

## SDC Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) assessment

**Organisation:** Home Office







**Title of SDAP:** The Sustainable Development Action Plan: 2007

**SDAP Publication date:** January 2008

**SDC Assessment date:** December 2008

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
<b>Coverage</b>	2/4	
<b>Strategic planning</b>	7/12	
<b>Actions</b>	5/12	
<b>Ownership, engagement and delivery</b>	4/6	
<b>Monitoring, review and reporting</b>	2/6	
<b>OVERALL</b>	20/40	

### ISSUES AND RISKS

While the traffic light assessment of this SDAP shows a mixed picture the strength of the governance structures in place for delivery of the actions within this Plan is to be commended.

A key issue with this SDAP is that the overall approach was very much 'business as usual'. This was particularly the case with regard to the policy actions outlined. These all related to work that the HO already does in its everyday working to achieve its core remit without stating how the HO considers the impact that its current (and future) work has on the broader sustainable development agenda.

An area which the HO could have explored further in this SDAP is the link between crime and the environment. Those who are most susceptible to crime are often the people who live in the poorest quality environments and so this SDAP could have been used to consider the role that the HO has to play in promoting policies that use environmental improvement to reduce crime.

### HOME OFFICE'S RESPONSE

"The Sustainable Development Action Plan is an important tool to engage and effect change throughout the department. We are pleased the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) has recognised the structures in place at the Home Office that deliver accountability and commitment, these are the key drivers to successfully complete many of the actions. In our next Action Plan we will address many of the SDC's comments and suggestions, especially around policy development and there being clear sustainable development objectives for the Department underpinned by SMART, outcome focused actions. The new Action Plan will be published soon and we look forward to continued engagement with our staff, agencies and the SDC as we deliver the Department's sustainability objectives." (Home Office, April 2009)

<b>COVERAGE</b>				
	<i>Score</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
1. Does the SDAP state clearly the period of time that it covers?			<b>X</b>	
2. Is it clear how the SDAP relates to the wider departmental family, and is SDAP coverage of the departmental family adequate?			<b>X</b>	
<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>				
	<i>Score</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
3. Does the SDAP set out the organisation's strategy for contributing to the aims, objectives and commitments of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy?			<b>X</b>	
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?			<b>X</b>	
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)?			<b>X</b>	
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?			<b>X</b>	
7. Does the SDAP link to other corporate plans or strategies?				<b>X</b>
8. Does the SDAP include any commitment to work with other organisations or government bodies to deliver joint commitments, actions or initiatives?			<b>X</b>	
<b>ACTIONS</b>				
	<i>Score</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
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?		<b>X</b>		
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?				<b>X</b>
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?			<b>X</b>	

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		