

## Module B: Developing an evidence base

Module B	Course outline	
<b>Aim of module:</b>	To give local authority planning officers more confidence in developing their local evidence base to support planning policies related to the PPS1 Supplement	
<b>Target audience:</b>	Primarily planning policy officers - particularly those from local authorities which have not yet completed their local evidence base	
<b>Prior knowledge:</b>	Basic familiarity with climate change policy and local policy objectives related to the PPS1 Supplement (e.g. content of module A)	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of what constitutes a robust evidence base, which will stand up to EiP</li> <li>• Increased confidence in identifying the elements required in their local authority's own evidence base, and the level of depth required for these elements</li> <li>• Improved knowledge of the regional evidence base, and its application at local level</li> <li>• Increased confidence in distinguishing which elements of the evidence base can be prepared in-house or drawn from regional sources, and which are likely to require external support</li> <li>• Familiarity with the model briefs provided by the toolkit, and how these can be used</li> </ul>	
<b>Links to other modules:</b>	<p>Could be combined with module A (Policy context) and module C (Translating evidence into policy) to make a full day course for planning policy officers.</p> <p>Could be combined with module A (policy context) to make a half-day course for planning policy officers who have not yet completed their evidence base.</p>	
<b>Length:</b>	2 hours 25 minutes (excluding breaks)	
<b>Format:</b>	Cabaret style seating in groups of 6-8 or boardroom seating – depending on the number of participants	
<b>Structure/ content:</b>	10 minutes	<b>Introduction:</b> welcome and introductions; housekeeping items, what participants have said they want from the course; what we will aim to cover in this module;
	30 minutes	<b>Presentation B1: What does an evidence base for sustainable energy and adaptation need to do?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what questions does the evidence base need to answer – relate back to policy objectives</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>principles and stages of developing an evidence base</li> <li>examples of evidence bases passing – and failing to pass – EiP</li> </ul> <p>Discussion/questions on presentation</p>
	40 minutes	<p><b>Exercise: Review of sample evidence bases</b> – Each small group is allocated a topic (e.g. renewable energy options; sustainable building standards; flood risk). In small groups, they review examples of evidence bases from different local authority contexts. Participants are asked to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any gaps (i.e. is the level of depth of evidence adequate to support the authority’s policy objectives)?</li> <li>Would the evidence base need to be strengthened to withstand EiP, and if so how?</li> <li>Would this level of detail be required for participants’ own authority(ies)?</li> </ul> <p>Groups pair up to share insights. Facilitator asks for highlights and records these in plenary discussion.</p>
	15 minutes	<p><b>Presentation B2: Levels of expertise required for different tasks in preparing evidence base</b></p> <p>Star rating for tasks (refer to Handout 9); use of model brief; examples of local authorities of different scales doing work in-house or externally</p>
	30 minutes	<p><b>Exercise: Review model brief</b> – groups are allocated a topic and a fictional local authority (e.g. county, district, unitary). They review the model brief sections relating to their topic, and the capacity of their authority, and consider which elements of the brief might be suitable for their authority.</p> <p>Feedback is shared with the other groups and key learning points are summarised by the facilitator.</p>
	10 minutes	<p><b>Final discussion and summing up:</b> facilitator leads a discussion on how far the course has answered participants’ initial questions; discussion of any outstanding questions; facilitator highlights links to the next part of the course if appropriate.</p>
<b>Powerpoint file:</b>	Module B – developing an evidence base	
<b>Further reading and</b>	Toolkit	

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<b>resources:</b>	<a href="http://www.planningrenewables.org.uk">www.planningrenewables.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.pas.gov.uk">www.pas.gov.uk</a> Energy Savings Trust – Practical Help service