

### Local economic assessments

### **Draft statutory guidance**





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### Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill places a new duty on county councils and unitary district councils to prepare an assessment of the economic conditions of their area.
- 1.2 This takes forward one of the key recommendations of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration, published in July 2007. The Review set out a 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.
- 13. The Government's intention is to formally consult on statutory guidance on the duty once the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill has been enacted and the relevant provisions are in force. The final stages of the Bill are now expected to be completed in the autumn.
- 1.4 The Government's intention is that the duty should come into force in April 2010. We are publishing this pre-consultation draft guidance now to give local authorities and partners early sight of the Government's thinking on how the duty might be carried out. We welcome feedback on this draft. Please forward any comments you wish to make to Colin Lovegrove at colin.lovegrove@communities.gsi.gov.uk.
- 1.5 In publishing draft guidance now we are not seeking to pre-judge Parliamentary scrutiny of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. Elements of the guidance may change as necessary to reflect any changes effected to the legislation by further Parliamentary scrutiny of the Bill.
- 1.6 This draft guidance explains what the new local economic assessment duty is intended to achieve, how assessments should be taken forward and what they should contain. This draft statutory guidance is primarily aimed at local authorities, but will also be of interest to local authorities' economic partners.
- 1.7 The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) have worked with several local authorities to produce national practical guidance on undertaking local economic assessments. The guidance is available for consultation from the IDeA's Community of Practice platform http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/1108381/home.do. Communities and Local Government have worked closely with IDeA and PAS in taking forward the new duty and this draft statutory guidance should be read alongside their draft guidance.

The publication of these two sets of draft guidance should enable local 1.8 authorities to start thinking about how they should prepare for the new duty, ahead of its commencement in April 2010.

### Section 2 Legislative requirements

2.1 Part 4 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill requires county councils and unitary district councils in England, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly to prepare an assessment of the economic conditions of their area. These councils are referred to as principal local authorities for the purposes of the duty.

#### 2.2 The Bill states that:

- A principal local authority may revise an assessment, or any part of it, at any time.
- In undertaking an economic assessment a principal local authority should consult those organisations they consider appropriate.
- Local authorities should also have regard to any guidance published by the Secretary of State with regard to what an assessment should contain, how it should be prepared and when to prepare and revise it. Before publishing any guidance, the Secretary of State must consult representatives of local government and such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- In two tier areas, the county council is required to consult and seek the participation of non-unitary district councils within its area. District councils have a corresponding duty to co-operate with the county council.
- The county council should also have regard to any material produced by a non-unitary district council within its area in the discharge of that council's local planning functions under section 13 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 3.1 Different places face different economic challenges and opportunities and therefore a lot of economic development activity needs to be tailored locally. Well designed local economic development policy, taken forward by local authorities and partners, can contribute significantly to sustainable economic objectives.
- 3.2 The ability of local authorities and partners to deliver sustainable economic growth<sup>1</sup> and to respond to the economic challenges in their area depends heavily on a robust and well informed evidence base.
- 3.3 Local economic assessments should equip local authorities and partners with a common understanding of local economic conditions and economic geography and the economic, social and environmental factors that impact on economic growth. This understanding should lead to improved economic interventions, including better spatial prioritisation of investment, and contribute to the Government's overall aim of delivering sustainable development.
- 3.4 Local authorities, regions and partners already assemble a range of data and evidence to support their economic interventions. Local economic assessments should provide a mechanism for bringing this evidence together within a common economic evidence base that tells the story of a place. This evidence base should inform local, sub-regional and regional economic strategies including the framework for the future development of the region as set out in the regional strategy<sup>2</sup> or the Mayor's suite of strategies in the case of London. This should ensure that policy making at all levels is based around a shared understanding of local economic challenges.

Economic growth that can be sustained and is within environmental limits, but also enhances environmental and social welfare and avoids greater extremes in future economic cycles

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill provides for the preparation of regional strategies for all regions in England, except London

# Section 4 Shaping local economic assessments

4.1 In shaping their local economic assessments local authorities should take account of a broad range of factors that impact, both positively and negatively, on business in their area and the economic well-being of individuals and communities. Local authorities will need to work across different service areas, such as economic development and regeneration, education and skills, planning, transport, and sport and culture in preparing their assessments.

