

Glossary

Glossary

agglomeration

the geographical concentration of economic activity. This can create competitive benefits from shared labour markets, specialist suppliers and the flow of new and innovative ideas

basic skills

defined by the Basic Skills Agency as 'the ability to read, write and speak in English, and to use mathematics at a level necessary to function at work and in society in general'

biofuel

biofuel defined broadly is solid, liquid, or gas fuel consisting of, or derived from, biomass. Biofuel is considered an important means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy security by providing a viable alternative to fossil fuels.

biomass

biomass is recently living organisms or their metabolic byproducts – such as cow dung. It is a renewable energy source based on the carbon cycle, unlike other natural resources such as petroleum, coal and nuclear fuels

brownfield

land that has been previously developed where some man-made features remain

comprehensive area assessment (CAA)

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is the new framework for the independent assessment of local public services in England and replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for local authorities.

climate change adaptation

measures to adapt to the future impacts of changing weather associated with climate change, eg flood defences

climate change mitigation

measures to reduce the rate at which greenhouse gases are emitted into the atmosphere, thereby reducing the effects of climate change

demand management

the management of the distribution of, and access to, goods and services on the basis of needs. In the Transport goal, demand management refers to the application of plans and policies to change or reduce the demand for car use by encouraging the behavioural change of household choices of travel. It is sometimes referred to as transportation demand management

economically active

those in employment or actively seeking employment and physically capable of taking up a job in the near future

economically inactive

those not in employment who are not actively seeking employment or are physically incapable of taking up a job in the near future

ecosystems services

the benefits people derive from ecosystems. Examples include protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays, waste absorption and breakdown, water filtration, flood and disease control, nutrient cycling and maintenance and regeneration of habitat

employment land review

reviews undertaken by planning authorities to assess the demand for, and supply of, land for employment to assess existing supply and potential demand for land and premises for industrial and commercial purposes

environmental goods and services

goods and services to manage and protect our natural resources. Examples include remediation and reclamation of land; renewable energy; waste management, recovery and recycling; and water supply and wastewater treatment

foreign direct investment

direct investments in productive assets by a company incorporated in a foreign country, as opposed to investments in shares of local companies by foreign entities. This is also termed inward investment. This could include new projects, expansions of existing projects, or mergers and acquisitions activity

functional urban area

an area comprising a main town or city with surrounding settlements connected by patterns of work, business supply chains, housing, and the use of other services such as health, retail and leisure. Functional urban areas are likely to cross administrative boundaries.

further education

post-secondary education from basic training to higher national diploma or foundation degree. A small proportion of higher education is taught in further education colleges

global value chain

the globalisation of value chains – the process of producing goods, from raw materials to the finished product – with each stage of the 'chain' being undertaken in the most competitive locations

globalisation

the increasing economic integration of the world in terms of trade, investment and labour

green infrastructure

a network of protected sites, nature reserves, open spaces and other linkages such as river corridors and features of the landscape which are important as wildlife corridors. Green infrastructure should provide for a range of uses (wildlife, recreation and culture) and applies to features in urban areas and in the open countryside

gross value added

a measure of the economy's output based on the value of the goods and services produced by the economy minus the cost of the raw materials and other inputs used to produce them

higher education

education encompassing diplomas of higher education (DipHEs), bachelor degrees, master degrees, MBAs and PhDs

integrated development programme

an investment planning tool that will enable partners (neighbouring and higher tier authorities, regional agencies and local stakeholders) to plan and manage social, economic and environmental growth holistically and sustainably based on a phased single investment delivery plan

international transport gateway

a pivotal point for the movement of people and merchandise into, from and within the region and UK, often connecting different modes of transport

inward investment

investment in this country by multinational enterprises, also termed foreign direct investment

key centres for development and change

a term used in the East of England Plan that identifies 21 existing urban areas where growth will mostly occur. These areas are the most sustainable considering the use of existing infrastructure and travel pattern for example

knowledge economy

part of the economy which is driven more by knowledge and technology than by the traditional factors of capital and labour. The term includes commercial scientific research, some service industries, media and other creative industries

labour force

refers to people who are offering themselves for work, that is those who are currently employed or self-employed, plus the (International Labour Office) unemployed

Leitch Review

the Leitch Review of Skills, Prosperity for all in the global economy – world-class skills – published in December 2006 – shows that the UK must urgently raise achievements at all levels of skills and recommends that the UK commits to becoming a world leader in skills by 2020, benchmarked against the upper quartile of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This means doubling attainment at most levels of skill. Responsibility for achieving ambitions must be shared between central government, employers and individuals

local area agreements

local area agreements (LAAs) are three-year agreements that set out the priorities for a local area as agreed between central government (represented by Government Office) and local areas (represented by local authorities, local strategic partnerships (LSPs) and other key partners at local level)

local development framework

a suite of documents prepared by local authorities, which includes the policies, proposals and other documents about land use and spatial planning in a local area

