

3. Appraising Economic Development Interventions - Self-Assessment Checklist

What is Economic Appraisal?

Economic Appraisal can be used in a number of ways, either to assess the likely impact and value for money of new project ideas or to review existing projects that are already underway. Effective Appraisal can help to further strengthen the design of interventions; it can also help to weed out weaker ideas, thereby freeing-up resource to invest in more effective projects. Applying a robust system of economic appraisal can help to ensure that both economic impact and overall value for money is maximised. For more information on Economic Appraisal see [section 2.6 of the Guide, p.27.](#)

Example:

	Response	Evidence	Action
3.8 A clearly identified baseline position has been established, which can assist in subsequently assessing the impact of the project.	Yes	The project is using the SLAED indicators as a baseline. These can be found...	Contact the EOP team to find out more about their work on how to use the SLAED indicators.

3.1 There is a clear rationale for developing the project, which is founded upon basic principles of economic development theory (e.g. addressing market failure).
3.2 The intervention is designed to address the root causes of the identified problem / market failure (rather than simply treat the symptoms).
3.3 The nature of the problem that the proposed project is seeking to address is fully understood.
3.4 There is evidence of this type of intervention being successful and cost effective.
3.5 Consideration has been given to alternative options for addressing the problem(s).
3.6 Consideration has been given to undertaking larger scale interventions, including those that may operate across traditional boundaries.
3.7 There is likely to be sustainable, lasting benefits from the project.
3.8 Consideration has been given to how the intervention will impact on or ought to be targeted towards particular locales or population sub-groups.
3.9 It is clear where the proposed new project fits in, so that it complements existing provision and avoids duplicating other projects (e.g. those operated by the private sector, by the Council or by other public agencies).
3.10 A clearly identified baseline position has been established, which can assist in subsequently assessing the impact of the project.

3.11 Realistic targets have been set in terms of key indicators of success, which will also assist in subsequently monitoring and evaluating the impact of agreed interventions.

3.12 Consideration has been given to monitoring and evaluation of the project and robust arrangements for this will be put in place.

3.13 The optimal level of external funding and partner contributions has been obtained.

3.14 Due consideration has been given to ensure that all State Aids regulations have been adhered to.

3.15 There is a clear 'exit strategy' for the intervention, when it will have achieved its objectives and will no longer be required.