

Integration of SEA with Other Forms of Assessment

Examples from the United Kingdom

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Presentation Structure

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Introduction

Integrated Impact Assessment - any process which attempts to cover more than one type of impact assessment in a single process

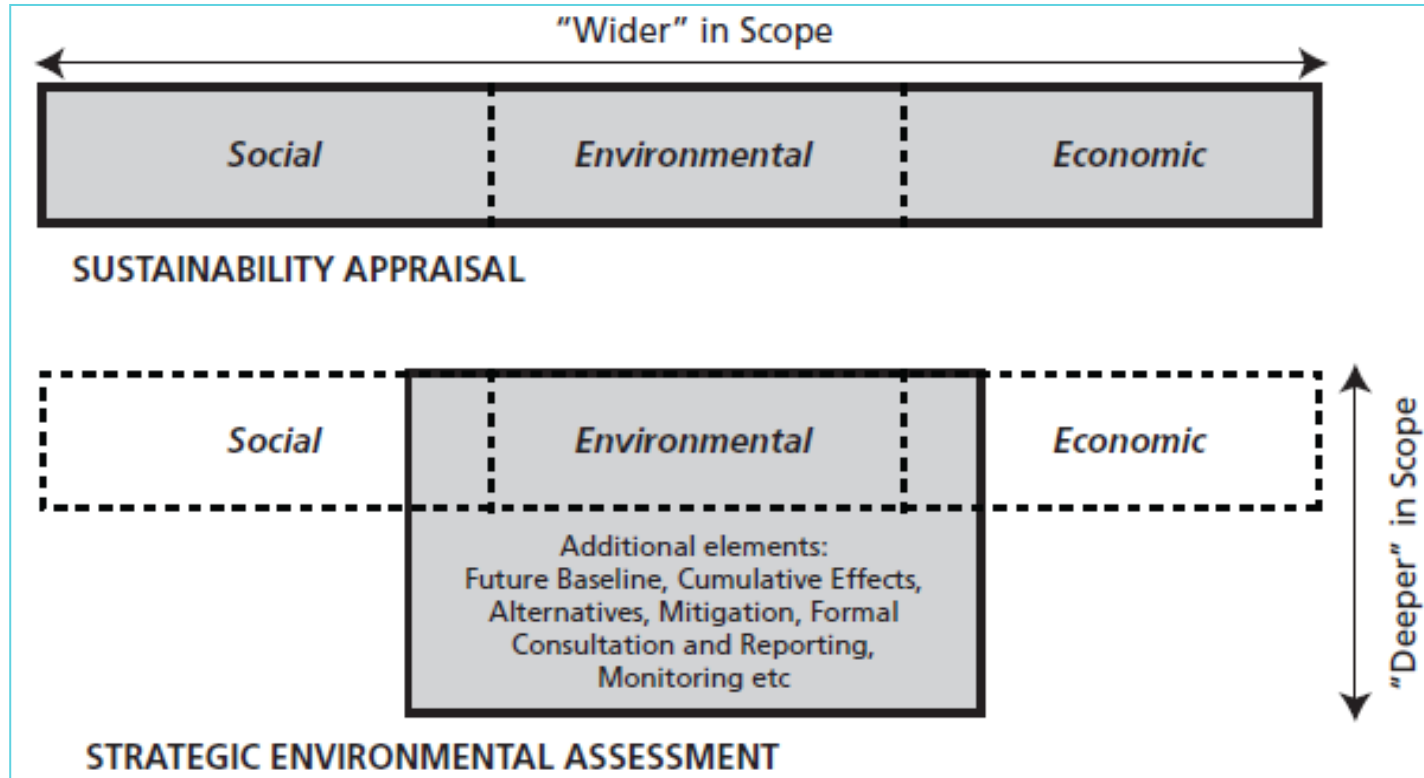
The SEA set of objectives can provide the logical framework on which to 'hook' other types of assessment

Examples of other types of assessments that have been integrated with SEA:

- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA);
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA);
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA); and
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

Integrated SEA/SA (1)

Differences in scope:



Differences in format and aspirations:

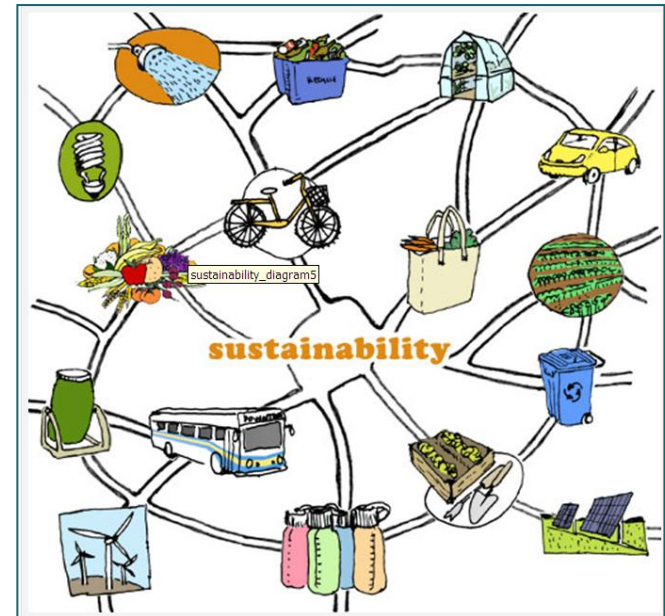
- SA is an 'objectives-led approach'
- SEA is a 'baseline-led' approach

