



*Progress Report on 2006/07
Sustainable Development
Action Plan*



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Sustainable Development
Action Plan*

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July 2007

Product Code: 07 PPFC 04744

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Introduction

2006/07 Sustainable Development Action Plan



In March 2005 the Government published *Securing the Future*, setting out the UK Government's sustainable development strategy¹. Among other commitments, Securing the Future committed all central Government departments and their executive agencies to producing a sustainable development action plan (SDAP) by December 2005.

In March 2006 our predecessor department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, published an SDAP on behalf of the department and its executive agencies². The SDAP described the milestones which the department would pass during the year in delivering its contribution to *Securing the Future*, reported on recent achievements and looked forward beyond 2006-07.

In November 2006 the Sustainable Development Commission, the Government's watchdog on sustainable development, published *Off the starting block*, a review of SDAPs³. This department's SDAP was rated as "gaining momentum in terms of establishing and exploring the actions needed to reflect a sustainable development approach in their work programmes and operations".

Sustainable Development Commission summary comments

"Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

DCLG's SDAP clearly reflects Securing the Future's emphasis on sustainable communities and climate change. The plan however, does not address how sustainable development is taken into account in policy-making nor how the department will ensure that the five principles of sustainable development will be integrated into the policy making process. In addition, the SDAP does not explore the impacts the department has on Natural Resource Use and Environmental Enhancement (one of the shared priorities of Securing the Future) through its responsibility for the planning system, or the impact it can have on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The department has responsibility for local government which is currently responsible for £39.8bn of public procurement and over 26% of public sector procurement spending."

We acknowledge the comments of Sustainable Development Commission on our 2006/07 SDAP and will take account of them in preparing our SDAP for 2007-08, to be published in summer 2007.

This progress report reviews progress against our 2006-07 SDAP, and is laid out under broadly the same section headings as the SDAP itself. We append to this report the more detailed reporting information required by Sustainable Development Commission⁴.

¹ *Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy*, HM Government, March 2005 – see <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm>

² *The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Sustainable Development Action Plan*, March 2006 – see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1164438>

³ *Off the starting block*, Sustainable Development Commission, November 2006 – see <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=457>

⁴ "2005/06 SDAP – Progress Report Guidance Tool", Sustainable Development Commission, March 2007.

Sustainable development in Communities and Local Government

Communities and Local Government is a new department. It brings together the activities of our predecessor department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, with new responsibilities in the areas of community cohesion (previously part of Home Office) and equalities (previously part of the Department for Trade and Industry).

The key contributions of the department to sustainable development, as set out in *Securing the Future*, are set out below.

Key contributions to Securing the Future

Securing the Future identified our main predecessor department's key contributions to sustainable development as:

1. Creating sustainable communities that embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level.
2. Providing homes for all, while protecting and enhancing the environment.
3. Working to give communities more power and say in their decisions that affect them; and working to improve governance at all levels so that we can work at the right level to get things done.
4. Creating cleaner, safer, greener agenda: to make public spaces cleaner, safer and greener and to improve governance at all levels so that we can work at the right level to get things done.
5. Promoting sustainable, high quality design and construction, to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency, and promoting more sustainable buildings.
6. Putting sustainable development at the heart of the planning system, as set out in *Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Development'*.

In addition, *Securing the Future* identified the following two key commitments of Home Office, which now reside within this department:

7. Increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion.
8. Reduce race inequalities and build community cohesion.

The transition from our predecessor department to Communities and Local Government has reinforced the contribution that we have to make to sustainable development. Sustainable development is at the heart of the new department's vision:

*"Communities and Local Government's vision is of prosperous and cohesive communities, offering a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all."*⁵

"I want us to be an environmental department, as well as a social and economic one. And I want green issues to be at the heart of what we do and how we do it." (Ruth Kelly, April 2007)⁶

Our SDAP for 2007-08, to be published in summer 2007, will set out what sustainable development means to the new department and how we will work towards mainstreaming it in our policies, policy making, operations, procurement, people and corporate culture over the year.

⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1122595>

⁶ 'Global Warming, Local Leadership' – <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509388>

Policy and delivery

Our 2006-07 SDAP set out our key policy and delivery commitments for the year under the following headings:

- Planning and sustainability;
- Homes for all;
- Climate change and housing; and
- Getting people involved.

This section gives an overview of our progress in the above areas. For more detailed information, see Appendix 1. We have also included in Appendix 1 progress against certain of the commitments under the Home Office Sustainable Development Action Plan which now fall to Communities and Local Government.

Planning and sustainability

A starting point for creating sustainable communities must be that they are well planned. During the year the department made strong progress against the commitments set out in the 2006/07 SDAP. In particular it:

- Published, in December 2006, a consultation *draft planning policy statement: Planning and Climate Change*⁷. The draft PPS sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable. The publication of this PPS goes further than the commitment set out in our 2006-07 SDAP and was linked to an ambitious 'green package' of measures, including publication of the *Code for Sustainable Homes*, the launch of consultations on *Building A Greener Future* and *Water Efficiency in New Buildings* (see further below).
- Published, in November 2006, a new planning policy statement (PPS3) on planning for housing. PPS3 underpins the delivery of the Government's strategic housing policy objectives and our goal to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home, which they can afford in a community where they want to live.
- Published, in December 2006, a new planning policy statement (PPS25) on development and flood risk. PPS25 aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.
- Published, in June 2006, guidance in support of *PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management*. The guidance provides advice, ideas, examples of current practice and signposts to further information in support of the implementation of PPS10.

⁷ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140>

- Undertook a review of emerging development plans to assess take-up of ‘Merton-style’ policies as permitted by *PPS22: Renewable Energy*. Following the review, the Minister for Housing and Planning made a statement to Parliament confirming that the Government expects all planning authorities to include policies in their development plans that require a percentage of the energy in new developments to come from on-site renewables, where it is viable.

Homes for all

As Kate Barker made clear in her *Review of Housing Supply*⁸, the supply of housing over several decades has not kept up with demand, meaning that many families have not been able to get a foot on the housing ladder. In the government’s response to Barker⁹ we set out an ambition to increase the supply of new homes to at least 200,000 by 2016.

Good progress has been made in 2006-07, with key milestones being met on the publication of *Planning Policy Statement 3*, creation of a National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and consultations on a Planning-gain supplement and Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. Latest figures (2005-06) show overall housing supply in England has risen to over 180,000. For further information on the progress that has been made, see the department’s annual report¹⁰.

Our 2006/07 SDAP described a number of environmental measures announced alongside the response to Barker to mitigate the environmental impact of our housebuilding programmes. Some of these measures are described elsewhere in this report (see Planning and Sustainability, above, and also Climate Change and Housing, below). Other significant actions during the year included:

- Close partnership working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Environment Agency and Natural England in the designation of New Growth Points¹¹;
- Announcement, as part of the New Growth Points programme, that the Government intends to support proposals for small new settlements that meet high standards of low and zero carbon and high quality design¹²;
- Consultation, in conjunction with DEFRA, on regulating water efficiency in new buildings¹³;
- Working with Environment Agency and DEFRA on a feasibility study of water neutral development in the Thames Gateway (to be published in 2007-08).

Our 2006-07 SDAP also set out targeted measures on housing, namely reducing temporary accommodation, decent homes and the Supporting People programme, including the housing needs of older people. Highlights during the year (see Appendix 1 for further details) include:

⁸ www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/053/C7/barker_review_execsum_91.pdf

⁹ www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F59/0D/prb05_barker_553.pdf

¹⁰ ‘Community, opportunity, prosperity’ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510644>

¹¹ New Growth Points are designed to provide support to local communities who wish to pursue large scale and sustainable growth, including new housing, through a partnership with Government.

¹² <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2365>

¹³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505175>

- Total households in temporary accommodation are below 90,000 for the first time in nearly four years, reflecting the impact of the new requirement on local authorities to have a homelessness strategy and increased emphasis on homelessness prevention;
- Since 1997 we have reduced the number of non-decent homes by more than one million, and we are on track to have 95% decency in the social sector by 2010. We are ahead of trajectory to ensure that 70% of vulnerable households in the private sector have decent homes by 2010;
- In 2006-07 we allocated over £1,685 million to fund housing related support through the Supporting People programme to enable around a million people, many of whom would otherwise need to move to residential accommodation or make use of expensive crisis provision such as hospital services, to live independently.

