



Office of the  
Deputy Prime Minister  

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Creating sustainable communities

*ODPM Evidence and  
Innovation Strategy 2005-08*

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Consultation Paper



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# ODPM Evidence and Innovation Strategy 2005-08

## Consultation Paper

March 2006

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: London

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## About ODPM

1. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002, taking on a portfolio of responsibilities from the former Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) and Cabinet Office.
2. A flourishing, fair society based on opportunity and choice for everyone depends on creating sustainable communities. Sustainable communities are about things that matter to people:
  - decent homes at prices people can afford;
  - good public transport;
  - schools;
  - hospitals and shops;
  - people able to have a say on the way their neighbourhood is run;
  - a clean, safe environment.
3. The job of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is to help create sustainable communities, working with other Government departments, local councils, businesses, the voluntary sector, and communities themselves.
4. In February 2003, we published the £38 billion *Sustainable Communities Plan*, the most comprehensive programme of investment and improvement in people's quality of life for decades. The Plan set out a vision of sustainable communities for the next fifteen to twenty years and a programme for immediate action, bringing together work across Government.
5. ODPM's five year plans, *Sustainable Communities: Homes for All* and *Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity* published in January 2005, represent the next phase in creating sustainable communities. Together they offer greater choice and opportunity in housing, promote prosperity for all and help local people create communities they feel proud of.
6. Taken together our two five-year plans set out an ambitious agenda for transforming the places where people live, providing more choice, fairness and quality in meeting people's housing needs and helping people create communities they feel proud of.
7. These five year plans and a challenging set of Public Service Agreement targets set the overall framework for ODPM. To give focus to this framework, we have developed 11 key priorities for the Office: these consist of high level goals, critical projects and cross-government priorities.

## High-level goals

- A step on the housing ladder for new generations of homeowners; quality and choice for those who rent; ensuring mixed sustainable communities based on public and private investment
- High quality public services for all, shaped by individuals and communities to meet their needs, delivering value for money and visible results
- Communities – especially the most disadvantaged – connected to economic activity and social opportunity
- Towns and cities world class for their economic and social life; more power for neighbourhoods to decide things that matter to them
- Inclusive communities that are bound together by values of decency and mutual respect – where we help prevent anti-social behaviour, enforce rules consistently and swiftly, and build respect in all communities.

## Critical projects

- Improving regional arrangements to maximise the effectiveness of planning and investment at this level
- Supporting robust local government finance; securing a strategic role for local government
- Modernisation of the fire and rescue service
- Delivering the Thames Gateway programme as a cross-Government project.

## Cross-government priorities

- Managing the Office's contribution to delivering the Olympics
  - Tackling disadvantage and social exclusion
8. In this context, our Evidence and Innovation Strategy explains how ODPM's priorities and targets for delivery drive our analytical priorities for the coming three years.

## Evidence and Innovation Strategy

9. This consultation relates to our ODPM Evidence and Innovation Strategy 2005-08<sup>1</sup> and builds on our first Science and Innovation Strategy published in 2003.

<sup>1</sup> As required by DTI/HMT/DfES Investing in innovation: A strategy for science, engineering and technology, July 2002.

10. The purpose of this strategy is to set out:
- Our analytical priorities for the Spending Review Period 2005-8;
  - The processes we plan to use to deliver these priorities;
  - How we will ensure that key stakeholders can access and use the evidence effectively.
11. For the purposes of this Strategy, we interpret science in its broadest sense, to include all ODPM's analytical work. Analysis, in the context of the activities of government, "involves the examination and interpretation of data and other information, both qualitative and quantitative, to provide insights to improve the formulation of policy and delivery of services".<sup>2</sup> Therefore this document covers the analytical work of physical scientists, social researchers, economists, statisticians, operational researchers and geographical information specialists in ODPM. Innovation is defined as the successful application of new ideas, involving processes such as research and knowledge dissemination.
12. In reviewing our previous Science and Innovation strategy, we have focused on ensuring this revised strategy:
- Clearly flows from, and adds value to, policymaking and service delivery;
  - Contributes to innovation<sup>3</sup> and continuous improvement through effective dissemination of evidence and
  - Contributes to government-wide knowledge and cross-government challenges.<sup>4</sup>

