



Darlington Sustainability Integration Matrix

Darlington Borough Council has developed a simple sustainability impacts matrix to help the community strategy steering group better consider the impacts of the community strategy. It intends to conduct a similar exercise with the LSP, when fully established.

Darlington's community strategy steering group consists of a broad range of professionals, including representatives of a number of local authority functions (LA21, Lifelong Learning, Community Safety) along with the police, leaning skills council and the NHS.

As part of a training exercise conducted with the steering group, a sustainability impacts matrix was developed and used in order to consider the sustainability implications of the community strategy. The matrix is outlined below.

Policy Impact Matrix

Goal:						
Objective 1:	Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	1	2	3	4	5
Objective 2:	Effective protection of the environment	1	2	3	4	5
Objective 3:	Prudent use of natural resources	1	2	3	4	5
Objective 4:	Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Note: 1 = goal does not contribute to objective at all 5 = goal is entirely consistent with objective</p> <p>(see overleaf for explanation of objectives)</p>						

The four goals are defined below, with the definitions drawn from the UK strategy:

Social progress which meets the needs of everyone

Everyone should share in the benefits of increased prosperity and a safe and clean environment. We have to improve access to services, tackle social exclusion, and reduce the harm to health caused by poverty, poor housing, unemployment and pollution. Our needs must not be met by treating others, including future generations and people elsewhere in the world, unfairly.

Effective protection of the environment

We must act to limit global environmental threats, such as climate change; to protect human health and safety from hazards such as poor air quality and toxic chemicals; and to protect things which people need or value, such as wildlife, landscapes and historic buildings.

Prudent use of natural resources

This does not mean denying ourselves the use of non-renewable resources like oil and gas, but we do need to make sure that we use them efficiently and that alternatives are developed to replace them in due course. Renewable resources, such as water, should be used in ways that do not endanger the resource or cause serious damage or pollution.

Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment...

...so that everyone can share in high living standards and greater job opportunities. The UK is a trading nation in a rapidly changing world. For our country to prosper, our businesses must produce the high quality goods and services that consumers throughout the world want, at prices they are prepared to pay. To achieve that, we need a workforce that is equipped with the education and skills for the 21st century. And we need businesses ready to invest, and an infrastructure to support them.

This method was selected as it was felt to be a simple but effective tool, far preferable to the more complicated checklists and appraisals that had been employed in the past. Feedback from the members of the steering group was very positive and it is hoped that a similar exercise will be conducted with the LSP itself once it is fully established.

Contact: Paula Jamieson, Darlington Borough Council. Tel: 01325 388554
paula.jamieson@darlington.gov.uk