



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

DELIVERING WELSH PLANNING POLICY

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Overview



- Context
- Pre Devolution
- Devolution
- Evaluation
- Lessons learnt
- What next



Context

- Purpose – support policy development and implementation
- Team of 20 - 12 professional
- Budget £420,000 pa

Pre Devolution



- Planning policy largely developed on England and Wales basis
- Planning Guidance Wales and TAN series introduced 1996/97
- WO limited research capacity/skills

Devolution



- **Wales Planning Research Programme established 1999/2000**
- **Funds transferred from DETR**
- **Responsibility for UK-wide and international planning research remained in Whitehall**
- **Budget augmented by the Welsh Assembly Government**
- **Professional capacity enhanced**

Scoping Study



- Study commissioned at the outset
- Objectives
 - ⇒ Support development of Welsh Planning Policy
 - ⇒ Contribute to improved functioning of the Planning System
 - ⇒ Enhance Evidence Base
 - ⇒ Develop Best Practice

Scoping Study



Research themes

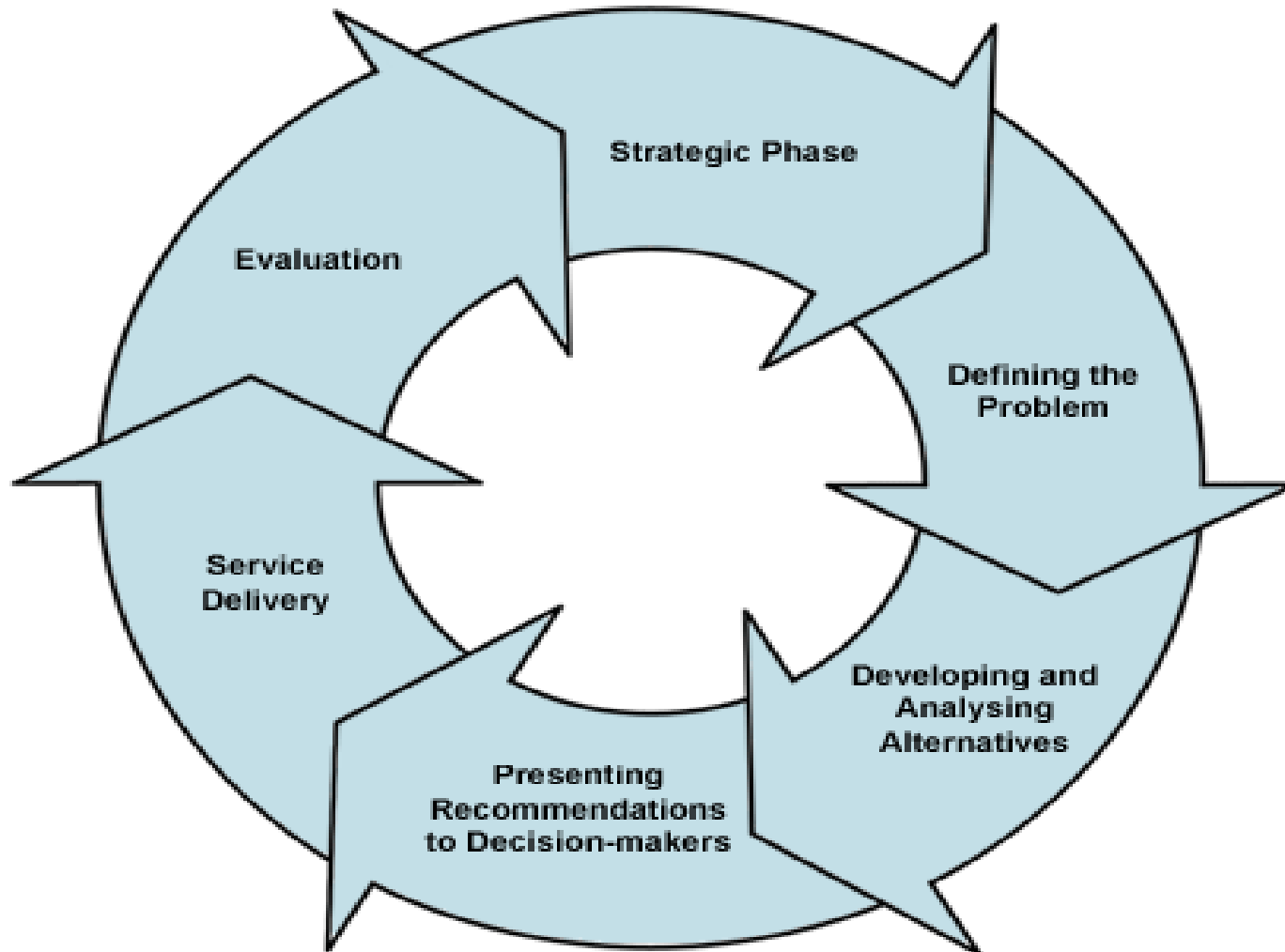
- ⇒ Sustainable Development
- ⇒ Rural Planning
- ⇒ Spatial Planning

Operation of the Programme 1999 -2006



Scoping Study Objectives	% of total contracts	% of expenditure
Policy Development	23%	30%
Functioning of the Planning System	15%	20%
Information Base	21%	26%
Best Practice and Guidance	-	-
Miscellaneous	40%	24%

Policy cycle interventions



Operation of the Programme 1999 -2006



Final Outturn as a % of Available Budget	
1999/00 & 2000/01	75%
2001/02	89%
2002/03	105%
2003/04	84%
2004/05	73%
2005/06	54%
Total:	79%

Evaluation and Review



- Quinquennial Review of the WPRP commissioned 2005

“To evaluate the Wales Planning Research Programme in the light of the Assembly’s strategic policies to provide draft objectives and themes for the 2005-2011 period.”