### Objectives of assessments

- 4.2 Local economic assessments should provide a comprehensive and robust diagnosis of local economic conditions which should inform interventions of local authorities and partners.
- 4.3 The Government believes that the core objectives of local economic assessments should be to:
  - Provide a sound understanding of the economic conditions in the area and how they affect residents and businesses.
  - Identify the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the local economy and the nature and form of local economic challenges and opportunities.
  - Identify the local economic geography, including the economic linkages between the area being assessed and the wider economy.
  - Identify the local constraints to economic growth and employment and the risks to delivering sustainable economic growth.

#### Issues to be covered in assessments

4.4 Local authorities should seek to adopt a broadly consistent approach so that economic assessments are comparable and can readily be aggregated to inform sub-regional and regional strategies. Local authorities should work with the regional development agency (RDA) and other regional partners to achieve this consistency across their region.

- 4.5 To ensure consistency, local economic assessments should address a core set of themes that are essential ingredients to any robust local economic assessment. These themes are not exhaustive and local authorities are free to decide what other issues they wish to address in their economic assessments to reflect local circumstances and priorities.
- 4.6 Assessments should, in some form, address the following themes:

#### **Business and enterprise**

**Structure of local economy:** Identify the sectoral structure of the local economy, including the comparative strengths of sectors and the significance of particular businesses.<sup>3</sup>

Overall economic competitiveness of area: Reach a judgement about the overall economic competitiveness and productivity of the area.

**Enterprise and innovation:** Gauge the levels of and trends in business start ups and closures, growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, self employment, and employment in, or growth of knowledge intensive industries and other high growth sectors. Local authorities should also explore the extent to which universities and other higher education institutions are linked up to local husinesses

**Business needs:** Gauge the views of local businesses on what they see as the biggest constraints to business investment and economic growth and how well local authorities engage local businesses and local business networks. This may include business views on the extent to which local authorities' core services, such as their regulatory services, have supported local businesses.

#### **People and communities**

**Labour market:** Assess the local occupational structure, including employment and unemployment rates. In analysing labour market conditions, local authorities should give particular regard to levels of worklessness (see paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8), travel to work patterns and the economic and social factors behind these.

**Skills:** Assess local skill levels, including educational attainment. Local authorities should also analyse any evidence of skills gaps and explore the extent to which local skills levels match the needs of local business and businesses in neighbouring areas.

**Economic inclusion:** Identify areas or communities that face high levels of deprivation and economic exclusion and identify the key underlying economic and social barriers to economic participation.<sup>4</sup>

Building Britain's Future, HMG, June 2009. Chapter 3 [Investing for the Future: Building Tomorrow's Economy Today] sets out the Government's vision for the UK economy over the next decade and its commitment to ensuring that Britain can lead in new sectors of the future in a global economy and take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by the move to a low carbon economy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Transforming Places Changing Lives – Taking Forward the Regeneration Framework, CLG, May 2009, sets out a definition of regeneration – a set of activities that reverse economic, social and physical decline in areas. Successful regeneration should strengthen communities by creating new economic opportunities, thereby increasing social mobility and supporting people to reach their full potential, regardless of where they live.

#### Sustainable economic growth

**Environmental sustainability:** Examine how the local economy needs to adapt to meet any commitments relating to the protection and enhancement of a healthy natural environment, including biodiversity, reducing waste and greenhouse gases and increasing renewable energy capacity – identifying any pressures economic growth is likely to place on environmental sustainability, or potential opportunities for maximising green growth. Local authorities should, in particular, examine the challenges and opportunities that the move to a low carbon economy<sup>5</sup> presents to local firms and how well placed the local transport and energy infrastructure are for the needs and opportunities of such an economy. They should also take account of the risks from long term climate change and their potential economic implications.

