

Self Assessment Question Comparison

Theme	Improvement Network Questions	Audit Commission Questions
Sustainable Community Strategy		The LSP's long-term goals
	1 How well does the sustainable community strategy (SCS) reflect local strategic partnership (LSP) members' ambition and priorities?	01 How well does the sustainable community strategy (SCS) reflect LSP members' ambition and priorities?
	2 How well is the long-term SCS reflected in the shorter-term local area agreement (LAA)?	02 How well is the long-term SCS embodied in the shorter-term local area agreement (LAA)?
	3 How well do partners share performance and other information to enable your LSP to track needs and progress across all SCS priorities?	03 How well do partners share performance and other information to enable the LSP to track need and progress across all SCS priorities?
	4 How could information presentation and reporting be improved?	03b How could information presentation and reporting be improved?
Staff and Skills		Leading the LSP and creating a culture of working together
	5 How well are elected members engaged in the board and theme group levels of your LSP?	04 How well are elected members engaged at board and theme group levels?
	6 How well do elected members communicate back to their executives, councils, and party groups?	04b How well are elected members communicating back to their executives, councils, and party groups?
	7 How well do elected members on overview and scrutiny challenge your LSP and its partners?	05 How well do elected members on overview and scrutiny challenge your LSP and partners' performance?

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	8 How effective is the 'policy development' role of overview and scrutiny in influencing joint working through the LSP?	05a How effective is the policy development role of overview and scrutiny in influencing joint working through your LSP? role of overview and scrutiny in influencing joint working through your LSP?
	9 How well do chief executives, and other senior managers, challenge performance and support each other to achieve the LSP vision?	06 How well do chief executives and other senior managers work together to achieve the LSP's vision?
	10 How well does your LSP board provide strategic leadership?	07 How well does your LSP board provide strategic leadership?
	11 How well does your LSP board work to develop effective joint working and trust at all levels between LSP partners?	08 How well does the board work to develop effective joint working and trust at all levels between LSP partners?
	12 How well do your council and its partners support the coordination of LAA delivery?	09 How well does the LSP core team support LAA delivery?
	13 How do you ensure individuals supporting the LSP core have the right skills and resources?	09a Does the team have the right skills and resources?
	14 How well does your council lever additional LSP support from partner organisations?	09b Does the core team lever additional support from partner organisations?
Style		Meetings and messages
	15 How well do your LSP's meetings reflect a culture of partnership and mutual respect?	10 How well do your LSP meetings reflect a culture of partnership and mutual respect?
	16 How well do your strategic / board meetings ensure there is time for discussion and direction setting?	10a How do strategic/board meetings ensure there is time for discussion and direction setting?

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	17 How well does the board's style enable performance challenge?	10b	How well does the board's style enable performance challenge?
	18 How well do other meeting arrangements reflect the different roles in the layered governance of joint working?	10c	How do other meeting arrangements reflect the different roles in the layered governance of joint working?
	19 What aspects of the physical location or arrangement of meetings emphasise a collaborative culture?	10d	What aspects of the physical location or arrangement of meetings can be improved to emphasise a collaborative culture?
	20 How was the LSP chair chosen?	11	How was the chair of your LSP chosen?
	21 How well does your strategic board's membership reflect local diversity?	12	How well does strategic/board membership reflect local diversity?
	22 How well does your strategic board's agenda reflect the different interests of public sector, private sector and third sector representatives?	13	How well does the strategic board agenda reflect the different interests of public sector, private sector and third sector representatives?
	23 How well (if relevant) has you LSP responded to the challenges of multi-tier working?	14	How (if relevant) has the LSP responded to the challenges of multi-tier working?
	24 How well are partners working with each other to improve and learn from other LSP experience?	14c	How well are the partners working with each other to 'catch up' and learn from other LSPs' experience?
	25 How well does your LSP communicate about its activity, and LAA performance, to partners and to the wider community?	15	How well is LSP activity and LAA performance communicated to partners and to the wider community?
Synergies			The benefits of collaboration
	26 How well does your LSP board ensure that partners work towards the agreed common goals in the SCS and the LAA?	16	How does your LSP board ensure that the contributions of different partners build towards the agreed common goals in the SCS and the LAA?

