GUIDANCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SUBMISSIONS

Sustainable development (SD) is at the heart of UK domestic and international policy. It will be a major factor in potential solutions to global problems such as climate change, resource depletion, ozone depletion and global social inequalities.

The goal of SD is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. It is about finding a balance between economic growth, environmental stewardship and social progress, which is sustainable in the longer term.

Sustainable development is vital to MOD because:

- Without it there is a real risk that defence capability will be threatened as increasing environmental, social and economic pressures both exacerbate existing conflicts and contribute to new ones, having an impact on the operation of our equipment, estate, and people.

- Sustainable development makes good operational and business sense. Improvements in resource efficiency, for example in fuel or use of alternatives to fossil fuel in-theatre can increase operational agility and reduce risk and cost. Other benefits include improved reputation from managing impact on local communities and the stimulus for opportunities such as technological innovation.

- As a major landowner, employer, consumer of energy and procurer of goods and services, Defence has the potential to make a significant contribution to the Government's sustainable development agenda.

That is why it is MOD policy to *"embed SD considerations into spending and investment decisions"* and to "*carry out sustainability appraisals and environment assessments, as appropriate, for new or revised policies, programmes (including acquisition programmes), office relocations, new projects and training activities"*.[1]

Including SD in submissions

From October 09, all submissions, including to Ministers, must include a statement to confirm how SD issues have been taken into consideration during the development of the proposal or recommendation made in the submission. Where a proposal is going to have an impact on sustainability, or where SD has influenced or informed selection of the recommended way forward, your submission should describe how. But if SD is clearly not a factor, you should highlight this too.

How will I know if SD affects my submission and what should I include?

Taking SD considerations into account involves weighing the social and environmental as well as economic impacts in the decisions we make. While we are used to taking economic considerations into account, environmental issues might include how a proposal will affect energy consumption and hence emissions and the steps we are taking to manage the impact of any increase; the impact of using more water or natural resources; and how we manage the impact of any pollution and waste we generate. On the social side we need to consider how our actions will affect local communities. These are just a few illustrative examples.

If your submission is about a policy, plan, programme or project that has been subjected to sustainability appraisal in line with MOD policy, you can include a short summary of the findings. The single point of reference in MOD for appraisal tools to assess and manage any sustainability and environmental effects of developments and activities is the MOD Sustainability and Environment Appraisals Tools (SEAT) Handbook. It is produced by Defence Estates and is aimed at everyone working on policies, plans, programmes and/or projects throughout MOD. For anyone needing more specific guidance on equipment systems and services acquisition, the Project Oriented Environmental Management System helps to identify and assess environmental impacts and risks to those projects and the Acquisition

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[1] Secretary of State's Policy Statement on Safety, Health, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Defence dated 23 Jul 2009.

Operating Framework contains advice on embedding SD considerations in acquisition activities.

But if you are advising about other aspects of the Department's business (eg strategic policy, operations, the Defence budget, Defence relations, or some personnel matters) a short checklist is provided to help identify SD issues and opportunities. You should:

- compare the proposal in your advice against the checklist to see if it will have an impact on sustainability. If it will, then

- make sure your advice explains briefly the negative and/or positive impacts, and describes mitigating action taken or benefits realised, and then

- keep a copy of the checklist for your records.

You can find more information about SD, and on how to apply SD principles, below:

MOD Sustainability and Environment Appraisals Tools (SEAT) Handbook

MOD Acquisition Operating Framework – Sustainable Development

Project Oriented Environmental Management System

JSP 418 MOD Sustainable Development and Environment Manual Volume 1

MOD Sustainable Development Strategy

MOD Sustainable Development Report and Action Plan 2008

MOD Climate Change Strategy

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSIONS

PROPOSAL/ADVICE TITLE:	DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:	DATE:

Sustainability Theme	Issue Overview And Aim	Affected by proposal? Yes/No	If 'Yes', is impact Positive or Negative?	Outline actions, mitigation, benefits etc
Energy and Climate Change	Minimise total whole-life energy consumption and support the use of renewable energy rather than fossil fuel sources during concept/assessment as well as in-service phases, and improve resilience to climate change, including higher temperatures; changing patterns of precipitation; more frequent extreme weather events; rising sea levels.			
Sustainable Procurement	Ensure that all Departmental acquisition activities take full account of sustainable development principles and help meet sustainable development targets and objectives throughout the CADMID/T life of an acquisition, including encouraging suppliers to deliver sustainable solutions to meet defence requirements and by employing eco-design principles.			
Economy and Employment	Maintain and encourage a strong, diverse and stable UK economy with rewarding employment opportunities open to all, promoting equality and inclusion across the workforce with regard to race, disability, gender, age, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.			
Communities and Social Values	Promote the MOD as a good neighbour that works with local communities to minimise disturbance and maximise positive social, economic and environmental impacts, including with Armed Forces Veterans and young people, eg cadets.			
Strengthening International Peace and Security	Create conditions for sustainable development overseas through prevention or containment of violence; communicating the security risks posed by the effects of climate change and resource scarcity; protection of people and institutions; reform of security.			
Health, Safety and Well-being	Maximise opportunities to promote healthy, safe and secure environments in which to live and work.			
Infrastructure and Amenities	To support the welfare, cultural, recreational and infrastructure needs of military and civilian communities.			
Travel and Transport	Minimise amount of travelling required, thus reducing green house gas emissions, especially for air and road travel.			

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSIONS

PROPOSAL/ADVICE TITLE:	DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:	DATE:

Sustainability Theme	Issue Overview And Aim	Affected by proposal? Yes/No	If 'Yes', is impact Positive or Negative?	Outline actions, mitigation, benefits etc
Noise and Vibration	Minimise disturbance and annoyance to people and wildlife and stress to historic buildings caused by noise and vibration.			
Air Quality	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and pollution of air with gases and particulates.			
Water	Reduce total water consumption, maximise efficiency of use and encourage reuse while minimising the risks of water pollution and flooding in equipment production and acquisition, and for estate management practices.			
Waste	Reduce waste production throughout equipment lifecycle (concept to disposal) and promote reuse, recycling and recovery both in equipment acquisition and for estate management practices.			
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	Seek to protect habitats and species and promote opportunities to enhance and conserve wildlife.			
Construction and the Built Environment	Minimise expansion onto green sites, explore refurbishment before building fresh; design sustainability features into new buildings and promote recycling of materials.			
Historic Environment	To protect and where possible enhance the MOD historic environment in recognition that it is an integral part of cultural heritage and the role it plays in supporting defence capability.			
Landscape and Townscape	To protect and enhance the character of landscapes and townscapes.			
Geology and Soils	Identify, reduce, manage and mitigate the introduction of threats to soil which can reduce soil extent, diversity or quality.			

Note: This guide is to help staff drafting submissions, including to Ministers, to identify sustainable development aspects of their proposal so that they can include an assurance that they have been taken into consideration and explain any mitigations or benefits. It is not intended to be used as a tool to appraise or evaluate sustainability. MOD policy on sustainability appraisals can be found in the Secretary of State's Policy Statement on Safety, Health, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, and further guidance on assessing and managing the sustainability of any proposal, and on impact assessment, is available in the MOD Sustainability and Environmental Appraisal Tool Handbook.