local strategic partnership

non-statutory, multi-agency partnerships, which matches local authority boundaries. LSPs bring together at a local level the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors; allowing different initiatives and services to support one another so that they can work together more effectively

lower-quartile earnings

the level at which the bottom 25 per cent of all earnings are at, or below, market failure describes situations in which free-market outcomes lead to an inefficient allocation of resources, providing a rationale for government intervention. These include where buyers/sellers have imperfect information with which to make decisions; where the actions of individuals or firms affect others, but where these costs or benefits are not reflected in the price of the good or service; where public goods are required, which cannot be charged for; or where one or a few buyers or sellers have sufficient market power to influence prices

masterplan

a spatial plan covering a large area, such as a town centre or an extension on the edge of a town, which establishes a development framework for infrastructure, buildings and public spaces

microgeneration

the production of low quantities of electricity, heat and fuels by low-carbon and renewable methods such as solar power, biofuels and wind energy

multi area agreements

designed to facilitate greater cross-boundary collaboration on key economic issues in towns, cities and other areas. Essentially cross-boundary local area agreements, these are voluntary agreements between groups of local authorities on shared targets drawn from existing strategies and the national indicator set

next-generation broadband

broadband access which is at least ten times faster than the average download speed of broadband connections in the UK today and which offers more symmetric bandwidth – where the bandwidth for uploads is more equal to the bandwidth for downloads. Some forms of next-generation access also offer a guaranteed bandwidth that is not shared with others, meaning a more stable service at peak times

onshore and offshore wind

wind power is the conversion of wind energy into more useful forms, usually electricity, using wind turbines. Onshore turbine installations in hilly or mountainous regions tend to be on ridgelines generally three kilometres or more inland from the nearest shoreline. Offshore wind-development zones are generally considered to be ten kilometres or more from land

open innovation

sharing and use of new and existing ideas, research, processes and technologies

productivity

the measure of output per employee per period of time, either per year or per hour worked

qualifications

NVQ equivalents are used to classify qualifications. NVQ Levels 4 and above are usually referred to as 'higher-level' qualifications and equate to first degree and higher degree/professional qualifications. NVQ Level 3 qualifications are usually referred to as 'intermediate' qualifications and equate to two A-levels. NVQ Levels 2 and below are referred to as 'lower level' qualifications with NVQ Level 2 equating to five GCSEs at grades A* to C

regional assembly

provides advice to government on regional planning, housing and transport issues and scrutinises the work of the regional development agency

regional development agencies

the nine government agencies set up in 1999 to coordinate regional economic development and regeneration, enable the nine English regions to improve their relative competitiveness and reduce imbalances existing between regions

regional funding advice

public funding allocations based on advice from each English region on their spending priorities for transport, housing and economic development

regional spatial strategy

a statutory plan setting out how growth will be distributed within a region, or part of a region. It sets guiding principles that local development frameworks should follow and policies to which proposals for development must be assessed against

renewable energy

renewable energy flows involve natural phenomena such as sunlight, wind, tides and geothermal heat, as the International Energy Agency explains: 'Renewable energy is derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly. In its various forms, it derives directly from the sun, or from heat generated deep within the earth. Included in the definition are electricity and heat generated from solar, wind, ocean, hydropower, biomass, geothermal resources, and biofuels and hydrogen derived from renewable resources'

resource productivity

a measure of the efficiency with which an economy uses energy and materials

retrofitting

improving the environmental efficiency of existing housing through the addition of new features and technologies

section 106

also known as planning obligations – referring to the section 106 under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – these are legally binding agreements between a local planning authority, other authorities and organisations, landowners with applicant that wishes to secure planning permission. The agreement can require that something is done or not done and is frequently used to secure land and financial contributions to education, health and affordable housing

skills gap

where existing workers are not fully proficient at their job

skills shortage

where employers experience difficulties in recruiting to specific posts due to a lack of applicants with the necessary skills, work experience or qualifications

social enterprise

businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally re-invested for that purpose in the business or in the community

social exclusion

the Social Exclusion Unit describes social exclusion as a ‘shorthand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health, and family breakdowns’

Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration

the Sub-National Economic Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR) published in July 2007 outlines the government’s plans to refocus both powers and responsibilities below the national level to encourage economic growth in regions, cities and localities and tackle persistent pockets of deprivation

sustainable communities plan

the plan sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both rural and urban areas. It aims to tackle housing supply issues in the South East, low demand in other parts of the country, to bring all social housing up to the Decent Homes standard by 2010, to protect the countryside and improve the quality of our public space. The plan was launched in 2003 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

sustainable development

sustainable development defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as ‘development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’

venture capital investment

unsecured funding provided by specialist firms to start-up firms and small businesses with perceived, long-term growth potential, in return for a proportion of the company’s shares

worklessness

those who are out of work. Worklessness goes further than those who are unemployed and includes those who are ‘economically inactive’. Many are outside the labour market voluntarily because of family responsibilities or early retirement. But the evidence suggests that many others would want a job and would work if they had the right opportunity, incentive or path back into employment