

Sustainable Development Action Plan – Progress Report Summary

Organisation: **Communities and Local Government**

Department
 Non-Ministerial Department
 Executive Agency
 NDPB
 Other

Report of progress against: 2007-2008 Sustainable Development Action Plan

Progress Against Actions

Percentage of actions complete or on target: 75.0%
 Average impact rating* of all the actions which are complete or on target: 2.

*The Impact rating (1-4) is a self-assessment of the contribution to SD priority areas, and is not an indication of performance.

Embedding Sustainability

Self assessment ratings against four themes: To what extent is sustainable development embedded?

Policies	People	Operations	Governance, Monitoring and Reporting
On Course	Some Progress	On Course	On Course

Sustainable Procurement

Self assessment ratings against five themes of the Flexible Framework: What level has the organisation already reached? (Where an alternative sustainable procurement tool has been used, please provide an appropriate summary.)

People	Policy, Strategy & Communications	Procurement Process	Engaging Suppliers	Measurements and Results
Level 2 - Embed	Level 2 - Embed	Level 2 - Embed	Level 2 - Embed	Level 2 - Embed

Taking Stock

What have been the **highlights** of your organisation's sustainable development progress over the past year?

- Responding to the economic downturn, providing help to councils, communities and business, to help the recovery of a sustainable economy.
- Contributing to Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan and related strategies - including the Renewable Energy Strategy and Heat and Energy Saving Strategy, setting out the steps that we will take to achieve our climate change targets.

What are the key **challenges** for the future?

- Embedding SD principles throughout the organisation through a more systematic approach that builds on previous work.
- Bringing the requirements of carbon management and adaptation to climate change fully into our policy making and programme design and delivery.

What are the key things which have **helped and hindered** progress towards sustainable development?

Helps:

- Supportive senior management, and a focus on issues relating to climate change and sustainable development across the department, including through developing our governance and monitoring arrangements. This will provide a forum for discussion of SD issues, and guide future work to build SD capability in the department.

Hinders:

- Future work on sustainable development in the department will need to focus on building capability, including through reviewing and improving our communications with staff on SD. We intend to build upon this Progress Report to ensure that the SDAP becomes a 'living document' within the organisation, so that we avoid delay between publishing reports and reporting progress against these.

What **lessons have been learnt** from the progress report? How will these be taken forward in the next SDAP?

- In the future, the SDAP should be a 'live' document which can be used throughout the organisation for a number of purposes, including as a guide for new staff. We will make links between the SDAP and other key strategic documents, including our upcoming Climate Change Strategy.
- We need to review our commissioning process and presentation of actions in terms of Departmental DSOs to ensure that information can be updated frequently and new actions captured in a timely manner.
- We need to review and build upon internal communications and sources of information on sustainable development, to ensure that we can best assist our colleagues in contributing to further plans, and to ensure that the central SD team is kept informed of relevant developments as a matter of course.
- Information on any sustainability events (Sustainability Month/seminars/events/SDC news, etc) should be circulated especially to all contacts and across the whole Department in general.

Please summarise how the SDAP is aligned with and has helped your organisation to deliver its high level strategic objectives, including any Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs).

Our SDAP 07/08 set out what sustainable development means to CLG in terms of our leading role in promoting the social dimension of sustainable development - prosperous, cohesive and resilient places and local communities - and with a vital role to play in tackling the key environmental challenges through our work on, for example, housing, planning and building regulations. Our next SDAP will set out in its alignment with our PSAs and DSOs in further detail, and will be structured accordingly for ease of reference.

Authorised by: Hannah McNamara, Team Leader, Climate Change and Sustainable Development **Date:** 7/12/2009