**Housing and infrastructure:** Examine the extent to which local housing provision and infrastructure, including transport, supports the economic sustainability of the area. Drawing on the evidence assembled to underpin local development frameworks, local authorities should examine, as far as practicable, whether there is sufficient housing of the right size and affordability and sufficient infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth and economic inclusion.

### Tackling worklessness

- 4.7 Helping people to find and stay in work should be a priority for local government and its partners. In March 2009, Councillor Stephen Houghton published his independent report *Tackling Worklessness: A Review of the contribution and role of English local authorities and partnerships*, which sought to establish how English local authorities and their partners can do more to tackle worklessness. The Government's<sup>6</sup> response broadly welcomed the review's recommendations, including the specific call for local authorities to complete worklessness assessments, and committed to making the worklessness assessment an integral part of the wider local economic assessment.
- Also building on recommendations from the review, the Budget 2009 announced a Future Jobs Fund of around £1bn that will provide additional resources for local partnerships to do more to stimulate jobs for workless people. All local authorities bidding for the Future Jobs Fund will need to carry out a preliminary worklessness assessment as part of the bidding process, and commit to putting in place an initial Work and Skills Plan by April 2010. Worklessness assessments should be considered in developing the full local economic assessment. And we would encourage local authorities to revisit work and skills plans in the light of full local economic assessments.

www.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding target of at least an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050 for the UK as well as a 26% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 – both against 1990 levels.

<sup>6</sup> Stepping up to the Challenge – The Government's response to Tackling Worklessness – a review of the contribution and role of English local authorities and partnerships – CLG & DWP, May 2009

### Integrating economic, social and environmental issues

- 4.9 Local economic assessments should draw out the interlinkages between economic growth and wider social and environmental issues that impact on the quality of life. Local economic assessments should interact with evidence about the natural environment, in terms of pressures resulting from economic activity and opportunities for economic prosperity which protect and enhance the natural environment. Local economic assessments should also interact with local evidence assembled around social issues such as health, child poverty and crime and examine the extent to which sport and cultural facilities, broadband provision and the quality of place can hinder or help attract investment and a well qualified workforce required for a vibrant local economy.
- 4.10 Section 21 of the Child Poverty Bill will place a new duty on local authorities to work with their partners to prepare an assessment of the needs of children living in poverty in their area. Local authorities should, wherever possible, seek to integrate the preparation of a local economic assessment and a child poverty assessment, helping to ensure that the economic development of an area supports understanding of poverty and work to reduce child poverty in the local area.

### Other principles

- 4.11 **Local economic assessments should be place based.** They need to take account of the particular history, demography and social and environmental challenges faced by specific areas and communities. It is particularly important for local authorities assessing a large geographical area to avoid a blanket approach to their local economic assessments. They need to draw out the economic diversity of their area.
- 4.12 Local economic assessments should be forward looking. Local authorities need to have a clear understanding of the economic origins of their area, its current economic conditions and what they see as the future direction of their local economy. It is particularly important in the context of the current economic and environmental challenges and the likely future shape of the UK economy, that local authorities have a clear sense of the future economic direction of their local area. It is not necessary for local economic assessments to include detailed economic forecasts. However, assessments should include consideration of social and environmental trends (e.g. ageing population and climate change) and how different economic scenarios might impact on the local area.
- 4.13 **Assessments should be based on appropriate and proportionate evidence and data.** In addition to national sources of data, assessments
  can draw on data held by local, sub-regional and regional partners, survey
  evidence and the knowledge and expertise of local, sub-regional and regional

partners and key stakeholders, including the business community. Lower super output area level data<sup>8</sup> would, for example, be particularly helpful in identifying priority areas for intervention. However, assessments should not be seen as purely data collection exercises. Assessments should set out a clear narrative that addresses the core objectives set out on paragraph 4.3.

Assessments should explain the methods employed, with any 4.14 **limitations noted.** Local authorities should ensure that assumptions, judgements and findings are justified and presented in an open and transparent way. Forecast results and data should, as a minimum, be replicable.