During the year we worked with Sustainable Development Commission on its thematic review of the Sustainable Communities Plan (published in May 2007). The review raises a number of issues on the housebuilding programmes that have been set in motion by the Sustainable Communities Plan but recognises the progress that has been made since it was originally launched in 2003. We look forward to continue working with Sustainable Development Commission to address the issues identified and to continuing to further embed sustainable development in these programmes. The Government will respond formally to the thematic review during the course of 2007/08.

Climate change and housing

More than quarter of the country's carbon emissions comes from the energy we use to heat, light and run our homes. As the scale of housebuilding increases, it is vital that we address the carbon footprint of the new homes and communities that are being created. During the year we:

- Consulted on *Building A Greener Future*¹⁴ setting out a timetable for moving towards zero carbon housing development by 2016;
- Published the *Code for Sustainable Homes*, which sets sustainability standards which can be applied to all new homes. At each of the six levels of the Code there are minimum energy efficiency/carbon emissions and water efficiency standards;
- Consulted on a draft Planning Policy Statement: *Planning and Climate Change*¹⁵, setting out the role of regional and local planning in tackling and adapting to climate change;
- Announced that the Government intends to support proposals for small new settlements that meet high standards of low and zero carbon (see above);
- Worked with English Partnerships to launch the *Carbon Challenge*, a competition for low and zero carbon housing developments;

¹⁴ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505157>

¹⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140>

- Undertook a feasibility study on carbon reduction in the Thames Gateway (to be published in 2007-08).

Around two thirds of the housing that will be in existence at 2050 has already been built. So it is vital not only to reduce carbon emissions from new development but also to tackle the existing stock. During the year we:

- Continued work on reviewing the sustainability of existing buildings. This has informed work on energy efficiency of homes in the Energy White Paper and will report to Ministers in 2007-08 on proposals for improving the energy efficiency of existing non-domestic buildings and the water efficiency and resilience to climate change of existing buildings;
- Continued work on the transposition of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, with the next major milestone being that Energy Performance Certificates will be phased in as part of Home Information Packs for the sale of existing homes as from August 2007.

Getting people involved

Sustainable Communities require the active involvement of individuals, communities and local government. And good governance is one of the Government's five guiding principles of sustainable development.¹⁶

During 2006-07 we published *Strong and Prosperous Communities, the Local Government White Paper*¹⁷. The White Paper sets out a vision of revitalised local authorities, working with their partners, to reshape public services around the citizens and communities that use them. This means giving citizens and communities a bigger say, enabling local partners to respond more flexibly to local needs and reducing the amount of top-down control from central government.

Local government has a pivotal role in achieving sustainable development and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The White Paper set out how local government can drive local action on climate change through: strong and visible leadership; leading by example; responding to community calls for action and the priority local people place on tackling climate change; and coordinating innovative partnerships to deliver real changes.

Also during the year:

- Local Area Agreements (LAAs) – a key mechanism for delivering sustainable development at local level through better joining up of local partners – were signed with all remaining eligible local authorities;
- Consultation was completed, and the outcome published, on the future development of Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). Guidance will follow over the coming year;

¹⁶ The five principles of securing the future, the Government's sustainable development strategy are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

¹⁷ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137789>

- We provided £525 million¹⁸ of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to support LSPs in the most disadvantaged areas. Support has been provided for capacity building in underperforming LSPs and in Government Offices to help them meet the needs of their region. Government remains on course to meet three of the six floor targets for 2010 (health, crime and liveability), with the other three either showing slippage (education, housing) or not assessed (worklessness);
- We continued our strategy of seeking to influence, support and encourage a varied delivery chain, centred on local authorities, to improve liveability outcomes on the ground. We have rationalised cross-government and stakeholder engagement through the new Cleaner Safer Greener Advisory Board, bringing together partners to ensure a more joined-up approach, for example overseeing development and delivery of the *Green Spaces Action Plan*. The National Audit Office study on enhancing urban green spaces (March 2006) showed that the decline in green spaces had been halted, and turned around in many places. Between 2000 and 2005, there was an increase from 44% to 84% of urban park managers who believe the quality of their green space is stable or improving. The number of Green Flag Award winning spaces is also increasing – 409 winners in England, representing a 32% increase on the previous year.

¹⁸ A provisional figure.

Operations, Procurement and Employment

Communities and Local Government recognises the importance of leading by example in the way it conducts its operations and activities. This section gives an overview of our progress in these areas. For more detailed information, see Appendices 1 (on operations) and 4 (on procurement).

Operations

In common with other departments, Communities and Local Government reports annually against the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate targets, launched in 2002. These targets were updated, in June 2006, through new targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate¹⁹.

As well as reporting on its own account, the department's returns also include the operations of the Government Offices²⁰ and its Executive Agencies, i.e. Planning Inspectorate, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Fire Service College and, with effect from this year, Ordnance Survey.

Key sustainable operations achievements during 2006-07 include:

- Finalisation and publication of strategies covering the Department's waste, energy and estate management;
- Implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) across all but two of the sites for which an EMS was not already in place;
- Contracts let for achieving water savings, and energy efficiencies through better management of HQ Building Management Systems;
- Established an Environmental Champions network to raise awareness of sustainability issues and to embed environmental considerations into daily office routines;
- Removal of personal general waste bins at a number of Government Office buildings to reduce waste arisings and increase recycling;
- Revision of the department's Best Practice Procurement guidance to take account of sustainability (including environmental, social and economic issues).

Data is being collated for 2006-07 and the department's report against its operations targets for 2006-07 will be published in the autumn.

¹⁹ <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/government/estates/index.htm>

²⁰ For further information on the role of the Government Offices in relation to sustainable development, see *Securing the Regions' Futures* published in April 2006 – <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/index.htm> 2006

Procurement

In March 2007, the Government's *Sustainable Procurement Action Plan* was published²¹, responding to the Sustainable Procurement Task Force report published in June 2006²². The *Sustainable Procurement Action Plan* presents a package of actions to deliver the step change needed to ensure that supply chains and public services will be increasingly low carbon, low waste and water efficient, respect biodiversity and deliver wider sustainable development goals.

During 2006/07, Communities and Local Government:

- Designated a Director General to champion the work of our Corporate Procurement Division in taking the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan forward within the department;
- Assessed itself against the *Flexible Framework* developed by the Sustainable Procurement Task Force²³. Our assessment is that the department is at Level 1 ('Foundation') in all areas except engaging suppliers, on which it has achieved Level 2 ('Embed');
- Developed a Sustainable Procurement Strategy, which will be published shortly on the department's website and procurement portal;
- Commenced work (to be finalised in 2007/08) with a group representing local government to develop the local government response to the *Sustainable Procurement Action Plan*. Local government accounts for some £40 billion of procurement per year and therefore has the potential not only to use procurement to influence the sustainable development of its own locality but also, collectively, to contribute to the transformation of the supply chains required to meet our sustainability objectives.

Employment

Our people are our most important resource. We aim to develop a workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities it serves, enjoying genuine equality of opportunity; and a department that is rigorously fair in its recruitment and development policies. We are committed to creating a positive working environment where colleagues treat each other with dignity and respect.

During 2006-07, we:

- Published a Disability Equality Scheme (and later this year will publish a Race Equality Scheme);
- Delivered a programme of skills and awareness training on dignity and respect;
- Continued work on developing a Race Equality Scheme, which will be finalised during the course of 2007.

²¹ <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/index.htm> 2007

²² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/060612a.htm>

²³ The *Flexible Framework* is a tool to help organisations understand and take the steps needed at an organisational and process level to improve procurement practice and to make sustainable procurement happen.

Our employees have a valuable role to play in delivering sustainable development, through the work that they do, and capacity building is an essential part of maximising this contribution. But sustainable development is also a motivating force for our staff, as evidenced by the participation over the past year of staff in seminars on climate change and the environment, a corporate volunteering event on the Thames and a climate change pledge award scheme.

