



The challenges of Local Economic Assessment – findings from recent CLES research

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Purpose of research

Overarching question

- How are local authorities responding to the Economic Assessment Duty?

Objectives

- To understand progress on LEA to date
- To identify the key challenges experienced so far and how they are being overcome
- To identify approaches to LEAs and what happens afterwards
- To gain opinion from practitioners on the process of LEA



Key quantitative findings of research

- 62.5% of respondents have experienced challenges with LEA so far
- 25% of respondents are unprepared for LEA
- 88.2% of respondents view labour market, education and skills considerations as a key component of their LEA
- 41.2% of respondents view environment as a key component of their LEA
- 62.5% of respondents have thought about how their LEA will respond to changing economic circumstances



Progress on LEA to date

- Studied guidance and learning materials
- Begun to source nationally available data
- Undertaken some consultation with partners and stakeholders
- Set up capacity to develop and deliver LEA
- Thought about the geography of LEA



The challenges of LEA

- Determining the geographical focus of LEA
- Understanding the requirements of Government
- Assessing which data to include and which indicators to measure
- Developing an effective method of cross-authority comparison
- Linking LEA to wider strategy and ensuring added value
- Understanding what LEA is for



The opportunities of LEA

- De-bureaucratisation of geographical working
- Development of 'intelligence' rather than 'evidence'
- Provide a qualitative and strategic understanding of local economy
- To think about the economy in its broadest sense
- To link LED to wider service departments and corporate priorities



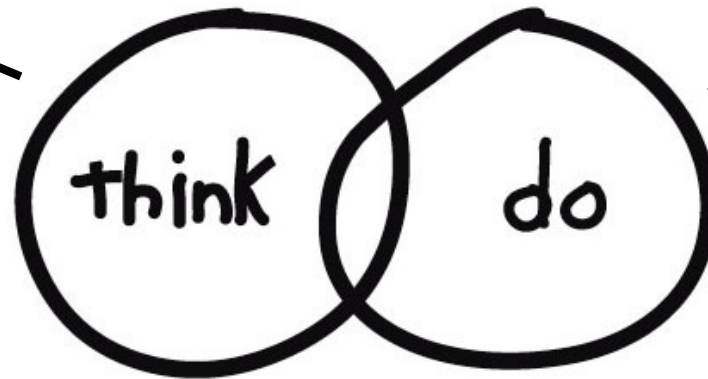
Support mechanisms for Local Economic Assessment

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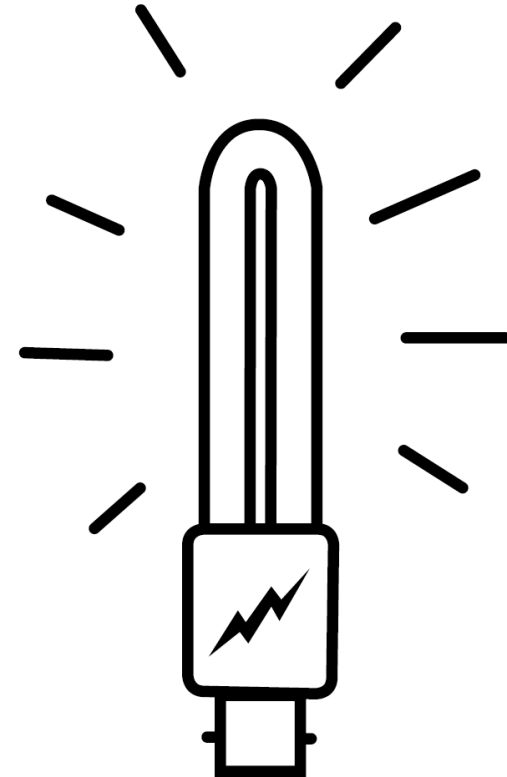
Not-for-
profit
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Committed to ensuring positive
local change



Areas of expertise

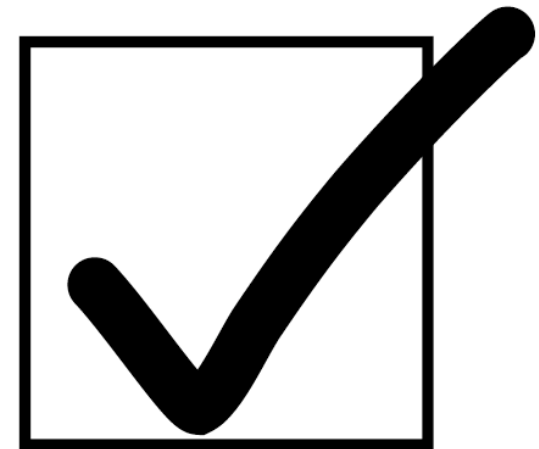
- Employment and skills
- Enterprise and innovation
- Economic analysis and assessment
- Governance
- Community regeneration
- Well-being and health





Services

- o Research and analysis
- o Best practice advice
- o Strategy development
- o Feasibility and action planning
- o Evaluation and performance management





Undertaking LEA

- Map current evidence
 - Document review
 - Talk to partners
- Fill gaps in evidence
 - Secondary data analysis
 - Consult business, third sector, community (surveys, ints, FGs)
- Establish the economic picture (different spatial levels)
 - GIS
 - Qualitative narrative
 - Innovative techniques (LM3 - supply chain analysis, SROI)
- Identify local priorities and develop action plans
 - Stakeholder/visioning workshops



CLEES Consulting

- ◉ Knowledge of what works
- ◉ Policy smart
- ◉ Committed to positive local change
- ◉ Flexible, innovative and delivery focused
- ◉ Professional
- ◉ Values driven