



Local Economic Assessments

Policy context and rationale



About us

centreforcities 

- Established in 2005
- Independent from November 2007
- Economic drivers of growth and change in UK cities
- Reports include: city leadership, two-track cities
- Current research: economic performance, housing, worklessness, transport



This presentation

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- Reforming the ‘internal wiring’ of local government
- Reforming the regional tier
- Greater financial devolution
- Strategic need
- Benefits
- Will economic assessments deliver the desired outcomes?

Reforming the 'internal wiring'

- SNR = fundamental reappraisal of who does economic development
 - New economic focus
 - Performance management regime
 - Emphasis on data, evidence and outcomes
 - Statutory duty
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Reforming the regional tier

- Single Regional Strategy
 - Local authorities as deliverers of economic development
 - Local Area Agreements and Multi Area Agreement
 - Expanded Regional Funding Allocations
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Greater financial devolution

- LAAs & MAAs move towards outcome based measures and single pots
 - Area Based Grants
 - Marginal local powers
 - Business Rate Supplements
 - Community Infrastructure Levy
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Strategic Need

- All points toward need for more robust analysis in strategies and interventions
 - Government frustrated at one-size fits all strategies
 - Some best practice examples, but all upper-tier authorities now need to do this
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Benefits

- Evidence based policy more likely to be effective policy
 - Firmer basis for public and private sector collaboration
 - Greater bargaining power
 - More efficient means of collecting intelligence
 - Makes decisions more objective, and less political
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Will they deliver the desired outcomes?

- What are the desired outcomes?
 - Stronger evidence base, more effective policy, better use of limited resources
 - Knowledge generated needs to be deployed in the design of policy
 - Decision making frameworks not transparent enough
 - Evidence is one thing, solutions are another
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Summary

- Economic assessments a critical part of the devolutionary bargain
 - Should improve quality of decision making
 - Should increase bargaining position of LAs and lead to more collaboration
 - Evidence alone won't address development challenges – solutions needed
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Questions

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