Leadership and communication

Leadership and management

Sustainable development is at the heart of the new department's vision of "prosperous and cohesive communities offering a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all".

Our Ministers, Permanent Secretary and Board have a strong commitment to this vision. They have shown strong leadership in this area, through championing ambitious and far-reaching policy measures such as zero carbon homes, through regular Ministerial speeches on environmental issues²⁴ and indeed through the personal commitments they have made (eg Yvette Cooper MP obtaining an Energy Performance Certificate for her home, and our Permanent Secretary Peter Housden giving up his official car in favour of the Government's Green Cars service).

Supporting this leadership role, there are a number of formalised roles and management structures, in particular:

- A Minister responsible for climate change and sustainable development (Angela Smith MP);
- Ministerial representation on Cabinet Committees, namely EE (Energy & Environment) and its EE(SD) (Sustainable Development in Government) sub-committee;
- The formation of a new Environment & Sustainable Buildings Programme Executive, to oversee the department's progress on climate change and sustainable development;
- Board Executive members championing sustainability (Chris Wormald, Director General for Governance & Communication) and sustainable operations (Hunada Nouss, Director General of Corporate Delivery);
- Creation of a new Climate Change & Sustainable Development team to co-ordinate sustainability issues across the department;
- Representation at official level on cross-Whitehall sustainable development groups, including the Sustainable Development Programme Board and Sustainable Procurement & Operations Board;
- Individuals responsible for sustainable operations and procurement within the Working Environment and Corporate Procurement divisions.

²⁴ See, for example, Ruth Kelly's speech 'Shaping A Low Carbon Future – our environmental vision' (<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505202>), Yvette Cooper's speech at Green Alliance (<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500138>) and Angela Smith's speech at HM Treasury's climate change seminar (<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504259>).

Communication

Communication, both internally and externally, it is vital to embedding sustainability in what we do. Indeed, internal and external communications are an important theme of the department's transformation programme, and our work on sustainable development will benefit from the extra focus brought to communications from this programme.

In our external communications, we have:

- Engaged proactively with a range of major stakeholders throughout the year, both when the new department was launched and, on an ongoing basis, in the development of policy. For example, in developing our *Building A Greener Future* policy we worked closely both with environmental stakeholders and industry so as to generate consensus for the ambition to make new housing zero carbon by 2016;
- Communicated on sustainability issues in setting out the new department's vision (see above), reinforced through a series of new policies (such as our December 2006 'green package') and Ministerial speeches;
- Restructured the department's website in a way which means that much of our environmental work can be accessed from a single page²⁵;
- Included a section on climate change and sustainable development in the department's 2006-07 annual report.

In communicating with our staff, we have:

- Regularly communicated the importance of tackling climate change, for example through seminars, a prize for climate change pledges and a stand at the launch of the new department;
- Organised seminars with key environmental stakeholders, in particular Environment Agency and Natural England;
- Publicised our 2006-07 SDAP on the intranet;
- Included information on how staff can make a difference to our environmental performance through media such as induction material for new staff, the Intranet, the staff magazine, electronic message boards and a seminar on sustainable procurement.

Capacity building

Leadership and communication are very important but are not, by themselves, sufficient to embed sustainable development in all that we do.

We acknowledge the comment of Sustainable Development Commission that our 2006-07 SDAP did not set out how sustainable development will be embedded in our policy making processes.

There is a vital role for capacity building – raising understanding of sustainable development and how to apply it in practice, and being systematic in sustainability proofing our work. We will address this further in our 2007-08 SDAP.

²⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503251>

Appendix 1

Progress against actions

The following table responds to the Progress Report Guidance Tool issued by Sustainable Development Commission²⁶.

It sets out for each of the actions set out in our 2006-07 *Sustainable Development Action Plan* (SDAP):

- Where relevant, the target date originally set out in the SDAP;
- The organisational unit within the department responsible;
- A colour-coded indication of the status of completion of the action (see below);
- Supporting evidence and an indication of whether that evidence is readily available;
- An assessment of the impact of each of the actions on the 'shared priorities' set out in *Securing the Future*²⁷ (see below);
- Additional supporting comments.

The colour-coding of progress is as follows:

- **COMPLETE** indicates that an action is complete, and the associated output/outcomes fully realised;
- **GREEN** indicates the action is incomplete in one or more aspects, but is still on target;
- **AMBER** indicates that an action is behind target, but recoverable;
- **RED** indicates that an action is far behind target and that recovery is unlikely.

The impact of each action on the shared priorities is scored from 1 to 4, where:

- 1 – Action has a **zero or small contribution** to one or more of the shared priorities;
- 2 – Action has a **fair contribution** to one or more of the shared priorities;
- 3 – Action has a **good contribution** to one or more of the shared priorities;
- 4 – Action has an **outstanding contribution** to one or more of the shared priorities.

²⁶ 2005/06 SDAP – Progress Report Guidance Tool, Sustainable Development Commission, March 2007.

²⁷ The shared priorities of *Securing the Future* are: Sustainable Consumption and Production; Climate Change and Energy; Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement; and Sustainable Communities.

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
POLICY AND DELIVERY Planning and Sustainability					Av – Available to SDC? Im – Impact (1-4)			
1	Publish a new planning policy statement (PPS3) on planning for housing.	By end 2006	Economic and Social Policy Team	COMPLETE	PPS3 published November 2006. Available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504592	✓	4	PPS3 underpins the delivery of the Government's strategic housing policy objectives and our goal to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home, which they can afford in a community where they want to live.
2	Publish a new planning policy statement, (PPS25) on Development and flood risk.	By end 2006	Planning Resources and Environmental Policy	COMPLETE	PPS25 published December 2006. Available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504640	✓	3	The PPS is a key part of the Government's Making Space for Water strategy, and the main plank of planning policy for adapting to climate change impacts. It has made a significant contribution to two of the shared priorities: Climate Change and Energy; and Sustainable Communities.
3	Waste planning policy PPS10: use to influence planning decisions and help in providing more opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place and at the right time.	Ongoing	Planning Resources and Environmental Policy	GREEN	PPS10 on Planning for Sustainable Waste Management published July 2005. Companion Guide published June 2006. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500757	✓	3	Policy contained in PPS10 now being reflected in emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Local Development Document (LDD). Policies in PPS10 supersede those in developments plans where the latter have not been updated to reflect PPS10. Planning applications now being decided in the light of PPS10 policy.
4	Reflect the national policies in PPS22 in emerging plans at regional and local level, ensuring that renewable energy schemes become an integral part of new development	Ongoing	Planning Resources and Environmental Policy	COMPLETE	A review was undertaken of emerging development plans to determine whether there was a problem with such plans not fully incorporating PPS22 guidance. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500549 A Ministerial statement was then issued in June 2006. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2167	✓	3	Policy now being reflected in emerging RSS and LDD. Paragraph 8 of PPS22 reinforced through Ministerial statement of 8 June 2006 which said that the Government expect all planning authorities to include policies in their development plans that require a percentage of the energy in new developments to come from on-site renewables, where it is viable.

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
5	Update Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, the EIA Circular (no.2/99) and the EIA Circular guidance.	2006	Planning System Improvement	COMPLETE	The EIA regulations came into force on 15/1/07 We aim to publish the EIA Circular guidance in Summer 2007.	✓	2	The Regulations amend current regulations to give effect to article 3 of the Public Participation Directive about providing access to information, participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters. These are revisions to an existing Circular and guidance on EIA which will continue in print until the new publications become available. EIA procedure itself contributes significantly to sustainable development.
6	Consider further development of principles in PPS1, regarding carbon mitigation aspects of responding to climate change		Planning	GREEN	Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change published for consultation 13/12/06 – 8/3/07. Final PPS due to be published later in 2007.	✓	4	Draft PPS sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable. The PPS expects planning to be a positive force for change, with climate change at the heart of Government expectations from good planning.
HOMES FOR ALL								
7	Halve numbers living in temporary accommodation by 2010	By 2010	HSS Business Support	GREEN	Published strategies, performance measures and outcomes.	✓	3	New requirements on local authorities have been introduced to develop a homelessness strategy and increased emphasis on homelessness prevention.
8	Closely monitor the delivery of the temporary accommodation target. Numbers in temporary accommodation to be around 80,000 by March 2007	March 2007	HSS Business Support	AMBER	Published strategies, performance measures and outcomes.	✓	3	Total households in temporary accommodation are below 90,000 for the first time in nearly four years.

