

- The final LEA will need to be approved by the Board of Calderdale Forward and the Council Cabinet.
- The timing for reviewing the LEA should coincide with strategic reviews of the Sustainable Community Strategies and the Local Area Agreement framework.
- The timescale for completing the Assessment in Calderdale is highlighted below;

Project Stage	Activity	Dates
1. Project Planning and Start-up	Develop project plan, undertaken research on guidelines, awareness raising, set up project organisation + agree project scope Key lines of Enquiry + Functional Economic geography	March May 2010
2. Data and intelligence gathering	- Collating data and intelligence - Identify data/intelligence gaps	May June 2010
3. Collating and Drafting	- Issuing work packages to theme contributors/authors - Collating, revising and writing the first draft of the Assessment	July August 2010
4. Testing and refining	- Distribution of early drafts to stakeholders for challenge - Revision and refining first draft - Presentation at conference (workshop discussions)	August September 2010
5. Finalising, publishing and distribution	- Design and development of final draft documentation. - Dissemination/distribution and presentation of Assessment	November 2010
6. Forward Planning	- Review project process - lessons learned etc - Set-up procedures/plans for revising Assessment	November December 2010



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Local Economic Assessments



All upper tier and unitary authorities, including Calderdale are required by law to complete a local economic assessment of their area, from April 2010. This note explains what will be required under the new duty for local authorities and why it is important for both the Council and it's Partners.

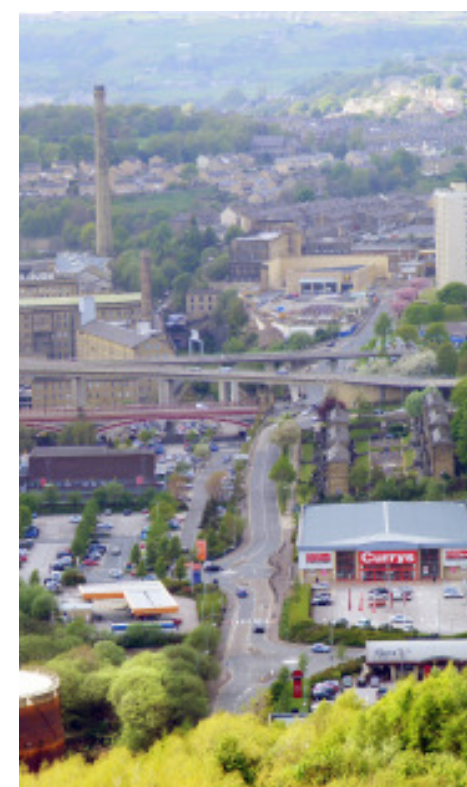
The statutory duty to undertake local economic assessments has evolved from the Government's review of sub-national economic development and regeneration (SNR) carried out in 2007. The SNR proposed some structural reforms, including the proposal "to strengthen the local authority role in economic development, including a new statutory economic assessment duty".



This paper sets out the actions the Council is taking, to help it to comply with the new duty and to produce a comprehensive and effective Local Economic Assessment of the area.

Key features of the duty to complete a Local Economic Assessment (LEA).

- LEAs are unlikely to be verified by a government agency. However, inspectors undertaking a Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) will be looking at how the evidence and intelligence present in an area's LEA have been used to develop interventions and actions to tackle local priorities and need.



- The duty to perform an LEA came into force from April 2010 and it is anticipated that local authorities should take between 6-9 months to complete them. The first LEA may be considered as a pilot.

- Undertaking LEAs will be a triennial event – nevertheless, Authorities are expected to update their LEAs regularly, as new information becomes available.

- An LEA should be based on functioning economic geographies and not simply based on a local authority's administrative boundary. In Calderdale, this means linking with Leeds and Manchester City regions.

- The LEA encourages consultation with key strategic partners and stakeholders about the economy of the area.

- The LEA requires a multi-disciplinary approach with contributions from across council service areas, including regeneration, education, skills, planning, transport and culture.



- Calderdale will need to aim to develop an LEA that is consistent with other neighbouring authorities, and also links in with Yorkshire Forward's requirements to feed into their development of the IRS (Integrated Regional Strategy).

- Assessments are expected to include the following broad themes;-

- **Business and enterprise** – economic structure, competitiveness, enterprise/innovation and business needs.

