

Dudley Borough Local Economic Assessment (LEA)

**Select Committee on Regeneration,
Culture & Adult Education**

20 January 2010



PURPOSE

- **Provide an update on new statutory economic assessment duty**
- **Raise awareness and understanding of the LEA**
- **Seek Select Committee's views on the proposed outline format & content of the LEA**
- **Assess any other areas that Select Committee considers need to be taken into account**



BACKGROUND

- Review of Sub-National Economic Development & Regeneration (SNR) - July 2007:
 - Series of reforms to enable regions and local areas to respond better to economic challenges and play a more significant role in promoting economic development.

- Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act - November 2009:
 - Part 4 - new duty on county councils and unitary district councils to prepare an assessment of the economic conditions of their area – a Local Economic Assessment (LEA).
 - Part 5 - new Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS) - Planning Policy led.

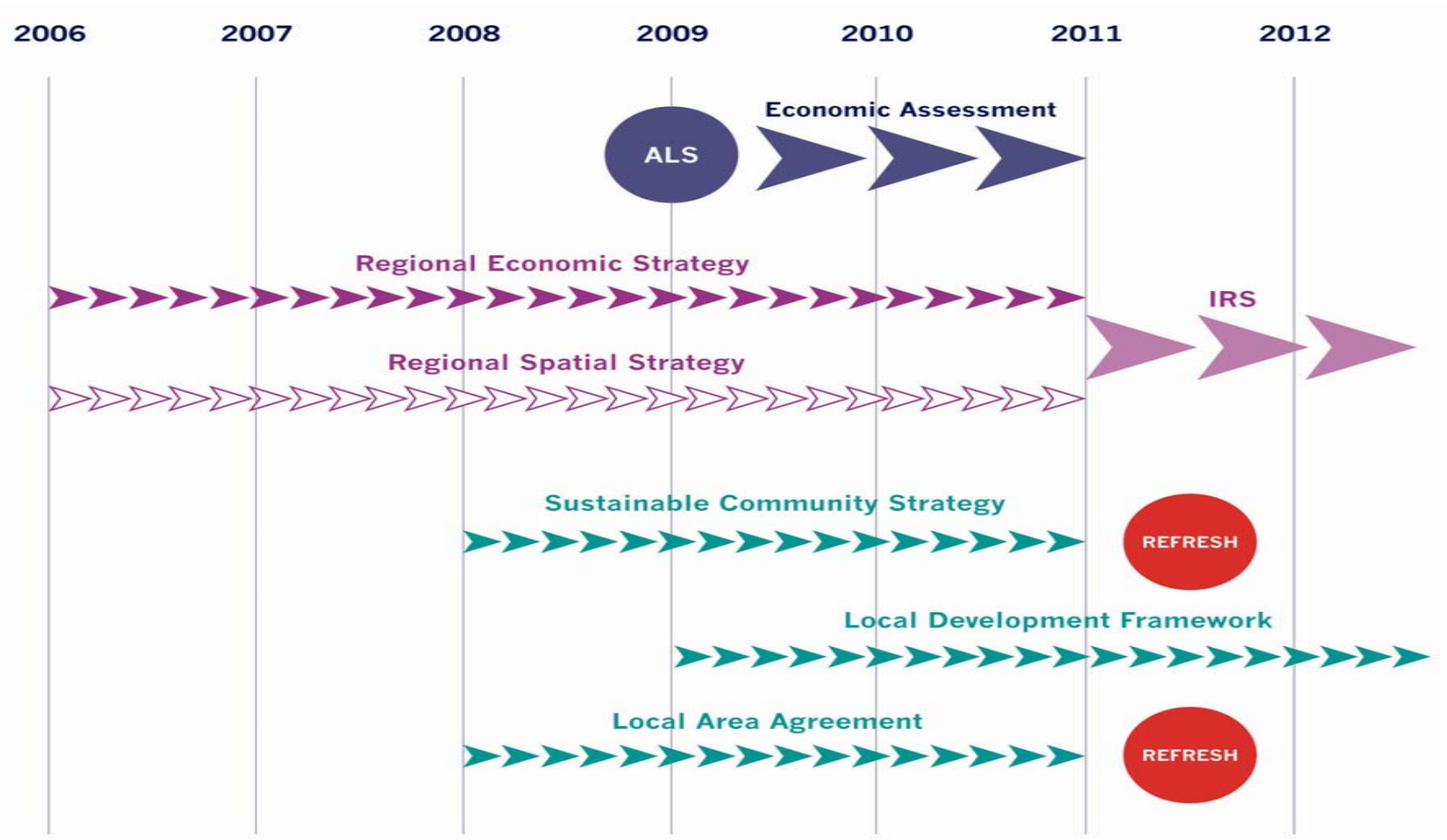
- Local Government Act 2000:
 - LEA duty underpins LAs well-being power.



