



Workshop one:

Addressing Sustainable Development within CPA Self-Assessment

Workshop aims

- To introduce participants to the arguments for addressing sustainable development within the CPA self-assessment
- To help participants think through how to address sustainable development within the CPA self-assessment.

(This workshop is best held when plans for how the authority will conduct its self-assessment are being developed.)

Resources

- The briefings: [“Why promote sustainable development through CPA and Best Value”](#), “Addressing Sustainable Development within CPA Self-Assessments and Best Value”, Page 1, plus the tables on “Setting the scene”, [“Corporate assessment and action planning from the section on addressing sustainable development in CPA self-assessments.”](#)
- [“Why promote sustainable development through CPA and Best Value?”](#) Slides 1 to 10.

Summary (Indicative timings are shown in brackets.)

1. Introduction (10 min)

Introductions, agree workshop objectives and arrange small group membership.

2. Presentation on – What do we need to do to promote sustainable development? (15 min)

Give a brief presentation that introduces the council’s sustainable development policy, or that explains how the community strategy promotes sustainable development (using pre-prepared overheads).

Briefly summarise the council's processes for promoting sustainable development *and/or* remind participants that promoting sustainable development is about ensuring that:

- the community strategy and resultant authority's corporate objectives support sustainable development (including global objectives and considering the needs of future generations)
- council processes address crunch issues and promote integrated solutions that support social, economic and environmental solutions at the same time.

(Use page 1 of the briefing [“Addressing Sustainable Development within CPA Self-Assessments and Best Value”](#) as a basis of the presentation and possibly a handout.)

Allow 5 minutes for questions, but avoid getting into detailed discussions at this point.

3. Presentation on (slides 1-8) “Why promote sustainable development through CPA and Best Value?” (10 min)

Give a brief presentation based on the slides 1 to 8 – why promote sustainable development through CPA and Best Value? Draw attention to the briefing [“Why promote sustainable development through Best Value?”](#) and also hand out a summary of the council's sustainable development policy.

4. Reviewing the council's current approach (30 mins)

- Prepare in advance if possible a briefing note (maximum two sides of A4) on the council's plans for how it is going to approach its self-assessment, based on reports to the executive or other documents.
- Split participants into groups of four or five. Ask them to:
 - consider the council's approach to self-assessment (based on the above briefing note and their own knowledge), and how it is assessing the council's SD performance and management.
 - If they have any improvements to suggest.
- Ask groups to report back after 15 minutes and note on the left-hand side of a flip chart suggestions for improvement. Leave space for two columns on the right-hand side of the flip-chart, which will later be headed – ‘evidence to collect’ and ‘who is responsible’.

5. Deciding on any additional ways to address Sustainable Development in the self-assessment (20 mins)

- Hand out the tables on ‘Setting the scene’, ‘Corporate assessment’ and ‘Action planning’, from the section on *Addressing sustainable development in CPA self-assessments* in the briefing [“Why promote sustainable development through Best Value?”](#)
- Divide different sections of the tables between groups of four to five. Ask each group to consider if the suggestions in the right hand column of the tables are: a) already included in the council's plans for self-assessment; b) were raised in the small group previous exercise; c) or are new.

- After 15 minutes ask groups to feed back their conclusions, and to discuss in plenary if any of the new suggestions are worth undertaking for the self-assessment. If agreed, add them to the list previously recorded on the flip-chart.

6. Groups suggest possible changes to the council's self-assessment (30 mins)

Hold plenary discussion on how evidence for each of the items recorded on the flip chart will be collected and who will be responsible. Record key conclusions in the columns already prepared on the flip chart. Summarise the conclusions and close.

