



Workshop:

Systems for integrating sustainable development

Workshop aims:

- To identify the points where sustainable development can be integrated into the community planning process and LSPs
- To understand the tools available for achieving integration
- To identify practical opportunities for using these in the local community planning process and in LSPs.

Resources to use:

- Briefing [Joined-up Working and Policy Integration](#)
- PowerPoint [slides 9 to 16](#)
- Workshop resources: [“Comparing systems”](#) and [“Opportunities for integrating sustainability”](#).

NB Click on [Hints for managing workshops](#) for general guidance on running successful workshops.

Summary (indicative timings are shown in brackets)

1. Introductions (10 minutes)

Introductions, agree objectives for the workshop (these can be used for evaluation of the session at the end), agree ground rules for the session.

2. Plenary: Identifying the different elements of the community planning process (15 minutes)

The purpose of this is to provide a framework for the following discussion. Elicit the different elements of the process from the group. The answers should include the following:

- Objectives
- Partnership and community involvement (including LSP)
- Vision
- Strategy and implementation
- Monitoring and Review

Attach several pieces of flip-chart paper on the wall to record the answers. Put a timeline along the bottom of the paper, and ask where the different element should be placed along the line. Alternatively, write the answers on Post-it notes so they can be moved around. Compare with PowerPoint presentation slide 9. Discuss any additional ideas or omissions and, if necessary, add to the flip-chart.

3. Presentation and discussion: Sustainability performance management and integration (45 minutes)

a) Group brainstorm: Barriers to sustainability (15 minutes)

- What has stopped local government taking on sustainability more successfully in the past?
- What can we do differently in the future to overcome these barriers?

Write the answers on a flip-chart. The point of this exercise is to elicit the fact that, unless sustainability is actively planned for and managed, it will not happen. So, try and keep the discussion focused and avoid too much philosophising on human nature.

b) Presentation and discussion: Sustainability management systems (30 minutes)

Introduction to performance management systems: Check out how many of the participants are familiar with performance or environmental management systems. If necessary, prompt them by mentioning the systems that you know are in use in your own authority. See the briefing [“Community action, sustainable development and community strategies”](#) for information on different systems. Point out that these systems all follow a similar approach and then introduce PowerPoint slide 10. Point out that this is an iterative approach, that is, it’s like painting the Forth Bridge – when you get to the end you start again. Ask for comments and, if necessary, prompt similarities between this and the community planning process.

Examples of sustainability management systems: Refer to any examples that have already been mentioned in answer to the question about performance management systems. Show PowerPoint slides 11 to 16.

Comparing the systems: Have a brief brainstorm on the pros and cons of the different systems. Write the answers on a flip-chart using the chart in the resources section. The responses are likely to revolve around the different levels of formality, their effectiveness, and the time and staff resources required to operate them.

Finding integrated solutions: Refer to the concept of integration. Sustainability performance is different from other performance management because it is aiming to reach social, economic and environmental goals which can in practice be in conflict with each other. The briefing [“Why sustainable development is important for local authorities and their partners”](#) (‘Sustainable development defined’ resources area) gives background on approaches to integrating sustainability goals. The workshop [“Community action, sustainable development and community strategies”](#) deals with this issue in detail.

4. Group brainstorm: What is currently being done within the partner organisations of the LSPs to integrate sustainable development? (10 minutes)

Write the answers on a flip-chart and attach to the wall next to the community planning flowchart.

5. Parallel group work: How can these methods be used in the community planning process? (30 minutes)

Divide the participants into no more than four groups, each with a flip-chart as shown in the workshop resource [“Opportunities for integrating sustainability”](#). Use Post-it notes. Try and split people from the same organisation. Ask each group to consider two of the approaches discussed in exercises 3b and any additional ideas that came up in exercise 4. Map these onto the flip-chart using Post-it notes.

6. Feedback from group discussion: Practical recommendations (30 minutes)

Groups to report back after 30 minutes, transferring the Post-it notes onto the large community planning flowchart. Alternatively, show the flowchart (included in the materials section) as an overhead. Using a marker pen, map on the suggestions made as groups report back. For each suggestion check whether everyone agrees. Tick or circle those suggestions which have majority support. Put brackets round suggestions without majority support.

7. Plenary: Summary and conclusion. Agreement on the next steps for local process (10 minutes)

- Ask for suggestions on how to proceed with the suggestions which have been mapped. Write on a flip-chart. Be clear who is responsible for circulating the information and taking the next steps.
- Refer back to the aims of the session, which you presented on flip-chart or OHP. Check whether they have been achieved and whether any additional aims identified at the beginning have been achieved. Agree any action appropriate to tackle anything missed.