Evaluation and Review

- Evaluation contract let to Ecotec in late 2005
- Report completed Summer 2006
- 25 Specific recommendations generally regarding the management of the Programme



Future Research Priorities

- Research Themes
 - Sustainable development
 - Spatial Planning
 - Rural Issues
 - **Urban Issues**
 - **Rural-Urban Interface**
 - **Regeneration**

Future Research Priorities



- Future research priority areas
 - Agriculture
 - Housing
 - Environment
 - Spatial Planning
 - Planning Processes
 - Economic Development
 - Transport
 - Waste
 - Telecommunications



Main changes

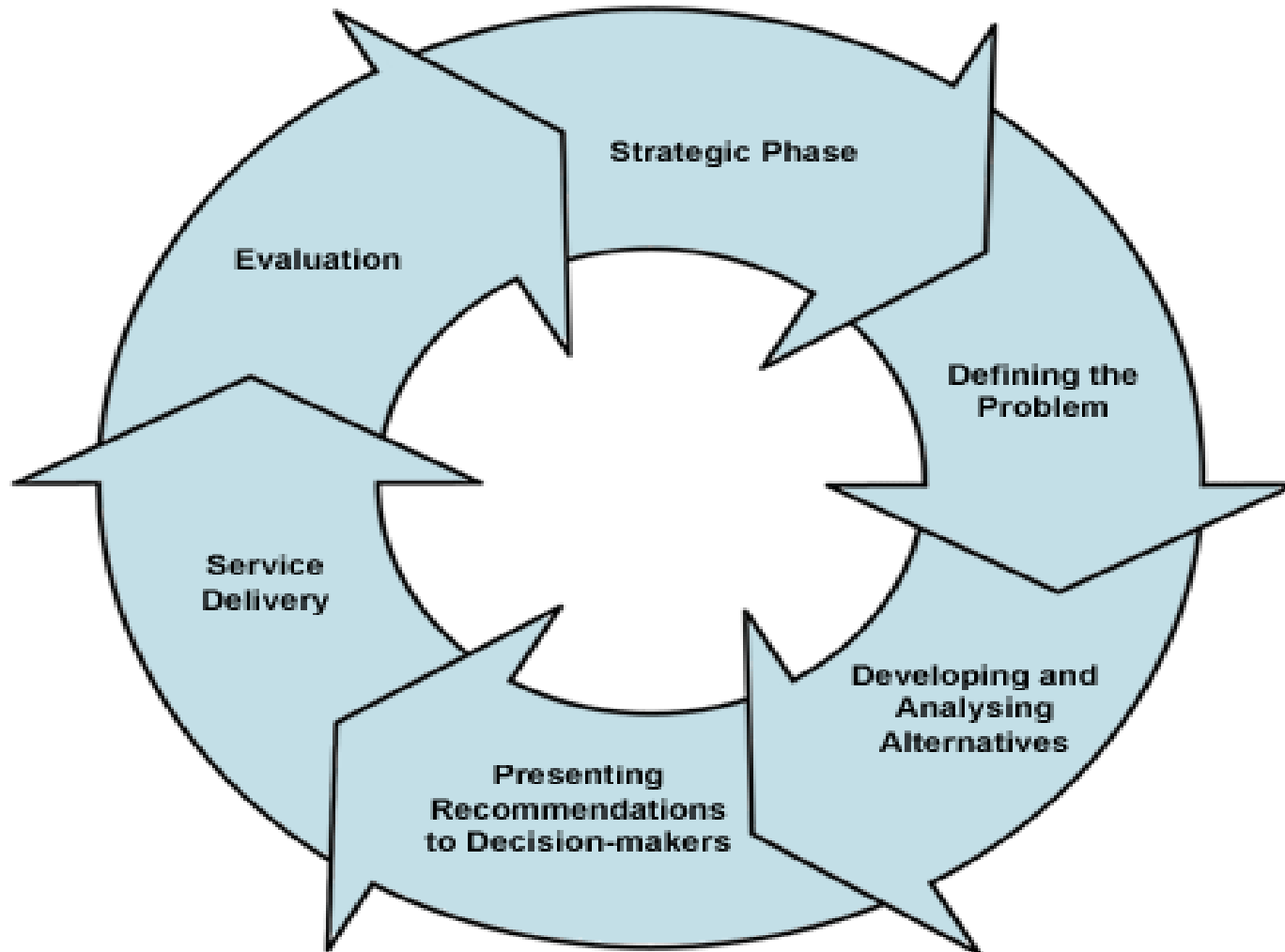
- Matrix approach to project selection
- Single budget
- Extended programme scope
- User panel/wider research community

Operation of the Programme 2006 -2009



Scoping Study Objectives	% of total contracts	% of expenditure
Policy Development	17%	40%
Functioning of the Planning System	22%	12%
Information Base	35%	26%
Best Practice and Guidance	9%	21%
Miscellaneous	17%	1%

Policy cycle interventions



Operation of the Programme 2006 -2009



	Final Outturn as a % of Available Budget
2006/07	57%
2007/08	83%
2008/09	78%
Total:	73%

Lessons learnt

- **Combined research and policy management model works well**
- **Successful projects well defined at outset**
- **Availability of research managers critical to project delivery / maximise programme spend**
- **Relatively small number of research contractors in market**



What Next?



- **Increased focus on delivery – good practice guidance training and policy evaluation**
- **Budgets under pressure but expectations of what planning can deliver increasing**
- **Engagement with research community to share ideas and make resources go further**



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Discussion

