



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Strategic Assessment

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local and regional government • housing • planning • fire • regeneration • social exclusion • neighbourhood renewal



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Creating sustainable communities

Implementing the UNECE Protocol & EU Directive

- **Lead responsibility throughout UK**
- **Will meet 21 July deadline for Directive**
- ***How to integrate into Sustainability Appraisal?***

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Strategic assessment – what do we assess?

- **What about non-environmental effects?**
- **Can/should we consider all effects in a single analysis?**
- **If not, how can we divide them up?**
- **If yes, how can we integrate them?**



The Problems

- **Is the environment more important than the economy or society?**
- **Should assessment be separate from plan-making and decision-taking?**
- **SEA fine for environmental effects but how to mainstream it?**
- **SA is about outcomes**



Reasons for integration

- **Involving the public on plan / programme and Environmental Report together**
- **Decision-making - Ministers, councillors etc want integrated analysis of issues to consider**
- **Where does environment stop and economy / society begin?**



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UK experience of sustainability appraisal

- **UK Sustainable Development Strategy**
- **SA of land-use/spatial plans**
- **Different disciplines, aspirations, perceptions, assessment methods to SEA**
- **Sustainability requires an holistic approach**

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