



Key tools and methods of assessment to inform the work of your LEP

Lessons from delivering Local Economic Assessment

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LEAs and LEPs

- **The LEA – a crucial step to setting up a LEP**
 - Identify local economic challenges and opportunities
 - A tool to help agree priorities
 - Understand the 'optimum' allocation of scarce resources
- **Economic development is a core corporate act**
 - Raising the profile of ED
 - Facilitating joined up thinking
 - Commercial, Public, Social collaboration



LEAs and LEPs

0 Empowering local areas

- Do we need to do it? How? What about guidance?
- How are you evidencing strategy?
- Strengthen capacity, build skills and improve knowledge

0 There is an even bigger job to do...

- Communities still face deep challenges
- Needs evidence based priorities and solutions
- Leadership, values, delivery, outcomes, risks



Delivering LEAs



Delivering LEAs

- What has been **successful**?
- What has been **less successful**?
- What were the **lessons learnt**?
- Are there any **gaps** in the evidence base?
- What can be done about the gaps?

- First some useful values...



LEA values

○ Valuing people and places:

- Understanding place, people, history and key assets
- Valuing diversity, equality and fairness

○ Sustainable Economic Development:

- Economic, social, environmental considerations
- Private, Public and Social Sectors = Resilience

○ Objective and robust in approach:

- Reliability, replication, robustness



What works?



What works: Process

- **Integration:** Clear on purpose and strategic-fit
- **Engagement:** All partners are clear about objectives and help to secure a robust evidence base
- **Realistic:** Based on realistic policy instruments and local capacity to address issues
- **Collaboration and capacity building:** Sharing best/good practice, lessons learnt and developing capacity



What works: Outcomes

- **Action-led:** Provide clear implications and recommendations for policy, not purely descriptive
- **Joined-up:** Approach that connects themes, places, programmes and infrastructure to deliver thriving and functioning economies
- **Strategic-fit:** Integrates economic development practice and thinking into broader plans
- **Influencing:** Help partners articulate needs in their Single Conversation with HCA and private investors



Lessons: Risks

- **Definitions:** Agree scope and definitions for geography, analysis, KPIs early in assessment, so time not spent re-visiting and re-engineering data
- **Robustness:** Have an early 'check and challenge' to address comprehensiveness, accuracy, consistency of the evidence base
- **Inflexibility:** Consider scenarios to assist development of recommendations, avoid being deterministic
- **Poor outcomes:** Ensure that the LEA leads to sustainable development and a resilient economy



Lessons: (some) Gaps

- **Local population dynamics:** Population 'turnover/churn' and local area migration
- **Labour shortages:** Real time information labour shortages; redundancies by sector and occupation
- **Labour market churn:** job/training longitudinal progression
- **Innovation:** Public sector, commercial sector, community sector
- **Total Place:** functional roles of (town) centres
- **Functional Linkages:** Across space, between sectors, local trade patterns and multipliers, links between agencies...
- **Resilience:** understanding relationships / sustainable development