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
9	All social homes to meet minimum standards of decency, and 70% of vulnerable households in the private sector to have decent homes	By 2010	Decent Homes	AMBER	The English House Condition survey (EHCS) provides robust, independent data on housing conditions including decency. The EHCS is published annually, up to 18 months after surveys have been carried out. Landlord stock condition reports from Local Authorities and RSLs are used as an interim measure.	✓	4	Housing standards and “decency” is an essential part of creating sustainable communities, levering in much needed public and private investment into some of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in England, and providing a platform for wider regeneration. Implementing the decent homes standard also significantly improves the thermal and energy efficiency of homes, making a positive impact on carbon emissions. ²⁷
10	Consider results of November 2005 consultation paper on the future of the <i>Supporting People</i> programme	Complete consultation: Feb 2006 Consider results: ongoing 2006/07	Housing Care and Support	GREEN	Key messages from consultation drawn together in “Next Steps in our Supporting People Strategy ” July 2006 www.spkweb.org.uk	✓	2	Full strategy planned for Summer 2007 publication.
11	Develop a strategy for housing and older people.	2006/07	Housing Care and Support	GREEN	Scoping completed and research ongoing.	✓	2	Full strategy planned for summer 2007 publication.
12	Ensure that the housing needs of older people are built into the Housing Diversity Action Plan to be published in late 2006	Late 2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	A decision was made that this work was better taken forward as part of our strategy for housing and older people. See 11 above.
13	Examine how a more integrated delivery system for adaptation and assistive technologies for older people might be developed (jointly with Defra and the Department of Health)		N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	A decision was made that this work was better taken forward as part of our strategy for housing and older people. See 11 above.
14	Build the lifetime homes standard into the <i>Code for Sustainable Homes</i> .		Sustainable Buildings	COMPLETE	Published in Code for Sustainable Homes on 13 December 2006.	✓	1	See also item 22.

²⁷ Since 1997 we have reduced the number of non-decent homes in the social sector by over one million, and we are on track to have 95% decency in the social sector by 2010. We had achieved 66% of vulnerable households in Decent Homes by 2005. This means that the interim target of 65% has already been met and that we are ahead of trajectory to meet the 2010 target of 70%.

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
15	With the support of the fire services, develop a range of preventative initiatives for older people (e.g. free smoke alarms).		Community Fire Safety team	GREEN	£11.4m grants for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are designed to pump-prime local FRS activity to target people at risk from fire, including the elderly.	✓	2	Fire Kills campaign also works in partnership with support agencies (ie Help the Aged, Carers UK) to target elderly people. (www.firekills.gov.uk).
CLIMATE CHANGE AND HOUSING								
16	Contribute to the Government's current review of the UK Climate Change Programme	2006	Climate Change and Sustainable Development	COMPLETE	CCP was published in 2006 Our input included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to carbon footprint of new buildings • Draft PPS on climate change • Appropriate focus on climate change as part of local government performance framework. • £4m best practice fund for local authorities (with Defra) 	✓	3	See http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/index.htm . See items 18-23. See item 6. Being taken forward under Comprehensive Spending Review. http://www.beacons.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=5127316
17	Highlight areas for long-range collaborative work with other Government Departments to achieve the goals of the Sustainable Communities programme, and also secure required cuts in carbon emissions and gains in resource efficiency in new and existing buildings		Climate Change and Sustainable Development	GREEN	Worked closely with DTI to ensure energy efficiency of buildings reflected in 2006 Energy Review and 2007 Energy White Paper (both at www.dti.gov.uk). Working with DTI on 'Building A Greener Future' and associated task force to ensure zero carbon homes have access to renewable energy (http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1508822).	✓	4	This work was given impetus through the formation of the Department's Climate Change & Sustainable Development programme, overseen by the Environment & Sustainable Buildings Programme Executive (on which Defra is represented).
18	Revise Part L of the Building Regulations, delivering a 25% increase in energy efficiency in new buildings and greatly extending the impact on energy efficiency of existing buildings	2006	Sustainable Buildings	COMPLETE	Statutory Instrument 2006: No. 652 RIA: Part L and Approved Document F, March 2006	✓	4	0.9 million tonnes of carbon saved per annum in 2010

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
19	Update the Building Regulations every 5 years or so, with each stage signalling what the next stage is likely to be. This should lead to incremental increases in the energy standards of new and refurbished buildings	2010-2020	Sustainable Buildings Climate Change and Sustainable Development	GREEN	Proposed updates outlined in December 2006 "Building a Greener Future" consultation. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505157	✓	4	Implementation proposed via progressive tightening of energy efficiency standards in building regulations – by 25% in 2010 and by 44% in 2013 – up to the zero carbon target in 2016. These measures are expected to save nearly 7m tonnes carbon/year by 2050.
20	Consult on the Code for Sustainable Homes, including full scale practical demonstrations of how the Code will be applied in a range of locations including the Thames Gateway	By March 2006	Sustainable Buildings Housing & Growth Programmes Regeneration Land & Property Division Thames Gateway Strategy	COMPLETE	Code published, following consultation, December 2006. Opportunities to take forward higher Code levels in exemplar programmes, including via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Stowe / eco-towns • Carbon Challenge competition Thames Gateway low carbon study to be published shortly	✓	3	For the Code, see: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506120 For more about the exemplar programmes, see: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2365 and http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/carbonchallenge.htm See section 5 of the Thames Gateway Interim Plan – http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504558
21	National rollout of the Code for Sustainable Homes	To start in 2006	Sustainable Buildings	GREEN	http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506120	✓	3	The Code went live as a voluntary standard from April 2007, mandatory at level 3 for Housing Corporation and English Partnerships. We will consult on making rating against the Code mandatory from 2008.
22	Make revisions to the Code for Sustainable Homes		Sustainable Buildings	COMPLETE	Code published December 2006 – incorporating all of the measures quoted in the SDAP ²⁸	✓	3	For the Code, see: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506120

²⁸ The revisions quoted in the SDAP are: "Make revisions to the Code for Sustainable, including making energy efficiency ratings mandatory for new homes. Set minimum standards for energy and water efficiency for every level of the Code, and raise the lowest levels of the Code above the level of mandatory building regulations. New homes that use micro-generation technology such as wind turbines and solar panels to gain extra points in the Code."

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
23	As an interim measure, until the <i>Code for Sustainable Homes</i> is properly developed, new residential developments receiving Government funding will meet Ecohomes Very Good 2006	Ongoing	Affordable Housing Division Regeneration Land and Property Division	GREEN	Housing Corporation reports. Certification for individual schemes meeting the criteria.	✓ ✓	3	The Housing Corporation introduced Eco Homes very good as an essential requirement for homes built with funding through them since April 2006. English Partnerships adopted EcoHomes Very Good requirement in Jan 2002 as a minimum standard for new homes developed on EP owned land. English Partnerships will be adopting level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes from 1 April 2007. The Housing Corporation are also committed to this implementation date.
24	Consult on changes to planning rules which, as part of a wider review, will make it easier for householders to install microgeneration equipment	2006	Planning System Improvement Branch	AMBER	Consultation paper published April 2007	✓	2	Will facilitate domestic scale production of energy.
25	Review of Sustainability of Existing Buildings – report to Ministers	Summer 2006	Sustainable Buildings Division	AMBER	Analysis of evidence base on energy efficiency status of existing homes published on Department's website in November 2006. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504372 This work has informed work on energy efficiency of homes in the Energy White Paper (see 17 above).	✓	3	Work is continuing on wider issues of water efficiency, non-domestic energy efficiency and climate change adaptation. It has proved difficult to establish a robust evidence base in these areas – particularly for the non-domestic sector. Actions to fill gaps are being taken forward.
GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED								
26	Draw the <i>local: vision</i> debate together in a White Paper	2006	Local Government Strategy and Research	COMPLETE	Local Government White Paper, 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', was published in October 2006. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137789	✓	4	The White Paper Implementation Plan, published 22 January 2007, puts in place a timetable for implementing the White Paper proposals. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill brings forward legislation for a number of proposals in the White Paper.
27	Launch the <i>National Neighbourhoods Agreement</i>	March 2006	Community Empowerment	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	This initiative did not proceed as work was absorbed into Local Government White Paper proposals published in October 2006

