), Poor (Red)

Comprehensive HIAs (n = 13)



Legend: Good (Green), Average (Yellow), Poor (Red)

Rapid HIAs (n = 14)



Legend: Good (Green), Average (Yellow), Poor (Red)

**Note:** this evaluation did not include every HIA submitted between 2018-2023. The 27 HIAs included were selected at random.

### Common weaknesses of HIAs were:

- . Reluctance to acknowledge any negative impacts
- . A lack of recommendations to improve the scheme
- . Fields incorrectly populated by 'copied and pasted' text
- . Irrelevant descriptions that don't respond to the prompt. These are often duplicated from similar prompts
- . Incomplete HIAs where blank fields are incorrectly justified as not being relevant
- . Overly brief assessments, with essential information missing
- . Inaccurate assessments and descriptions which don't align with the proposed plans and other documentation

### Next steps / Post evaluation:

- . A new and improved HIA framework
- . Working with developers to launch the new HIA
- . Dedicated resource for reviewing HIAs in planning
- . Sharing the findings of the evaluation
- . Training and guidance for developers



For more detailed findings and methodology of the evaluation, please contact Brendan Aikman at Wakefield Council on email: [baikman@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:baikman@wakefield.gov.uk)