Integrated SEA/SA (2)

The integrated SEA/SA approach brings together two approaches:

- The agreed set of sustainable development objectives (i.e. SEA/SA Framework) is the principal component of the assessment
- A sound understanding of the baseline conditions & their future evolution

Joint SA/SEA process - more comprehensive approach to the assessment than these processes in isolation



Other Forms of Integration

SEA/SA – Umbrella Process

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Ensure that a policy/scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Tools by which a policy/program judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population & distribution of those effects within the population

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Assessment of plans or projects likely to have a significant effect on one or more European Sites (individually or in combination)

Case Study 1 - Integrated Assessment of Transport Plan

Integrated SEA, HIA, HRA & EqIA of Tyne & Wear Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2021

- Comply with legal requirements
- Shape the development of LTP to make it more sustainable



Methodology for an integrated assessment devised from the outset:

- Baseline data collection & identification of key issues – joint effort by SEA/HIA, HRA & EqIA team members
- Joint SEA Framework:
 - SEA: carbon emissions, air & water quality, noise levels, etc
 - HRA: protection of European sites designated for wildlife
 - HIA: health & well-being & reduction of inequalities in health
 - EqIA: greater equality of opportunity for all citizens



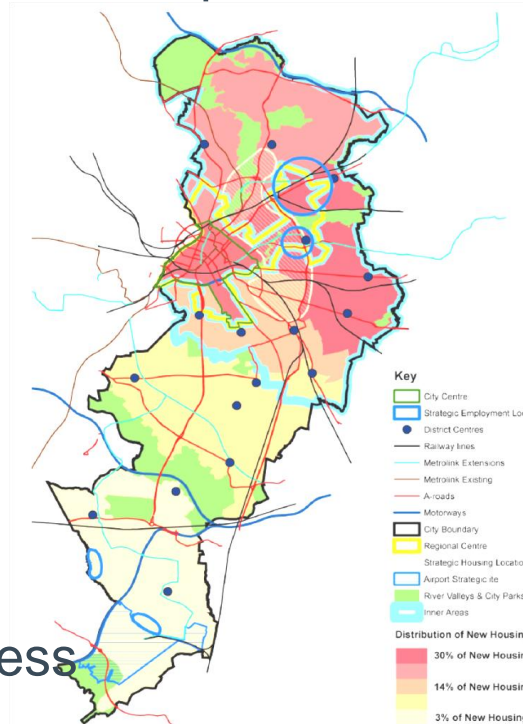
Case Study 2 - Integrated Assessment of Land Use Plan

Manchester City Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document

- Review of suitability & robustness of in-house SEA/SA work completed by Council
 - Undertaking a full SEA/SA of the Core Strategy
 - Undertaking EqlA & HIA integrated with SEA/SA work
- HIA & EqlA important part of assessment:
- Health of residents amongst the worst in the country
 - City experiences high levels of deprivation

Challenges:

- Integrated assessment started midway through the process
- EqlA & HIA added after completion of Scoping stage -> need for revision & revamp of Council's work



Discussion – Advantages

High level of cross-over in different forms of assessment

Simplifying & reducing work for plan-makers. Local governments have limited budgets - need to use time & resources efficiently

Practitioners for different assessments work together – potential for cross-pollination of expertise

Avoiding a problem of ‘impact assessment & consultation fatigue’

A wider range of stakeholders reached

Providing more holistic approach - environmental, social & economic issues more balanced



Discussion – Challenges

Constraints - financial resources & staff expertise

Later ad-hoc additions of assessment processes may result in a token exercise, or the need for fast-tracking

Need for bringing internal consistency to underlying assumptions of different disciplines & assessment findings

Coordinating different time-scales



Discussion – Disadvantages

Danger of superficial treatment of issues & encouraging a 'tick box' approach. Potential for mistakes.

HIA & EqlA may get 'lost' within joint SEA/SA reports.
Difficult for consultees to extract information relevant for a particular assessment stream.

Need to involve specialists representing all areas covered by an Integrated Impact Assessment - additional workload for plan-makers & practitioners.



Conclusions

Integrated Impact Assessment - an efficient way forward provided:

- Plan-makers & assessment practitioners aware of potential pitfalls;
- There are adequate resources & expertise to embark on it



Thank you for your time! Any questions?

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