

Build SD appraisal into the LSP review process
 Make the case for the use of SD principles as a core appraisal tool. This will also help to simplify the relationship with the land use strategy.

Develop representation over time
 Continue to build relationships between the SD and community sectors, and the LSP. Facilitate the flow of information both ways, and make the case, where possible, to strengthen the representativeness of the LSP board itself.

Continuous improvement

Get inventive with the wellbeing power
 Gather evidence about the potential of the new power (and the changes in the local government white paper) to encourage effective partnership working to implement more sustainable development.

Get the word out
 Make sure your environmental/sustainable development networks and partner agencies¹ are aware of the potential value of linking into the LSP agenda. Benefits could include more influence for the environment at LSP board level and in each theme group, less plans and strategies and duplicated meetings, an opportunity to develop integrated solutions, and a real voice for community viewpoints.

Raise awareness (internal and external) about the potential of the LSP

Build SD into the core partnership agreement
 The LSP terms of reference (ToR) should include improving quality of life and social, economic and environmental wellbeing as the basis for the remit of the LSP. Urge members not to rank themes or identify specific priorities (this may marginalise environmental concerns), but to keep the focus broad. Ensure that environment and SD partners see draft copies of the ToR, and lobby for a selection of SD principles to be approved by the LSP – this will be a useful foundation for later work.

Suggest that the LSP chair be rotated so that an environment or SD partner has an opportunity. Look to keep 'the environment' on the agenda – for example suggest a slot for each LSP meeting for updates from all themes.

LSP terms of reference and work programme

Turning points routemap: tactics for getting sustainable development and the environment into LSPs

Notes

1. These include utility companies, English Nature, Environment Agency, local energy advice centre, local waste management company etc
2. Reference to DETR guidance throughout this routemap is *Preparing community strategies: government guidance to local authorities* (www.local-regions.dtlr.gov.uk/pcs/guidance/index.htm)

CS - community strategy
 LSP - local strategic partnership
 SD - sustainable development

Authors: David Cooper, formerly of Fenland District Council, and Alison Pilling, formerly of CAG Consultants. Diagrams reprinted with permission of **eg: promoting local sustainable development**, www.wmin.ac.uk/eric/.

Who are the movers and shakers?
 Work with environment agencies to identify potential 'champions' who could sit on the LSP (see advice in DETR guidance², para 42). They will need to have similar status to other LSP members (eg CEO or equivalent). LSPs are increasingly realising that the most valuable characteristics of a partner are a solution-oriented attitude and an ability to make a difference.

Lend us your ears
 LSP members are crying out for positive solutions, and are looking to make strong links into the needs of the local community. Environment/SD champions are well placed to do this – use your networks to brief and support them.

Make the links to existing partnerships
 Many LSP are exploring the potential of 'nesting' partnerships and are making formal links with action-oriented partnerships and forums – ensure that LA21 forums, environment forums and neighbourhood action groups are drawn into this process. You need to be aware of what the wider attitudes to these existing forums are – there are sometimes local concerns about the unrepresentativeness of LA21 forums, for example.

Facilitate an understanding of difference
 Many existing partnerships and forums, particularly those involving community level organisations, work in very different ways to formalised LSPs – but they are an important part of the picture. Broker working relationships between formalised strategic partnerships and those that are action-focused and community-led.

Partnership development – accreditation process

Make sure your local interpretation includes SD
 Use Neighbourhood Renewal Funding Accreditation Guidance as a template for developing a 'quality partnership' self-assessment checklist. Include environment and SD criteria under the six NRU headings, and link these back to the DETR guidance, eg 'strategic capabilities' – how do LSP members practically link social, economic and environmental issues? Or how will they address long term/global quality of life issues? How link with regional SD framework? This can be used as the basis for a 'training and development plan' for LSP members on environment and SD issues.

Identify potential partners