







SDC Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) assessment

Organisation: Driving Standards Agency
Title of SDAP: DSA Sustainable Development Action Plan

SDAP Publication date: 17/07/2008
SDC Assessment date: January 2009

Please see "SDAP assessment methodology paper" for background to the assessment process, and for full details of how the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) has assessed, scored and rated this SDAP at the following webpage: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/sdap-tracker.html>.

SUMMARY

	Score	Rating
Coverage	2/4	
Strategic planning	9/12	
Actions	8/12	
Ownership, engagement and delivery	5/6	
Monitoring, review and reporting	2/6	
OVERALL	26/40	

ISSUES AND RISKS

Overall, this SDAP demonstrates that the DSA has a good understanding of how its business contributes to the UK Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the Future*. To strengthen the strategic approach to SD further the SDAP should have outlined how the DSA works with other DfT agencies to ensure joint commitments are delivered effectively.

There is evidence that the DSA is considering the sustainable development agenda as a whole as shown through the example of DSA's role in community safety. However, the SDAP could have been used to explore the DSA's pivotal role in reducing carbon emissions with actions in place for addressing this issue comprehensively along with its parent department, DfT.

DSA'S RESPONSE

"We welcome this process and recognise the value of an independent review of the DSA Sustainable Development Action Plan. The review is designed to be challenging and we are pleased with a strong amber rating. We plan to use this feedback to strengthen our future plans and we are in the process of ensuring our next Plan tackles those areas where the assessors felt we had not succeeded fully. We have a good dialogue with the Sustainable Development Commission and see this as an essential tool in continually improving our performance." (DSA, March 2009).

COVERAGE				
	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
1. Does the SDAP state clearly the period of time that it covers?			X	
2. Is it clear how the SDAP relates to the wider departmental family, and is SDAP coverage of the departmental family adequate?			X	

STRATEGIC PLANNING				
	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
3. Does the SDAP set out the organisation's strategy for contributing to the aims, objectives and commitments of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy?				X
4. Does the SDAP articulate the relevance of the five sustainable development principles to its core business, and set out how they are/will be mainstreamed and inform work?			X	
5. Is it clear how the SDAP will contribute to the organisation's high-level strategic objectives, including any Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs)?				X
6. Does the SDAP have clear objectives, and does it articulate clearly how these objectives were selected and provide a rationale for any gaps e.g. in the coverage of core business areas?				X
7. Does the SDAP link to other corporate plans or strategies?			X	
8. Does the SDAP include any commitment to work with other organisations or government bodies to deliver joint commitments, actions or initiatives?			X	

ACTIONS				
	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
9. Does the SDAP articulate how the sustainable development principles and priorities are/will be integrated into its policy and decision making, set out specific actions to achieve this, and explain how these actions have been selected?			X	
10. Does the SDAP include explicit actions to improve the sustainability of the organisation's procurement activity (linking to SPAP commitments where relevant), and explain how they have been selected?				X
11. Does the SDAP contain specific actions which demonstrate how the organisation will drive forward the sustainability of its operations (linking to SOGE commitments where relevant), and explain how they have been selected?			X	

12.	Does the SDAP contain actions relating to people, such as actions to engage staff in sustainable development, develop their skills and capability to support delivery of the SDAP, and to improve their general well-being in the work place?			X
13.	Are the actions outcome-focused?		X	
14.	Are the actions SMART?		X	

OWNERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

		<i>Score</i>		
		0	1	2
15.	Is it clear how the SDAP will be communicated to staff and stakeholders, and how the organisation will ensure they have the capability to put the SDAP's key messages to work?		X	
16.	Are the governance arrangements for supporting delivery of the SDAP clearly identified (e.g. boards, working groups), and is it clear who has overall responsibility for its delivery?			X
17.	Has the SDAP been signed off by a Minister, Permanent Secretary or Chief Executive, and has s/he provided a foreword?			X

MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING

		<i>Score</i>		
		0	1	2
18.	Does the SDAP present links to the previous SDAP (where relevant) or to the historical context of sustainable development in the organisation (if this is the first SDAP that the organisation has produced)?		X	
19.	Are the methods and structures for monitoring and reviewing the SDAP clearly identified (e.g. boards, working groups, stakeholder engagement), and is it clear who the findings will be reported to?		X	
20.	Is it clear how the outcomes of internal SDAP monitoring/review will feed back into the SDAP process, including a commitment to update the SDAP within its period of coverage, where required?	X		