

## **Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Planning Policy West Midlands Local Government Association**

The Sustainability Appraisal Group (SAG) of the West Midlands Local Government Association has been tasked with assessing the emerging planning policies contained within the draft regional planning guidance for the West Midlands.

SAG appointed Entec to advise and assist them in undertaking a series of sustainability appraisals. This was in recognition of our experience in undertaking similar work for the East Midlands Local Government Association and because of our understanding of the wide range of issues that arise from the concept of sustainability and the implications for planning policy and ultimately development that result. Furthermore there was a requirement to be able to respond to redrafts of the emerging policies at short notice.

We have produced a series of reports that contain the results of appraisals of the individual policies undertaken by SAG and Entec at relevant stages in their formulation. These appraisals score the policies against a series of environmental, social and economic objectives prepared by SAG. Where policies are identified as moving away from sustainability, amendments to them have been recommended which would enhance their contribution to a more sustainable region.

Entec's experience in undertaking appraisals and ability to respond to the timetables set by the client enabled the Sustainability Appraisal Group to ensure that sustainability is embedded at the heart of West Midlands Regional Planning Guidance.

### *Assessing sustainability in planning policy*

