



# CASE STUDY

## Forecasting

**The client** A Local Area Partnership covering a large rural area serving over 600,000 people. Some issues with poverty and scarcity of population. Delivery of the challenges of the Local Area Agreement is subject to achieving 31 national indicators which have been agreed with the Audit Commission.

**The challenge** Having worked with the client helping them to map the initial set of risks (including both opportunities and threats) to the partnership, there was a need to set in place a reusable methodology for horizon scanning for new opportunities and threats. The owners of the National Indicators were only just getting used to their new roles and were at various stages of building their business plans for achieving the National Indicators. Examples of the types of indicators might include;

Working with a number of owners of National Indicators for a Local Area Partnership, we are helping to develop a dynamic forecasting process so they can keep up to date with the changing nature of risk to the partnerships within the plan.

- Reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training
- Reducing the mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 per 100,000 population
- Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area
- Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites

**The response** Liz Taylor Risk Consulting conducted research to find a robust and credible source of forecasting information that would support an ongoing methodology. There were several likely sources that were compared, tracked and mapped. Eventually one source was selected as the base for the forecasting as it covered 95% of the issues that this client might be concerned with. We created a simple database to map the National Indicator against 187 possible issues that might produce a threat or an opportunity in the short to medium term (up to 10 years). Our consultants then undertook a critical evaluation of those issues and scored them in terms of likelihood and impact. 60 or so issues scored in the upper thresholds of concern.

LTRC then conducted a workshop with the owners of the National Indicators and asked them to score the 60 issues against each NI, rating them by likelihood and impact, how well they are controlled at the moment and ease of improvement if a threat, or ease of enhancing if an opportunity.

**The outcome** This is still work in progress, but already the exercise is giving a better clarity of the challenges that the Partnership has and better transparency of the actions needed to ensure the outcomes of the Partnership are achieved. This has informed the work on the business plans.

The final end product will be a reusable tool that will drive a risk based review timetable so that the Partnership is better prepared to respond to new challenges, whether they bring opportunities or threats.

## Key points

- Forward-looking, ongoing process
- Identification of challenges
- Unambiguous action plans

For further information about our forecasting capabilities, go to

[http://www.liztaylorriskconsulting.co.uk/resources/Forecasting\\_marketing.pdf](http://www.liztaylorriskconsulting.co.uk/resources/Forecasting_marketing.pdf)