BACKGROUND

- New duty comes into force from April 2010.
- Complete first LEAs within 6-9 months.
- LEA, or any part of it, may be revised at any time.
- Take account of any guidance published by the Secretary of State.
- CAA - how local authorities & partners have used the LEA to inform local priorities & strategies.
- Work across different service areas - economic regeneration, education & skills, planning, transport, sport & culture.
- Build on analysis & assessment work already undertaken

LEAs - STRATEGY LINKS



LEAs - CORE OBJECTIVES

- Robust & well informed evidence base - story of place.
- Sound understanding of local economic conditions & how they affect residents & businesses.
- Identify comparative strengths & weaknesses of the local economy and nature and form of local economic challenges and opportunities.
- Identify local economic geography, including economic linkages between the area and the wider economy.
- Identify local constraints to economic growth and employment and the risks to delivering sustainable economic growth.
- Should lead to improved economic interventions, including better spatial prioritisation of investment/funding.



PROPOSED OUTLINE CONTENT

4 Key Themes

1. Place
2. Business & Enterprise
3. People & Communities
4. Sustainable Economic Growth



PROPOSED OUTLINE CONTENT

Theme 1 - Place

- History
 - Brief overview of place history
- Geography
 - Location in regional/sub-regional context, town centres, transport connections, future development & investment plans
- Place Performance
 - Place Survey, Place Competitiveness Index
- Economic Geography
 - Determine connections with surrounding areas
 - Map where residents live, work & play
- Demography
 - Population information, population changes, population projections, migration



PROPOSED OUTLINE CONTENT

Theme 2 - Business & Enterprise

- Competitiveness & Productivity
 - Gross Value Added (GVA), Incomes, Floorspace

- Structure of local economy
 - Local business base - size, sector, etc
 - Sector strengths/future growth sectors
 - Strategic companies

- Enterprise & Innovation
 - Business start-ups & closures
 - Self employment
 - Inward investment trends
 - Knowledge intensive industries
 - Linkages between higher education & businesses

- Business Needs
 - Gauge views of local businesses across a range of areas, including:
 - Biggest constraints to business investment & economic growth
 - How well local authorities engage local businesses and local business networks
 - Views on extent to which local authority core services support local businesses



PROPOSED OUTLINE CONTENT

Theme 3 - People & Communities

➤ Labour Market

- Local occupational structure
- Employment, unemployment - by age, gender, ethnicity, occupation
- Job vacancies

➤ Skills

- Local skills levels
- Skills gaps
- Education attainment
- Indices of Deprivation - education & skills domain

➤ Economic Inclusion

- Areas/communities that face high levels of deprivation & economic exclusion
- Health & disability
- Crime rates
- Debt levels

➤ Worklessness Assessment - City Region led

➤ Child Poverty Needs Assessment



PROPOSED OUTLINE CONTENT

Theme 4 - Sustainable Economic Growth

➤ Environmental sustainability

- Pressures of economic growth on environmental sustainability
- Potential opportunities for maximising green growth
- Low carbon economy - challenges & opportunities
- Economic implications of long term climate change

➤ Housing and infrastructure

- Housing provision & infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth
- Transport network reliability
- Employment land



LEA APPROACH

- **Led by Economic Regeneration & Transportation Division, DUE**
- **Utilise internal staff resources**
- **Some possible external support to address data gaps**
- **Refreshed annually to update key statistics.**
- **Complete review every 2/3 years.**



CONSULTATION

- **LAs to consult such persons as they consider appropriate.**
- **LAA partners - economic development.**
- **Local business & social enterprise.**
- **Statutory environmental advisers - Natural England & Environment Agency.**

TIMESCALES

- **Develop and agree outline content: February 2010**
- **Identify data gaps: March 2010**
- **Agree additional data requirements & commission work: April - July 2010**
- **Develop detailed content for draft LEA: April - July 2010**
- **Review & finalise draft LEA: August 2010**
- **Approval to consult on draft LEA: September 2010**
- **Consultation on draft LEA: October - November 2010**
- **Produce final LEA: December 2010**
- **Approval of final LEA: January/February 2011**
- **Dudley Borough LEA completed & delivered: March 2011**

For further information, contact

Wayne George

 **01384 812012**

 **wayne.george@dudley.gov.uk**

Lynne Avery

 **01384 814143**

 **lynne.avery@dudley.gov.uk**