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
28	In addition to the existing 21 pilot LAAs, sign off a further 66 LAAs in March 2006. The remaining 63 areas are eligible to develop an LAA in 2006 so it comes into effect in April 2007	March 2006/ April 2007	Local Area Agreements Implementation	GREEN	Each area has signed a Local Area Agreement.	✓	3	The primary objective of an LAA is to deliver genuinely sustainable communities through better outcomes for local people. 21 pilot Local Area Agreements (LAAs) were implemented from April 2005. There were a further 66 LAAs signed in March 2006 and a further 62 were signed in March 07. The 2006 Local Government White Paper strengthens the role of LAAs and places them at the heart of the new performance framework for local authorities.
29	<i>Together We Can</i> national conference	March 2006	Community Empowerment Division	COMPLETE	Report published on www.togetherwecan.info		2	Excellent delegate feedback.
30	Consultation on the future development of Sustainable Communities Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships	Consult to March 2006	Local Strategic Partnerships	COMPLETE	An analysis of responses received was published in October 2006. http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504145	✓	3	Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are a crucial element in empowering local communities to achieve Sustainable Communities Strategies.
31	Publish Sustainable Communities Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships guidance as appropriate, in the light of the consultation		Local Strategic Partnerships	GREEN	Non-statutory operational Local Area Agreements guidance: summer 2007 Draft statutory place-shaper guidance: following Royal Assent in summer/ autumn 2007 Final place-shaping guidance: spring 2008	✗ ✗ ✗	3	Guidance is essential to provide clarification to enable communities to make the best use of and Local Strategic Partnerships opportunities.
32	Feed the results of the SCS/LSP consultation into the forthcoming Local Government White Paper		Local Strategic Partnerships	COMPLETE	Local Government White Paper published October 2006 (see 26 above).	✓	3	Main contributions came in chapter 5 – Place Shaping, chapter6 – Performance Framework and Chapter 7- Efficiency and Capacity Building.
33	Continue to provide extra support to Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in the most disadvantaged areas through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), and focus on raising standards in mainstream public services in all deprived communities	Ongoing	Neighbourhood Renewal Analysis Division	GREEN	£525 million of funding in 2006/07 (provisional figure) to support LSPs in the most disadvantaged areas. Support has been provided for capacity building in underperforming LSPs and in Government Offices to help them meet the needs of their region.	✓	2	Government remains on course to meet three of the six floor targets for 2010 (health, crime and liveability), with the other three either showing slippage (education, housing) or not assessed (worklessness). See the Department's annual report for further details – http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510644 .

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
34	Through the cross Government "Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities" programme, take action to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create high quality places which are well-planned and designed, with attractive public spaces that meet the needs of everyone; and • sustain the quality of places, by managing and maintaining them better, improving social use, discouraging anti-social behaviour whilst encouraging greater respect 		Local Development and Renewal Community Renewal & Liveability	GREEN COMPLETE COMPLETE COMPLETE	Currently achieving targets for street cleanliness, abandoned vehicles and Local Authorities (LAs) with Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPA) assessment less than '2' for Environmental Services. We are hitting milestones for the number of LAs with at least one Green Flag, and for levels of satisfaction with local parks and open spaces. However, we are below projected milestones for the number of households living in poor quality environments and overall household satisfaction with the average of the six liveability factors Rationalised cross-government and stakeholder working arrangements through the new single Cleaner Safer Greener Advisory Board CNEA 2005 extended LA powers to tackle environmental quality issues Launch of Respect Standard for Social Housing Respect Action Plan helping to tackle environmental crime.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	3	Given the cross-cutting nature of PSA8 and its dependence on delivery of local environmental services our strategy is to seek to influence, support and encourage a varied delivery chain, centred on local authorities, to improve liveability outcomes on the ground.
35	Encourage local authorities and their partners in making best use of resources to secure liveability through the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund and Local Area Agreements	Ongoing 2006/07	Local Development and Renewal Community Renewal & Liveability	COMPLETE GREEN	November 2006 Safer Stronger Communities workshop included session on liveability. Initial 6 months reviews of the Safer Stronger Communities and Local Area Agreements carried out by Government Offices have been carried out.	✓ ✓	3	

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
36	Work with LSPs to prioritise liveability issues in their strategies and support them in delivery	Ongoing 2006/07	Local Development and Renewal Community Renewal & Liveability	GREEN GREEN GREEN	Programme of Day One and Day Three meetings with individual Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) finished in April 2007. To date, 40 of 41 draft Action Plans outlining action to support prioritisation of liveability issues submitted and awaiting sign off by individual LSPs. ENCAMS report evaluating programme due in Summer 2007.	✓	2	Technical support originally offered to 50 LSPs in areas in receipt of the Cleaner Safer Greener Element (CSGE) of SSCF, but eventually taken up by 44 LSPs (including 7 LSPs in areas in receipt of the Neighbourhood Element SSCF). Of these 3 were considered to have well developed Plans already, so it was not necessary for them to draft and submit new Plans While Plans contain a sustainable element it is too early to assess what impact they will have.
37	Work with 20 local town centres to support the creation of business-led partnerships for enhancing their service delivery and the quality of the trading environment	Ongoing 2006/07	Local Development and Renewal Community Renewal & Liveability	AMBER	In-depth quarterly reports by consultants on the progress of the 20 town centres	✓	2	Reporting in 2008
38	Work with Groundwork and other partner organisations to deliver over 7000 community-led projects to improve local environments and community spaces each year	Ongoing 2006/07	Local Development and Renewal Community Renewal & Liveability	COMPLETE COMPLETE	Groundwork supported more than 7,100 projects and encouraged volunteers to give more than 550,000 days of their time to improve their neighbourhoods – 330,000 of these involved young people. Worked with 31 organisations to deliver a range of projects totalling some £2m over 2006/07.	✓ ✓	3	Through funding of Groundwork, Living Spaces and Special Grants Programme the Department continues to support voluntary and community sector organisations to support objectives for involving communities in transforming the physical quality of their local area. Special Grants Programme provides funding to community and voluntary sector organisations to help deliver innovative projects that involve local people to improve the quality of our public spaces, and delivering on the issues to create cleaner, safer and greener communities.

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
39	Engage with local practitioners to spread lessons, good practice and innovation through the How To programme, including a major national conference in March 2006, and a series of 18 regional seminars	Ongoing 2006/07	Local Development and Renewal Community Renewal & Liveability	COMPLETE COMPLETE COMPLETE COMPLETE GREEN	National conference 'A vision for respect' (Mar 06) 6 regional seminars on <i>How to Improve Residential Areas</i> (April 06) 5 regional seminars on <i>How to Create Quality Parks and Open Spaces</i> (July 06) 6 regional seminars on <i>How to Manage Town Centres</i> (Nov 06) 9 regional seminars on <i>Engaging Children and Young People in Public Space</i> (Feb/Mar 07)	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	2	Activities 2006/07 Held national conference & 26 regional seminars – exceeding original target of 18. Around 1500 people attended events. Feedback from delegates was positive. Impact of the How To Programme so far is difficult to measure but through seminars shared good practice and encouraged LAs to give communities more power and say in the decisions that affect them around cleaner safer, greener, issues; and promoted working in partnerships to get things done.
39A ²⁹	Heighten public awareness of the value of civil renewal by holding several major national events, supporting regional and local champions and disseminating awareness through newsletters and websites.		Community empowerment	GREEN	Published reports on conferences www.togetherwecan.info Quarterly WeCan publication	✓	2	Excellent delegate and stakeholder feedback
39B	Commission and disseminate extensive evidence of the benefits of active citizenship for people and agencies alike.		Community Empowerment	GREEN	Establishment & maintenance of Civic Pioneer Network People & Participation by Involve published	✓	1	Further work will be taken forward by a consortium including the Community Development Foundation to support & promote community empowerment good practice across Local Authorities and other statutory partners. Info on www.togetherwecan.info Involve publication available on request
39C	Strengthen public participation through contributions to the shaping and implementation of key policies such as neighbourhood empowerment.		Community Empowerment Division	GREEN	First meeting of CE Programme Board on 17 April 2007. Principles and priorities for action will be considered.	✓	2	CRU transferred from Home Office to this Department to form Community Empowerment Division following machinery of government changes in May 2006. CED now leads on community engagement & empowerment policy across the Department and is in the process of setting up Community Empowerment Programme Board

27 ²⁹ Items 39A – E are inherited from Home Office as a result of machinery of government changes during the course of 2006 and were not originally part of this Department's SDAP.

