



## **SEA for Minerals: Next steps**

# Stage C - Preparing the SA/SEA Report

- **Produce a Sustainability Appraisal Report**
- **Contents of the report specified in Schedule 2 of SEA Regulations:**
  - An outline of the contents & main objectives of the plan
  - Current and likely future state of the environment
  - Existing environmental problems
  - Existing environmental protection objectives
  - Likely significant environmental effects of the plan
  - Alternatives
  - Mitigation measures and monitoring arrangements
  - Non-technical summary

# Stage C - Reporting

- **Avoid encyclopaedic reports**
- **Remember the audiences**
- **Results chapter is vital and needs to identify**
  - What the headline effects are
  - What mitigation is available
  - HOW the authority should ensure that mitigation occurs
- **Clarity of communication**
  - Across sectors, planning scales, professions.
  - Communicate only what is relevant
- **Use a Quality Assurance checklist**
  - E.g. Appendix 9 – ODPM Practical Guide
- **Non-Technical Summary – don't forget it**

## **Stage D – Consulting on the draft plan & draft SA/SEA Report**

- **Draft plan (preferred option) must be consulted on during the pre-submission public participation stage under Local Development Regulation 26**
- **The SA Report must be published alongside the draft plan for consultation**
- **Public must be consulted in addition to the Statutory Bodies**

# Stage D

- **Following consultation the SA Report should be updated as necessary**
  - Minor changes – further detailed sustainability appraisal may not be required, however the SA Report may still need to be fully updated
  - Substantial changes – it may be necessary to undertake further appraisal of the plan and likely effects, the SA Report will need extensive revision
    - Example of a substantial change: a strategy not included in the preferred options now forms part of the plan
- **Final plan & SA Report submitted for examination and adoption**

# Stage D – SA Statement

- **Once the plan is adopted SEA Regulation 16 requires the publication of a Statement containing details regarding:**
  - How sustainability considerations have been integrated into the plan
  - How the SA Report has been taken into account
  - How consultation responses have been taken into account
  - Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives
  - Measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan

# Stage D – SA Statement

- **Provides transparency to decision making**
- **Keep records of all SA/SEA activities and consultations through the whole process to feed into the SA Statement.**

# Stage E – Monitoring the implementation of the plan

- **Required to monitor significant positive & negative environmental effects of the plan**
- **In order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action**
- **The monitoring requirement of the regulations is potentially very powerful**
- **Monitoring needs to be focused on significant sustainability effects, e.g. those:**
  - That indicate a likely breach of international, national, or local legislation, or recognised standards or guidance
  - That may give rise to irreversible damage
  - Where there was any uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken
- **Link to Annual Monitoring Report**

# Stage E – Purpose of monitoring

- **Tests whether strategic action is meeting its objectives**
- **Triggers remedial action if unforeseen or undesirable negative effects occur**
- **Ensures that mitigation measures are being implemented**
- **Enables comparison between predicted and actual effects**
- **Helps predictions in future SA/SEAs**
- **Fills data gaps for future SA/SEAs**

# Stage E: Monitoring

- **Focus on impacts (outcomes) rather than outputs**
- **Build on existing monitoring measures but new monitoring may be required**
- **Monitoring does not have to be quantitative**
  - E.g. Have EIAs followed recommendations from SEA

# Current issues

- **Future baseline without the plan**
- **Dealing with uncertainty**
- **Appropriate SA/SEA toolkit**
- **Development of alternatives**
- **Significance criteria**
- **Assessments not focused**
- **Added value could be improved**

# Challenges for SEA

- **Avoid bottom fishing**
- **Difficulties in assessing plans with high project content particularly when government demands “acceptance in principle” of the projects**
- **SEA should aim to ensure no surprises with project EIA**
- **Added value could be improved**
- **Should get easier**



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