



Newcastle City Council

Newcastle City Council arranges for one of the council's sustainable development officers to meet with every review team at the start of the review process.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

At the start of every Best Value review one of the council's three sustainable development officers (SDO) meets with the review team to identify the key sustainability impacts of the activities under review. A simplified version of the SOLACE checklist is used as a basis for the discussion. This asks about the current contributions to a series of sustainability objectives grouped under the headings:

- building sustainable communities
- buildings, planning and land use
- managing the environment and resources
- health
- a sustainable economy
- housing
- social equity and opportunity
- transport
- sending the right signals

Review teams are asked to consider whether the activities under review currently do or do not contribute to the objective, or are not relevant to the objective, where appropriate planned improvements are identified. Following the meeting the SDO prepares a sustainability appraisal report. This sets out the contribution to sustainability objectives and notes proposals for improvements. The final section of the report lists all of the planned improvements. The sustainability appraisal is reported to the review team and to the cabinet.

Finance Review

The Sustainability Appraisal of the Finance Best Value Review 2000-01 includes the following planned improvements:



Managing the Environment and Resources

- Review the current investment policy of the council for energy and water efficiency and bring forward comprehensive approach.
- Consider the use of the corporate resource pool and grantfinder as a means of funding energy efficiency initiatives (this should be done in partnership with the cityworks energy centre).
- Auditors to receive training on sustainability so that they are aware of the necessary points to raise when performing audits
- Support corporate initiatives to source energy from renewable sources
- Include consideration of greenhouse emission impact in investment decisions of the council
- Raise awareness in audits and other activities of the need to use renewable energy wherever possible

A sustainable economy

- investment and procurement policy of the council to be revised to include external (environmental and social) costs.
- review the contribution that lets, credit unions and community trusts could make to the sustainability of the city.
- housing
- evaluate the current investment policies of the council with regard to the influence that have on energy efficiency of the housing stock and to the use of renewable energy.

Contact: Adrian McLoughlin, Newcastle City Council. E-mail: Adrian.mcloughlin@newcastle.gov.uk