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
39D	Roll-out training and resources for local leaders in order to promote leadership in tackling racism and extremism and to support conflict resolution.		Race, Cohesion and Faith	COMPLETE	Two year programme of leadership training for Local Authorities experiencing challenges to cohesion. Preventing violent extremism: winning hearts and minds.	✓ ✗	2	This is linked to PSA 10.
39E	Work with the Commission for Racial Equality to implement their new Code of Practice to help prevent discrimination in the workplace which will come into force in April 2006.		Race, Cohesion and Faith	COMPLETE	Statutory code of practice on race equality in employment	✓	3	http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ria_code_racial_equality_em1.pdf?version=1
OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT Operations								
40	New Environmental pages on Department's website	April 2006	Climate Change & Sustainable Development Working Environment	GREEN	A new webpage on environmental activities is live – www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503251	✓	1	Further changes to the site are to be introduced during 2007/08.
41	Implement Environmental Management Systems (EMS) across remaining properties in the Estate	April 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	All but two sites have an EMS in place and use the web-based ENVOY system.	✓	2	Despite QEII Conference Centre not having an EMS in place, the organisation and CEO are very committed to improving their sustainable performance. The site is included in the Department's Carbon Management Programme and has dramatically reduced its carbon emissions. The only other site lacking an EMS is a part occupied smaller building. The benefit of implementing a separate EMS for this site alone is under review.
42	Annual Sustainable Operations Report to be published	Sept 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	The report has been drafted and will be published on the Department's external website.	✓	1	Publishing was delayed to ensure consistency with the SDC annual SDiG report

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
43	Establish and implement methodology for measuring all business mileage: road and air	April 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	A change request to the Travel & Subsistence reporting system has been submitted.	✓	2	All travel agencies are improving their management information to provide improved emissions calculations. Some work still required to improve individual T&S systems.
44	Ensure individual travel plans are produced by sites across the Estate	April 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	Carbon Trust Travel surveys were conducted at a number of sites. Report published. Some sites lack final Travel Plans.	✓	2	Some travel plans may be out dated and require updating. Other Government Offices have moved sites and will require new plans to be produced.
45	Analyse water use at non-office sites to identify water saving opportunities or off-set projects	June 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	One site signed contract with ADSM and has begun surveys.	✓	2	We are encouraging other non-office sites to conduct similar analysis and surveys.
46	Arrange for water surveys to be carried out at office sites where water consumption is high	Dec 2006	Working Environment	COMPLETE	Water conservation contract signed with ADSM. Water usage analysed. Audits conducted at HQ sites. Some improvements have been implemented following recommendations by ADSM, such as low flow shower heads and tap aerators in wash rooms.	✓	2	We are actively encouraging other sites across the estate to sign similar contracts. The Fire Service College has signed such a contract.
47	Publish a sustainable waste management strategy	April 2006	Working Environment	COMPLETE	Published on the Department's external website.	✓	2	http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500980
48	Establish data collection system using the EMS for all sites to use	April 2006	Working Environment	COMPLETE	System established on Entropy EMS system.	✓	1	

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
49	Explore options for increasing re-use/ composting as waste management options in HQ buildings	June 2006	Working Environment	COMPLETE	Composting system established HQ building wide. Food waste collected from kitchens, restaurants and teapoints. IT equipment and furniture also reused. Mobile phone recycling also established.	✓	3	Since the composting scheme began, over 35 tonnes of food waste has been separated at HQ buildings. Both public and private organisations have visited our buildings to learn more about the possibilities of larger scale composting for central London organisations. Mobile phones are reconditioned and sold on at a reduced rate to developing countries. The revenue raised is passed to a selected charity – the scheme provides environmental, social and economic benefits.
50	Review Energy Efficiency Action Plan developed in conjunction with Carbon Trust	March 2006	Working Environment	COMPLETE	EEAP regularly reviewed and updated as new initiatives are established/ completed.	✓	3	
51	Carry out works to increase efficiency of two existing Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units	Sept 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	CHP expert commissioned to establish improvement plan.	✓	2	Investigation to start by May 07.
52	Corporate procurement division has revised central Best Practice Procurement guidance to take account of sustainability (including environmental, social and economic issues)	January 2006	Corporate Procurement Division.	COMPLETE	Internal guidance published.	✓	2	See Appendix 4 for further details of sustainable procurement within the Department.
53	Estates Management Strategy to be published	April 2006	Working Environment	COMPLETE	Published on the Department's external website.	✓	2	
54	Draft biodiversity action plan for the major non-office site completed	Dec 2006	Working Environment	AMBER	BDAP nearly complete. Initial and in-depth site surveys carried out and published on Fire Service College website.	✓	2	
55	Accessibility Statement to be published	April 2006	Equality and Diversity Unit	COMPLETE	Updated August 2006 – see http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1502136	✓	1	

Ref	Action	Target	Responsible	Progress	Evidence/crosscheck measure	Av	Im	Comments
56	Publish a Disability Equality Scheme (DES) and a Race Equality Scheme (RES)	Dec 2006	Equality and Diversity Unit	COMPLETE AMBER	DES published – http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1504850 RES under development.	✓ ✗	1	RES expected to be published in summer 2007.
57	Assessments of impact of policies on different racial groups: Expand these assessments to take account of other equality strands	Ongoing	Equality and Diversity Unit	GREEN	Auditable correspondence	✗	2	New single equality impact assessments including all equality strands and human rights to be rolled out in first half of 2007.
Management								
58	Incorporate briefing on sustainable development and sustainable communities in induction material for new staff members		Learning & Development Team	Complete	Induction pack for new members of staff	✓	1	Induction pack contains information on how staff can make a difference on energy, water and waste and become a member of the department's environmental champions forum.
59	Use a stand at the next Departmental Open Day to explore and explain the relationship between sustainable communities and sustainable development		Climate Change & Sustainable Development	Complete	September 2006 intranet article on Communities and Local Government launch events.	✓	1	Due to the change in the department, this was not made part of the open day itself. However, the Environment & Sustainable Buildings Programme Executive used a stand at the October launch of the new department to showcase our work on climate change and the environment.
60	Introduce a new internal award specifically for contribution to sustainable development and climate change		Climate Change & Sustainable Development	Complete	October 2006 intranet article on climate pledge awards.	✓	1	Prizes were awarded for personal pledges made by staff. A new web-based monthly green pledge scheme is due to start in June 2007.
61	Ensure that sustainable development features in future in the Department's Annual reports		Climate Change & Sustainable Development	Complete	2006/07 Annual Report	✓	1	The 2006/07 annual report includes a section on sustainable development.

Appendix 2

Embedding sustainable development

The following tables and accompanying comments respond to the questionnaire set out in section 1 of the Progress Report Guidance Tool issued by Sustainable Development Commission³¹. The questionnaire asks departments the following questions:

Sustainable Development Commission questions

“Regarding the work programme outlined in your SDAP, and based on your progress [in Appendix 1], how do you feel your organisation is performing on embedding sustainable development in your:

- 1. policies*
- 2. people*
- 3. operations (i.e. operations policy)*

Please comment on your rationale behind your choice of rating”

“We would also like to know how you regard progress on embedding SD reporting mechanisms. How do you feel that your organisation is progressing on creating and embedding the appropriate mechanisms and processes to record and report progress of SDAPs and sustainable development generally? Please comment on your rationale behind your choice of rating.”