## The consultation

13. We are very interested to hear comments from those people who have worked with us and been our partners in the past, or who simply have an interest in our work. We will ensure that the feedback we receive during this consultation is used to inform future analytical work and policy development in ODPM.
14. We are particularly interested in hearing your views on: the role of evidence and innovation in meeting ODPM's goal of creating sustainable communities and what ODPM's role should be in supporting these objectives. We would also like to hear your comments on the role that ODPM should play in promoting knowledge transfer in relation to sustainable communities evidence across Whitehall, as well as throughout our interactions with non-governmental stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> This definition is taken from the PIU Report "Adding It Up" (2000)

<sup>3</sup> Innovation is the successful exploitation of new ideas. This covers improvements by providers to products and to new or improved services, delivery mechanisms, processes and business practices.

<sup>4</sup> As required by DTI/HMT/DfES Science & innovation investment framework 2004-2014 July 2004.

## How to contribute

15. Your views on the consultation questions set out below will help ODPM to think about its future priorities and to identify opportunities to increase its effectiveness.
16. The Strategy can be seen on the ODPM web site at Research and Statistics > Analytical Strategy and Networking Opportunities > Evidence and Innovation Strategy
17. Responses to the consultation should be submitted to Analytical Co-ordination Team, Zone 3/D2, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU or by email to [analytical.services@odpm.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:analytical.services@odpm.gsi.gov.uk) marked "E&I Strategy consultation".
18. The closing date for receipt of contributions is **9 June 2006**. We will provide feedback on how the consultation has informed the strategy in the final document, which is due to be published in Summer 2006.
19. In answering the consultation questions we ask that you bear in mind the following:
  - Wherever possible, please give specific examples of good practice or lessons learnt.
  - Where can ODPM add the most value, based on what its comparative advantage relative to other stakeholders is, or should be? How should ODPM interact with and influence other key stakeholders in this area?
  - What approaches should ODPM use to support our main aim, which is to create sustainable communities? Please give consideration to how ODPM should prioritise our analytical investment.

## Consultation questions

20. Please do not feel obliged to answer all of the consultation questions – contributions are welcomed on any and all of the questions.

## Using and delivering the evidence

- (a) How can we enhance the process of placing analysis and evidence at the centre of ODPM policy design and delivery?
- (b) To what extent have we understood and addressed the key evidence gaps that need to be filled to build a strong evidence base in our areas of policy responsibility?
- (c) In which areas, possibly not identified in this strategy paper, do you feel that additional ODPM contributions to the knowledge base would add greatest value? This could include specific areas of research or product development, or in particular sectors or regions.

- (d) What are the areas where we could add value by joint working with other Government Departments or non-governmental stakeholders?

### **Innovation**

- (e) Are there any other areas where you feel there is particular scope for using ODPM's Evidence and Innovation strategy to deliver innovation and wealth creation? Can you give any examples of good practice?

### **Sharing our knowledge**

- (f) At what points in the analytical processes would you most value the opportunity to be consulted and involved in our analytical work?
- (g) How can we establish better links across analytical and policy areas in other Government Departments and outside organisations? Can you give any examples of good practice?
- (h) Are there any more ways in which we could make knowledge more readily available, easy to understand, relevant and practical? These are the key elements in moving from knowledge to innovation and we would welcome suggestions and examples of good practice.

### **Other**

- (i) Is there any further analytical information not covered in this strategy that you would find helpful in engaging with ODPM?
- (j) Are there any areas of analytical work that you are currently carrying out or consideration that ODPM should be aware of?

21. Please feel free to comment on any other issues. We look forward to receiving your response.