#### Building on existing economic evidence

Many local authorities already assemble a significant amount of economic 4.15 evidence to support their local economic development. Where appropriate, local authorities should build on this existing evidence base. Local authorities will, however, need to ensure that any assessments are consistent with the principles set out in this guidance.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geography designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics. LSOA units are similar in size of population (around 1500 people) which allows for reliable comparisons between them. Their boundaries are also stable, enabling the improved comparison and monitoring of statistics over time.

### Section 5 Use of data

- 5.1 There are a wide range of data sources available to inform local economic assessments.
- 5.2 National sources of data will be valuable in providing comparable data that will be useful in establishing a common core dataset. There is a substantial amount of data available that relates to local authority geography. In addition, there have been considerable improvements in the availability of statistics that relate to smaller geographic areas. These can help produce a far more detailed understanding of places and identify characteristics of individual neighbourhoods.
- 5.3 The majority of nationally provided data sets for local development are signposted on data4nr.net (data for neighbourhoods and regeneration) and these are updated as new sources become available.
- 5.4 Data held by regional and local partners (such as administrative data, local survey results and local consultation and planning exercises) are also of relevance to assessments. Local data sources may provide more timely information than national sources, help fill gaps, and be available at smaller geographical levels. These can provide insights not possible from national data sets.
- 5.5 Regional observatories will, for example, be able to signpost regionally and locally held data sets which may be appropriate. Private sector sources of data may also be considered if these effectively meet local needs. Some local partnerships have established local data observatories or local information systems. These may also be valuable sources of data. Data4nr.net provides links to regional and local data sources, including local information systems and observatories

### Section 6 Reflecting economic geography

- 6.1 The Government believes that local economic assessments should, as far as possible, match real economic geographies or functional economic market areas.<sup>9</sup>
- There is not a universal approach to defining functional economic market areas but there is a widely used set of indicators (e.g. labour markets measured by travel to work areas, retail markets by catchment areas) which should be viewed as a suite from which regions and local authorities can pick a combination which best reflects the key drivers of their local economy. As the boundaries of a functional economic market area will vary depending on the definition, local authorities will need to judge which features of the economy should be considered. This requires a strong evidence base and the local economic assessment can contribute to this. After choosing a set of appropriate indicators these can be mapped to identify the best fit in terms of functional economic market areas.
- Where strong economic links are identified, local authorities should consider the benefits of collaborating with neighbouring local authorities in preparing their local economic assessment. In some cases this may involve working across regional boundaries. In that context, assessments should also identify areas where beneficial new links between local authorities could be forged or strengthened, for instance to connect residents and businesses to new opportunities. Collaboration could take the form of a joint local economic assessment. One approach could be to put together an overarching subregional assessment of the broad economic conditions of the functional economic market area, aggregating evidence where necessary, below which would sit assessments by individual local authorities which identify the distinct economic priorities of their local area.
- The Government would expect local authorities that have come together to agree and deliver a multi-area agreement (MAA) to prepare a joint assessment, or at least to collaborate closely in the preparation of their own individual assessments. MAA partner authorities should, however, not lose sight of the economic linkages between the MAA area and the wider economy.
- 6.5 It is likely that a county council area will include more than one functional economic market area. In such circumstances, the Government believes that county councils should identify the specific economic conditions of separate functional economic market areas as part of a wider assessment of the whole county. It is important that county wide assessments fully reflect the economic diversity of their areas, including rural as well as urban areas.

<sup>9</sup> Functional economic market areas are spatial areas that can be mapped by a combination of the key indicators of economic activity and across areas.

- Where local authorities have established an economic prosperity board or combined authority<sup>10</sup> for an area, this body would be well placed to conduct 6.6 an economic assessment on their behalf.
- 6.7 Where pan-regional partnerships are established, for example in the Thames Gateway, the local authorities concerned should look to develop a common and joined up evidence base for the partnership area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill enables the creation of economic prosperity boards and combined authorities outside London. These are new governance structures for sub-regions and will enable groups of local authorities to drive forward activity on economic development issues (and transport in the case of combined authorities) across the whole of their area.