³¹ “2005/06 SDAP – Progress Report Guidance Tool”, Sustainable Development Commission, March 2007.

1. Policies

						✓			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Starting out		Some progress			On course			Fully integrated	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No/little alignment of policy with Government SD Strategy, UK Framework and related guidance No/little joining-up policy goals under the SD umbrella No/little signalling SD in external partnerships and relationships No/little embedding SD in policy approval processes/Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) No/little effective stakeholder engagement No/little building SD capacity among delivery partners 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some alignment of policy with Government SD Strategy, UK Framework and related guidance Some joining-up policy goals under the SD umbrella Some signalling of SD in external partnerships and relationships Some embedding SD in policy approval processes/Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) Some effective stakeholder engagement Some building SD capacity among delivery partners 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much alignment of policy with Government SD Strategy, UK Framework and related guidance Much joining-up policy goals under the SD umbrella Much signalling SD in external partnerships and relationships Much embedding SD in policy approval processes/Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) Much effective stakeholder engagement Much building SD capacity among delivery partners 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full alignment of policy with Government SD Strategy, UK Framework and related guidance Full joining-up policy goals under the SD umbrella Fully signalling SD in external partnerships and relationships Fully embedding SD in policy approval processes / Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) Fully effective stakeholder engagement Fully building SD capacity among delivery partners 	

Comments on choice of rating

The Department has an important role to play on the shared priorities under *Securing the Future*. We lead on Sustainable Communities, the definition of which has been fully aligned across Whitehall. We also make important contributions on climate change & energy (via building regulations and planning), natural environment (via planning) and sustainable consumption and production (via our role with local government). During the year, we worked on policies which will make a vital contribution to these priorities, e.g. via Building A Greener Future, the Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

We recognise that there is always room for improvement and acknowledge, for example, some of the points raised in SDC’s thematic review of the Sustainable Communities Plan. Many of the issues identified in that report relate to the way policy is interpreted and delivered on the ground. Working with delivery partners (e.g. as Communities England is formed) will therefore be key to delivering sustainable development.

SD is not yet fully embedded in formal policy approval processes. However, the increased emphasis on stakeholder engagement, as part of our Transformation Programme, and our new governance arrangements (see below) will help to make SD-proofing of policy more systematic.

2. People

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Starting out		Some progress			On course			Fully integrated	
SD is not or to little extent reflected in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core vision and values • Training and development (e.g. core skills, induction, leadership development) • Performance management (e.g. competency framework) • Recruitment • Career planning and placements • Internal communications • Volunteering • Fund raising 		SD is partially reflected in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core vision and values • Training and development (e.g. core skills, induction, leadership development) • Performance management (e.g. competency framework) • Recruitment • Career planning and placements • Internal communications • Volunteering • Fund raising 			SD is greatly reflected in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core vision and values • Training and development (e.g. core skills, induction, leadership development) • Performance management (e.g. competency framework) • Recruitment • Career planning and placements • Internal communications • Volunteering • Fund raising 			SD is fully reflected in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core vision and values • Training and development (e.g. core skills, induction, leadership development) • Performance management (e.g. competency framework) • Recruitment • Career planning and placements • Internal communications • Volunteering • Fund raising 	

Comments on choice of rating

There is a strong commitment to SD from Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and senior management, and this is at the heart of the new department's vision of "prosperous and cohesive communities offering a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all". Progress has been made over the past year in communicating this commitment throughout the department, via seminars on climate change and with environmental stakeholders, a stand at the launch of the department and a climate change pledge. We have built on the enthusiasm of staff via an Environmental Champions network and our annual volunteering event.

However, we recognise that embedding SD in our people also involves more systematic work via capacity building and processes such as recruitment and performance management. Reflecting SD in these is not yet well developed. We will address this in our 2007/08 SDAP.

3. Operations (i.e. operations policy)

1	2	3	4	5	✓ 6	7	8	9	10
Starting out		Some progress			On course			Fully integrated	
Little or no structure around the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management systems (e.g. EMS) • Energy, water, waste (resource efficiency, recycling etc.) • Travel • Sustainable procurement (e.g. efficient, green, fair, local, healthy) • Construction and refurbishment. • Biodiversity • Positive social and community impact 		Some structure around the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management systems (e.g. EMS) • Energy, water, waste (resource efficiency, recycling etc.) • Travel • Sustainable procurement (e.g. efficient, green, fair, local, healthy) • Construction and refurbishment. • Biodiversity • Positive social and community impact 			Much structure around the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management systems (e.g. EMS) • Energy, water, waste (resource efficiency, recycling etc.) • Travel • Sustainable procurement (e.g. efficient, green, fair, local, healthy) • Construction and refurbishment. • Biodiversity • Positive social and community impact 			Full structure around the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate including elements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management systems (e.g. EMS) • Energy, water, waste (resource efficiency, recycling etc.) • Travel • Sustainable procurement (e.g. efficient, green, fair, local, healthy) • Construction and refurbishment. • Biodiversity • Positive social and community impact 	

Comments on choice of rating

The Department has made considerable progress in its sustainable operations performance. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) are widely used throughout the estate and waste, energy and estates management strategies have been published. We have exceeded the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets for waste and water in 2005/06, and have established an SD Network of representatives throughout the estate who meet twice a year at an SD Forum to share ideas and best practice. More recently, an Environmental Champions network has been set up at headquarters buildings. Social benefits have also increased; small social enterprises are used for a number of waste contracts and a Thames river bank clean-up is organised annually comprising staff volunteers and Thames21 representatives. However, the Department must still significantly reduce its energy usage and travel-related carbon emissions. We must also ensure we use procurement to support and improve our future operational performance – a sustainable procurement strategy has been drafted to aid this.

4. Governance, Monitoring and Reporting

						✓			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Starting out		Some progress			On course			Fully integrated	

Comments on choice of rating

The Department has made significant progress over the course of the year on governance. The most important steps were the formation of the Environment & Sustainable Buildings Programme Executive, overseeing the department's progress on climate change and sustainable development, and the formation of a Climate Change & Sustainable Development team with responsibility for driving this agenda forward on a day-to-day basis. The Programme Executive is chaired by a Director General, who serves as the overall departmental champion on sustainability. The department's representation on the cross-Whitehall SD Programme Board and Sustainable Procurement & Operations Board also serves to reinforce accountability and reporting on SD in policy, operations and procurement.

Although the infrastructure for governance is now in place, there is scope to make further improvements in the year ahead on monitoring and reporting. The Programme Executive continues to refine the internal reporting arrangements for monitoring its programmes and risks. A sharper-focussed SD Action Plan for 2007/08 will lend itself to better monitoring of the commitments made.

Appendix 3

Taking stock

This appendix responds to the questionnaire set out in section 3 of the Progress Report Guidance Tool issued by Sustainable Development Commission³². The questions are set out in turn below, together with the Department's responses.

Question 1

What has helped your organisation to deliver its SDAP? e.g., capacity, funding, culture, leadership, policies, procedures and/or organisational arrangements.

A major factor in helping to drive forward the sustainable development agenda within the department has been the clear commitment of Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and the Board to put sustainable development at the heart of the new department's vision and recognition, in particular, of the department's important role in tackling climate change. The formation of the Environment & Sustainable Buildings Programme Executive and of the Climate Change & Sustainable Development team have provided the infrastructure to turn this commitment into action.

Question 2

What has hindered the delivery of your SDAP? e.g., capacity, funding, culture, leadership, policies, procedures and/or organisational arrangements.

The department's range of activities and interaction with sustainable development are broad and complex. Much of our work, such as our work on improving the sustainability of existing buildings, involves working across departments and through indirect policy levers. Keeping pace with a fast-moving agenda such as climate change and sustainable development more generally therefore poses a challenge to capacity and delivery. The pace of the agenda is unlikely to slow down, and the level of resources available – both from the central sustainability team and in policy areas – to rise to that challenge will remain constrained. There are some specific areas, e.g. in improving the performance of our estate, where budgets will constrain our ability to meet our targets.

Question 3

What information do you hold and collect relating to the sustainable development impact of your organisation's overall policies/projects / activities? e.g., Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA).