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	27 How does the board create an ethos of trust between partners?	16a	How does the board create an ethos of trust between partners?
	28 How well does your LSP support networking between partners?	17	How well does your LSP facilitate networking between partners?
	29 How well does your LSP assist partners in planning their contributions to achieving common goals?	18	How well does your LSP assist partners in planning their contributions to achieving common goals?
	30 Does your LSP use delivery chain analysis and other tools to align resources and overcome obstacles?	18a	How does it use delivery chain analysis and other tools to align resources and overcome obstacles?
	31 How well do partners work together to exploit the potential efficiency gains from joint working?	19	How well do partners work together to exploit the potential efficiency gains from joint working?
	32 How has the LSP facilitated discussions about co-location and sharing of back office or frontline services?	19b	How has your LSP facilitated discussions about co-location and sharing of back office or frontline services?
	Steering		Getting things done
	33 How well does your LSP steer performance?	20	How well is performance management steered by your LSP?
	34 How does your LSP use performance information to improve local service planning, monitoring, and evaluation?	20a	How does the LSP board use performance information to improve local service planning, monitoring, and evaluation?
	35 How well does your LSP steer financial management?	21	How well is financial management steered by your LSP?
	36 How well does your LSP use financial information to improve local service planning, monitoring, and evaluation?	21a	How does your LSP board use financial information to improve local service planning, monitoring, and evaluation?
	37 How well does your LSP board, and its executive groups, influence mainstream resources to achieve local outcomes?	22	How well do the LSP board and its executive groups influence mainstream resources to achieve local outcomes?

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	38 Does your LSP have a clear, and common, understanding of the mainstream public sector spending under its influence?	22a	Does your LSP have a clear and common understanding of the mainstream public sector spending under its influence?
	39 Are partners aligning their internal planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes to focus on LAA and SCS priorities?	23	Are partners aligning their internal planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes to focus on LAA and SCS priorities?
Standards			Common frameworks
	40 Does your LSP have an agreed performance management framework that recognises and builds on the strategic, executive, and operational roles?	24	Does your LSP have an agreed performance management framework that recognises and builds on the strategic, executive, and operational roles?
	41 Do partners understand the different layers of governance and their connections?	24a	Do partners understand the different layers of governance and their connections?
	42 Is there an agreed data quality policy and action plan with clear ownership?	25	Is there an agreed data quality policy and action plan with clear ownership?
	43 Does your LSP have agreed protocols for collecting and using national indicator set (NIS) data?	25a	Are there agreed protocols for collecting and using national indicator set (NIS) data?
	44 How robust is your LSP's (and partners') approach to delivering performance against LAA targets?	26	How robust is your LSP's (and partners) approach to delivering performance against LAA targets?
	45 How robust is your LSP's (and partners') approach to distributing grant?	26b	Is there a clear mechanism for distributing performance grant?
	46 How well does your LSP keep its evidence base up to date?	27	How well does your LSP work to keep its evidence base up-to-date?
	47 How well do partners understand the costs of maintaining your LSP?	28	How well do your LSP partners understand the costs of maintaining the LSP?

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	48 How well have LSP partners made decisions about aligning or pooling of budgets?	29	How well have LSP partners made decisions about aligning or pooling of budgets?
	49 How does pooling or alignment contribute to value for money in achieving LAA or SCS targets?	29a	How does pooling or alignment contribute to value for money in achieving LAA or SCS targets?
Systems			Shared systems
	50 How does the LSP ensure there is accountability, through its member organisations, for its actions?	30	How does the LSP ensure there is accountability, through its member organisations, for its actions?
	51 How far does your LSP have a shared performance system that extends across the partnership layers?	31	How far do the LSP and its partners have a shared performance system that extends across the partnership layers?
	52 How well is performance reporting tailored to board, executive and operational level needs?	32	How well is performance reporting tailored to board, executive and operational level needs?
	53 How developed is joint commissioning in your LSP?	33	How developed is joint commissioning in the LSP?
	54 How well are elected members involved in challenging LAA performance through the scrutiny process?	34	How well are elected members involved in challenging LAA performance through the scrutiny process?
	55 Has your LSP used benchmarking to assess its effectiveness?	35	Have the LSP and its partners used benchmarking to assess the effectiveness of the LSP?
	56 How well do partners understand each others' financial management systems?	36	How well do partners understand each other's financial management systems?
	57 How have partners worked to improve their understanding of each others financial and performance management systems?	36a	How have partners worked to improve their understanding of each other's financial and performance management systems?

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58	How far are partners' business plans aligned with SCS and LAA priorities?	37
		How far are partners' business plans aligned with SCS and LAA priorities?