### Section 7 Informing local strategy and delivery

- Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities<sup>11</sup> sets out the new 7.1 framework by which local authorities and partners should work together to improve local well-being. Local economic assessments should support these ambitions and should be embedded within this framework.
- 7.2 The primary purpose of local economic assessments should be to inform both county's and district councils' sustainable community strategies. This, in turn, will inform their local area agreements (LAAs) and, where appropriate, any subsequent LAA revision proposals and the economic interventions of local strategic partnerships (LSPs). Flowing from this, local economic assessments should also inform other local strategies such local development frameworks, local transport plans, housing strategies and, where applicable, work and skills plans as well as relevant local authorities' commissioning role for 16 to 19 learning, following the transfer of responsibilities from the Learning and Skills Council in 2010.
- 7.3 Local authorities should also draw on the evidence presented in their local economic assessments when reviewing their economic development activities and that of their partners. Local economic assessments should inform any review of the effectiveness of current economic interventions and may. in particular, help to identify opportunities for better co-ordination of interventions and any unintended consequences of existing interventions. In that context, local authorities should be aware of the economic strategies of neighbouring authorities and regional partners.

#### Local planning

- 7.4 Local planning authorities will have regard to sustainable community strategies covering their area when preparing their local development frameworks (LDF). Local economic assessments should, therefore, form part of the evidence base for the preparation of LDFs.
- 7.5 It is important that all authorities have a good understanding of how land is to be used for economic development. As part of their planning responsibilities, local authorities are required to identify land for economic development in their LDFs. This requirement is being strengthened through new draft Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Communities, published in May 2009, which sets out the Government's proposed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance, HM Government, July 2008

framework for planning for sustainable economic growth. It requires regional and local planning authorities to identify a good supply of land for economic development, which includes preparing and maintaining a robust evidence base to understand both existing business needs and likely change in the market to inform their planning policies. In preparing local economic assessments, it will be important for local authorities to take account of this evidence in terms of the demand for employment land and potential supply.

7.6 Sections 13 and 14 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 require counties and local planning authorities to keep under review matters which may affect the development of their area, or the planning of its development, including principal economic characteristics. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill 2009 requires county councils, when preparing their local economic assessments, to have regard to material assembled by district councils in their area under section 13 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is important that county councils take account of the economic evidence base supporting LDFs. County councils and district councils should work collaboratively in assembling their evidence bases to avoid duplication, and ensure that both tiers establish a shared and consistent evidence base. Most of the evidence assembled by district councils as local planning authorities will be sufficient for the purposes of the county's wider local economic assessment.

#### Informing the comprehensive area assessment

- 7.7 Comprehensive area assessment (CAA), which came into being in April 2009, provides an independent assessment of how well people are being served by their local public services. It focuses on how well these services, working together, are achieving improvements and progressing towards long-term goals. The first assessments will be published in December 2009.
- As an element of CAA, inspectorates will consider the performance of local economies and the effectiveness of local partners' actions in support of sustainable economic growth. Once completed, local economic assessments will complement the national indicator set and other sources of evidence in providing a useful source of evidence for inspectorates in carrying out this work. In drawing on this evidence, inspectorates will consider how local authorities and their partners have used the economic assessment to inform the development and delivery of their local priorities and strategies.
- 7.9 Inspectorates may highlight with a red flag areas where local action to achieve an important outcome such as sustainable economic growth is unlikely to deliver the expected improvement. Local authorities would need to take account of such current risks identified through CAA when revising their economic assessment. Equally when exceptional outcomes have been achieved green flags will be awarded by the inspectorates.

7.10 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill requires the county council to consult and seek the participation of district councils within its area in preparing its local economic assessment. The Bill also requires district councils to co-operate with the county council. So, although the duty applies to county councils in two tier areas, it is important that the county council works in close partnership with district councils in preparing a county wide economic assessment. District councils have a central role in local economic development, which goes beyond just their local planning role, so it is important that county councils build on any appropriate local knowledge and evidence that district councils hold that would help to inform local economic assessments.

