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# Putting sustainable development at the heart of the local strategic partnership and community strategy



# Checklist for mainstreaming

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- Promoting sustainable solutions  
(including using the wellbeing power)
- Building on the wealth of knowledge and experience within the partnerships and its networks  
(including the sustainability networks)
- Community level planning and community involvement in the strategy and partnership process
- Building sustainability into the partnership's working arrangements and ethos.



# Local strategic partnerships

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Opportunities to draw links between areas of activity:

- Sustainability regeneration
- Sustainability and community involvement in the planning process
- Links with the health agenda



# Policy integration and LSPs (1)

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- Agree objectives ➡ through visioning process and involvement of community
- Check objectives cover sustainable development goals
- Identify 'crunch issues' ➡ informed by community views
- Revise and refine objectives to reduce / avoid conflicts



## Policy integration and LSPs (2)

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- Identify action plan options to reduce or overcome crunch issues ➡ informed by partner and community expertise
- Gather information to inform choices ➡ deliberative consultation and partnership discussions
- Select preferred action plan options and seek to further reduce conflict



# Level of action

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- Different stages of the Policy integration process are best suited to different levels of the partnership
- eg examining and agreeing objectives and crunch points might be the work of the LSP board whilst detailed action planning work carried out at theme group / partnership level



# Checklist for policy integration

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## Formal partnership structures:

- Build sustainable development goals into partnership agreements
- Build integration decision making processes into work plan
- Link into appraisal and monitoring
- Ensure sustainability strategy is linked into the community strategy



# Checklist for policy integration

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## Informal information sharing:

- Learn from your partners and the wider community's expertise
- Access good information about sustainable development solutions
- Build time for discussion and debate into partnership meetings
- Build deliberative decision making into the partnership's consultation process.



# The community strategy process

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- Objectives
- Partnership and community involvement
- Vision
- Strategy and implementation
- Monitoring and review

adapted from "Preparing Community Strategies: Issues and Advice"  
produced by the LGA



# Generic performance management system

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- State overall aims and values
- Assess performance against these aims and values
- Choose and prioritise actions to improve performance
- Assign responsibilities and resources to carry out the actions
- Monitor and report progress against explicit qualities targets



# Sustainable development performance management

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- EMAS / ISO14001
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Sustainability Checklist
- Sustainable Development Indicators



# EMAS / ISO 14001

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- Formal environmental management systems (EMSs)
- Require review of environmental impacts of services and a formal programme to manage significant impacts
- Can be extended to include social and economic impacts
- Most frequently used in managing service and production activities in local government and business



# Sustainability appraisal

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- Process of evaluating social, economic and environmental impact of a plan or programme
- Uses a *policy impact matrix* to check individual policies or proposals against a range of sustainable development criteria which are linked with overall objectives
- Includes commentary on each impact with any recommended changes
- Iterative process; should be repeated at appropriate stages in plan/programme development
  - Most frequently used in assessing land use plans and is required in the new planning regime.
  - See new Government guidance on SEA (covers SA also)



# Sustainability checklist

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- Simplified version of policy impact matrix
- Checks policies or proposals against a range of sustainable development criteria, linked with overall objectives
- Usually no comments on individual impacts
- Most frequently used in Best Value service reviews or appraisal of committee reports (where it is often called environmental or sustainability implications clauses)



# Sustainable development indicators

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- Set of measures to test progress towards sustainable development, eg % of household waste recycled
- Should include targets or desired directions of change
- Frequently developed as part of Local Agenda 21 process
- National menus of indicators have been produced; most recent is the Audit Commission's Quality of Life Indicators
- Can and should be integrated with local authorities corporate targets and performance indicators



# Links between community involvement and SD

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- Local knowledge
- Interconnectedness and perception
- Strong communities - part of a sustainable society
- Education and awareness - individual actions
- Community action, local ownership and lasting change
- Challenge



# Principles for good community involvement

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- Dialogue takes time
- Dialogue needs to be of interest to all parties involved
- Dialogue needs to draw on access to good information
- Dialogue needs to be seen to be leading to change
- People involved need feedback about what changes as a result of dialogue
- It is often appropriate for dialogue to be facilitated by a skilled and independent person