All policies are subjected to Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). Partial RIAs are published when policy is consulted upon and a final RIA accompanies the final policy decision. Where sustainable development is an issue, this is covered within the RIA. All RIAs can be found on our website. There is no process for centrally vetting sustainable development aspects of RIAs. Such an approach would not be possible from the resources available to the Climate Change & Sustainable Development team and would run contrary to a more holistic process of embedding sustainability within the policy development process.

³² "2005/06 SDAP – Progress Report Guidance Tool", Sustainable Development Commission, March 2007.

Question 4

Were there any key updates/changes to your 2005/06 SDAP? Please briefly list.

Our SDAP covered the period 2006/07. The SDAP was not modified during the year. However, important new initiatives, such as Building A Greener Future, were started during the year, under the oversight of the Environment & Sustainable Buildings Programme Executive. Certain SDAP commitments were also inherited from Home Office following machinery of government changes. Where relevant these have been added to the commitments listed in Appendix 1.

Appendix 4

Procurement

The following table represents the Department's self-evaluation against the Procurement Flexible Framework set out in the Government's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan³³. Set out below the table is the Department's responses to the questionnaire set out in section 4 of the Progress Report Guidance Tool issued by Sustainable Development Commission³⁴.

The Flexible Framework identifies five key themes which are, in effect, the key behavioural and operational change programmes that need to be delivered in each public sector organisation to deliver sustainable procurement.

³³ HM Government, Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, March 2007.

³⁴ "2005/06 SDAP – Progress Report Guidance Tool", Sustainable Development Commission, March 2007.

Procurement Flexible Framework

	Foundation Level 1	Embed Level 2	Practice Level 3	Enhance Level 4	Lead Level 5
People	Sustainable procurement champion identified. Key procurement staff have received basic training in sustainable procurement principles. Sustainable procurement is included as part of a key employee induction programme.	All procurement staff have received basic training in sustainable procurement principles. Key staff have received advanced training on sustainable procurement principles.	Targeted refresher training on latest sustainable procurement principles. Performance objectives and appraisal include sustainable procurement factors. Simple incentive programme in place.	Sustainable procurement included in competencies and selection criteria. Sustainable procurement is included as part of employee induction programme.	Achievements are publicised and used to attract procurement professionals. Internal and external awards are received for achievements. Focus is on benefits achieved. Good practice shared with other organisations.
	✓				
Policy, Strategy & Communications	Agree overarching sustainability objectives. Simple sustainable procurement policy in place endorsed by CEO. Communicate to staff and key suppliers.	Review and enhance sustainable procurement policy, in particular consider supplier engagement. Ensure it is part of a wider Sustainable Development strategy. Communicate to staff, suppliers and key stakeholders.	Augment the sustainable procurement policy into a strategy covering risk, process integration, marketing, supplier engagement, measurement and a review process. Strategy endorsed by CEO.	Review and enhance the sustainable procurement strategy, in particular recognising the potential of new technologies. Try to link strategy to EMS and include in overall corporate strategy.	Strategy is: reviewed regularly, externally scrutinised and directly linked to organisations' EMS. The Sustainable Procurement strategy recognised by political leaders, is communicated widely. A detailed review is undertaken to determine future priorities and a new strategy is produced beyond this framework.
	✓				
Procurement Process	Expenditure analysis undertaken and key sustainability impacts identified. Key contracts start to include general sustainability criteria. Contracts awarded on the basis of value-for-money, not lowest price. Procurers adopt Quick Wins.	Detailed expenditure analysis undertaken, key sustainability risks assessed and used for prioritisation. Sustainability is considered at an early stage in the procurement process of most contracts. Whole-life-cost analysis adopted.	All contracts are assessed for general sustainability risks and management actions identified. Risks managed throughout all stages of the procurement process. Targets to improve sustainability are agreed with key suppliers.	Detailed sustainability risks assessed for high impact contracts. Project/contract sustainability governance is in place. A life-cycle approach to cost/impact assessment is applied.	Life-cycle analysis has been undertaken for key commodity areas. Sustainability Key Performance Indicators agreed with key suppliers. Progress is rewarded or penalised based on performance. Barriers to sustainable procurement have been removed. Best practice shared with other organisations.
	✓				

	Foundation Level 1	Embed Level 2	Practice Level 3	Enhance Level 4	Lead Level 5
Engaging Suppliers	Key supplier spend analysis undertaken and high sustainability impact suppliers identified. Key suppliers targeted for engagement and views on procurement policy sought.	Detailed supplier spend analysis undertaken. General programme of supplier engagement initiated, with senior manager involvement.	Targeted supplier engagement programme in place, promoting continual sustainability improvement. Two way communication between procurer and supplier exists with incentives. Supply chains for key spend areas have been mapped.	Key suppliers targeted for intensive development. Sustainability audits and supply chain improvement programmes in place. Achievements are formally recorded. CEO involved in the supplier engagement programme.	Suppliers recognised as essential to delivery of organisations' sustainable procurement strategy. CEO engages with suppliers. Best practice shared with other/peer organisations. Suppliers recognise they must continually improve their sustainability profile to keep the clients business.
		✓			
Measurements & Results	Key sustainability impacts of procurement activity have been identified.	Detailed appraisal of the sustainability impacts of the procurement activity has been undertaken. Measures implemented to manage the identified high risk impact areas.	Sustainability measures refined from general departmental measures to include individual procurers and are linked to development objectives.	Measures are integrated into a balanced score card approach reflecting both input and output. Comparison is made with peer organisations. Benefit statements have been produced.	Measures used to drive organisational sustainable development strategy direction. Progress formally benchmarked with peer organisations. Benefits from sustainable procurement are clearly evidenced. Independent audit reports available in the public domain.
	✓				

SDC Question

For each of the themes in the Flexible Framework above, please provide a brief commentary to justify the level you feel that your organisation has achieved. For example:

- **What have been the major accomplishments relating to that theme?**
- **How have you achieved them?**
- **How do you know they were achieved?**
- **What has held you back from achieving the next level?**

People

Level 1: The Department has appointed a Sustainable Procurement Champion.

Corporate Procurement Division Staff have received sustainable procurement training.

The Department does not have a key employee Induction Programme but we are ensuring that Induction material specifically addresses Sustainable Procurement.

Further training needs to be investigated from other sources and a colleague is attending a DfT session to ascertain how useful it would be for our staff.

Policy, Strategy & Communications

Level 1: The Department has a Sustainable Procurement Strategy which will be posted onto the Departments web-site/Procurement Portal when this is implemented. (Go live date being within 1 Month).

New Procurement Guidance has been made available that emphasises Sustainability.

Training for staff in procurement/contract management is provided. Training material is synchronised with the Procurement Guidance.

A Conference on Sustainable Procurement has been convened and was open to all members of the Department and its affiliated Agencies and NDPB's. This complements the process of engagement with all staff on this issue.

A process of engagement with key suppliers has commenced.

Procurement needs to link up with other Departmental Sustainable Practitioners to ensure the Procurement Strategy is synchronised with the wider Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy.

Procurement Process

Level 1: The new Procurement Guidance incorporating Sustainability emphasises that Buyers and Demanders must consider at the outset whether their Procurement has the opportunity to address Sustainability. That if this consideration does not take place and Sustainable criteria are therefore not incorporated into individual Business Cases, then this prohibits the potential for achieving value for money on a whole life cost basis.

Focus needs to be applied to specific procurement commodity streams to investigate the potential for partnering with Suppliers to achieve sustainability wins.

Engaging Suppliers

Level 2 Senior Manager dialogue with Key Suppliers commenced. To be continued by attention on specific procurement commodity streams to investigate the potential for partnering with Suppliers to achieve sustainability wins.

Measurement & Results

Level 1: Key Sustainability impacts of Procurement activity are identified on a case by case basis.

SDC question

Please indicate the coverage of your procurement assessment. For example, does this include your entire organisation? For Departments, does this include your Agencies and NDPBs without their own SDAPs? Furthermore, does this include all outsourced operations?

This assessment relates to the Department and the Department's contracts for outsourced services. It does not refer to Agencies or Non Departmental Public Bodies. Further information on specific agencies is available upon request.