- **People and communities** – labour market, skills, economic inclusion

- **Sustainable economic growth** – environmental sustainability, housing and infrastructure.

- Broad principles mentioned in the guidance about the nature of the LEA suggest that it should be;-

- Place based

- Forward looking

- Based on appropriate evidence and data

- A primary function of the LEA is to underpin the overarching **Sustainable Communities Strategy**, which represents the vision of the Local Strategic Partnership (Calderdale Forward), which in turn informs the Local Area Agreement framework.

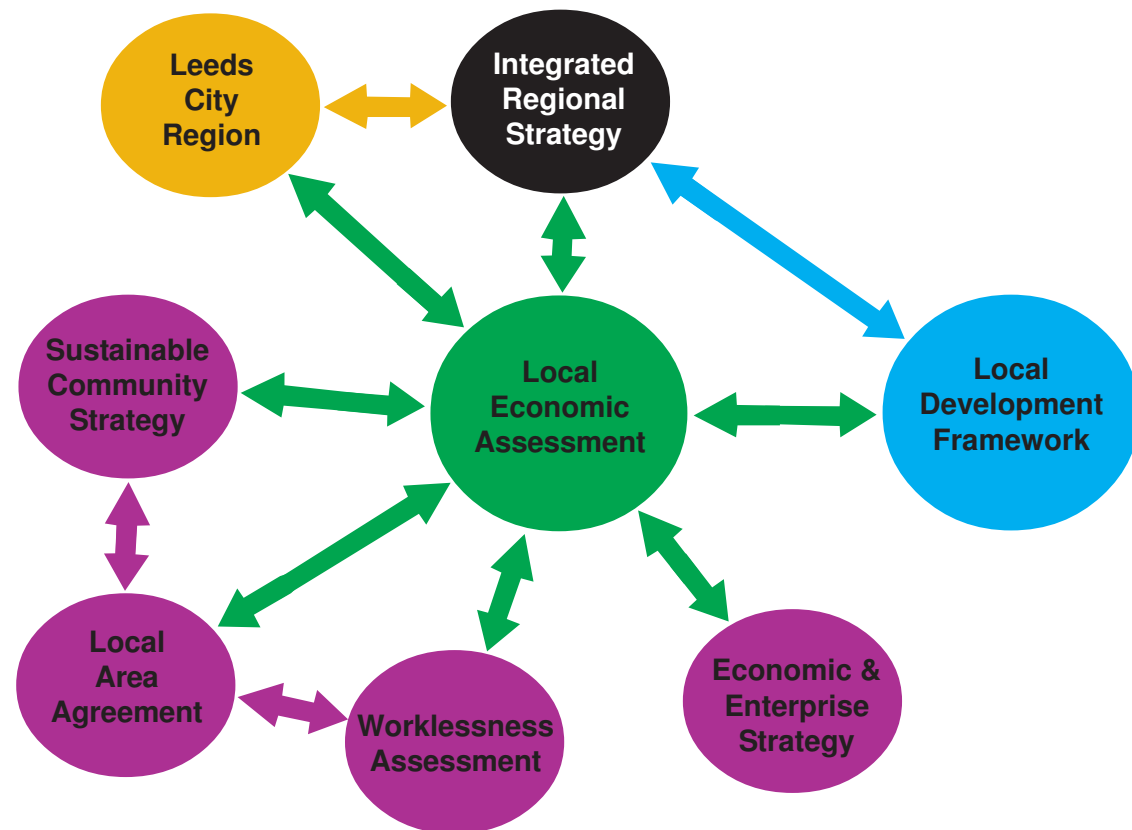
- Critically, the LEA should inform and underpin a local authority's Economic and Enterprise Strategy and should be critical in guiding any review that is being undertaken of economic development activity/function to ensure that it is effective, accurately targeted and appropriately prioritised.

- Comprehensive but effective consultation will be another measure of success for an area's LEA.

- A key measure of success for an LEA will be the extent to which it 'talks to' and informs other key local strategies and frameworks including the Local Development Framework, local transport plans, housing strategies and also work and skills plans. The illustration below indicates where the LEA sits with regards to underpinning key local and regional strategies.



What a basic LEA needs to inform



The LEA evolution from process to action

