



Some key issues facing LSPs¹ are:

- How to engage local communities and other stakeholders
- How to improve partnership working
- How to establish a clear role and purpose and make a difference

We can help with:

Consultation, community involvement and partnership development

- Developing and/or facilitating consultation programmes or events
- Supporting and developing community involvement in LSPs
- Providing training and support for partnership development

Strategy development

- Working with stakeholders to develop community plans and strategies
- Providing training and advice on integrating sustainable development

For example:

We have recently worked with a number of LSPs to design and run consultation and partnership programmes and events, and provide training. Clients include London Borough of Sutton, North Warwickshire, Fenland, Stevenage, Huntingdonshire, Hertsmere, Brighton and Hove, North East Lincolnshire and Devizes.

CAG (formally the Co-operative Advisory Group) is a co-operative founded in 1983 that is owned and managed by its staff. We seek to be on the leading edge of public sector ethical consultancy in our fields of community and stakeholder involvement, regeneration and sustainable development.

For more information:

See our website www.cagconsultants.co.uk

Or ring your local contact:

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Support for LSPs

¹ *Evaluation of local strategic partnerships; report of a survey of all English LSPs ODPM Feb 2003*

Gerard Couper, CAG Consultants, is our speaker for the meeting of 17th Sept.

Gerard joined CAG in March 2001. He is a sustainable development specialist with experience in practical sustainability initiatives and public sector strategy development, sustainability appraisal and environmental management. Previously he worked on sustainability issues in local government for fifteen years. He is a qualified trainer and environmental auditor. Projects undertaken include:

- Facilitated sessions on development of Community Strategies for LSPs in Huntingdonshire, London Borough of Sutton and Devizes, and a training day for Lewes District Council on community planning and sustainability. Currently working with the London Borough of Sutton on designing and facilitating the 2003 Sutton Partnership conference.
- Managed sustainability appraisal of the draft Dundee and Angus Structure Plan, and assisted with appraisal of Lancashire Deposit Plan, including development of indicators. Currently managing appraisal of Angus Local Plan.
- Recently completed guidance for Hertfordshire County Council on sustainability appraisal of strategic and operational plans and programmes
- Provided training on sustainability appraisal for the Devon Sustainability Group, Cotswolds District Council and Hertfordshire County Council
- Assisted with work on evaluating Sheffield SRB4 programme, Colchester SRB5 programme and Walthamstow NOW SRB 5 programme
- Recently undertook an evaluation of community-based local environmental improvement activity in Scotland, on behalf of Forward Scotland. This research examined the level of community involvement, and the contribution such activity makes to sustainable development, environmental justice and the separate elements that make up sustainability.
- Assisted with the recent appraisal of the effectiveness of the Welsh Assembly in promoting sustainable development.
- Produced resource materials on the Quality of Life Capital methodology
- Contributed to the development of resource material on integrating sustainability into local government modernisation for WWF.
- Produced guidance for Best Value inspectors on assessing whether reviews have taken account of sustainability.

As Environmental Development Officer in Plymouth he:

- Co-ordinated an evaluation of the sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan review vision and draft strategy, and assisted with developing a training programme for planning officers
- Managed and delivered the community consultation on the Local Agenda 21 Plan and was jointly responsible for producing the Plan
- Developed an environmental management system for the authority and a sustainability appraisal process for Best Value reviews