### Working with other local partners

- 7.11 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill requires principal local authorities for local economic assessments to consult such persons as they consider appropriate. Local authorities should seek to actively engage partners, involving them from the start of the process.
- 7.12 As a minimum, local authorities should consult those LAA partners with functions particularly related to economic development in the preparation of their local economic assessments. Ideally, local authorities will embed the preparation of local economic assessments into the role of local strategic partnerships (LSPs).
- 7.13 It is particularly important that local authorities consult representatives of local business and social enterprise in the preparation of their assessments. The views of businesses should be reflected in the assessments. Local authorities should also consult statutory environmental advisers (Natural England and the Environment Agency) on environmental sustainability issues. Assessments should also take account of views of parish and town councils, which are often responsible for providing local services.

### Section 8 Informing regional strategy and delivery

- The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill provides 8.1 for new integrated regional strategies for each region outside London. Each strategy should set out a region's economic, social and environmental priorities. The Government's draft Policy Statement on Regional Strategies, published in August 2009, sets out the Government's policy framework for the preparation of regional strategies<sup>12</sup>.
- 8.2 Local economic assessments should form part of the evidence base for the preparation of the regional strategy and the implementation plan that accompanies it. The Examination in Public Panel may also draw upon the evidence assembled through local economic assessments in testing the soundness of the draft regional strategy.
- The responsible regional authorities 13 will be required to prepare annual 8.3 monitoring reports for the regional strategy in order to monitor the implementation of the strategy and to keep the regional evidence base up to date. Local economic assessments should also inform the preparation of these reports. The economic evidence base established for the regional strategy should aggregate the outputs from local economic assessments.

#### Structured regional dialogue

8.4 If local economic assessments are to effectively inform the preparation of the regional strategy, the economic conditions of local areas need to be assessed in a consistent way. The responsible regional authorities, local authorities and other regional partners should seek to agree on how the local economic assessments can best inform the preparation of the regional strategy through a structured regional dialogue. This should include agreeing upon a core evidence base that should be common to all local economic assessments. Local authorities and partners should also use this structured dialogue to establish how they can make best use of analytical capacity within the region and how local authorities that lack analytical capacity can best be supported.

<sup>12</sup> Policy Statement on Regional Strategies and Guidance on the establishment of Leaders' Boards – Consultation, CLG & BIS,

Clause 69 (1) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill refers to the RDA for the region and the Leaders' Board for the region acting jointly as responsible regional authorities

#### London

- 8.5 In London local economic assessments will inform the Mayor's suite of statutory strategies prepared under the Greater London Authority Act 1999, including the London Plan and the Mayor's Strategies for Economic Development and Transport. The London boroughs should work closely with the Greater London Authority and the London Development Agency in preparing the way for the new duty. Again, both parties should seek to agree a core evidence that should be common to all borough assessments and explore how they can make best use of analytical capacity held within London. The London boroughs will also take account of the wider perspective of the Mayor's suite of strategies in preparing their local economic assessments.
- As a major economic driver, London has an economic impact well beyond its boundaries. Where applicable, local authorities outside London should draw out the economic linkages between their area and the capital. Likewise, London borough assessments should seek to draw out economic linkages with central London and, where applicable, neighbouring areas outside London and beyond.

### Section 9 Timing and frequency of assessments

- 9.1 The Government expects that the new duty will come into force in April 2010, at which point local authorities should begin to prepare their assessments.
- 9.2 Local authorities should aim to complete their first assessments within six to nine months of the duty coming into effect so that the assessments are able to inform the preparation for the next suite of LAAs for the period 2011–12 to 2013–14. Local authorities outside London should also work to a timescale that complements the cycle for the development of the regional strategy, which assessments will support.
- 9.3 Local authorities should keep assessments up to date and fit for purpose, to enable them to keep their sustainable community strategy up to date and help to strengthen their LAA negotiations. The 2011 census will provide a particular opportunity for local authorities to refresh and update their economic evidence base. The results of the census should be available in 2013.



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