

## Management Board

### Environmental Targets

*Parliamentary Estates Directors*

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on current and future energy and environmental targets.

#### **Conclusion and Decision**

2. The Board is invited to:
  - 2.1 note progress against the current energy and environmental targets
  - 2.2 note the sustainability targets through to 2020 taken from the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate.
  - 2.3 commission the Parliamentary Estates Directorate to present an overarching policy and action plan on Sustainability, with recommendations on appropriate new sustainability targets for the House.
  - 2.4 Confirm that Parliamentary Estates Directorate should speak to the House of Lords to discuss the adoption of a joint policy on Sustainability.

#### **Background**

3. The energy efficiency, renewables and carbon emission targets included in the two current Parliamentary Estate environmental policies are taken from DEFRA's Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. Our water efficiency and waste targets were set in June 2005.
4. The revised Sustainable Development Framework subsequently introduced additional, longer term sustainability targets through to 2020.
5. The targets under the Framework are set for 2010 and 2020 for these key areas:
  - Carbon emissions from buildings
  - Carbon emissions from road vehicles
  - Carbon neutrality
  - Energy efficiency
  - Waste
  - Recycling

- Biodiversity, and
  - Water consumption
6. An Energy and Water Saving Policy and a Waste Management Policy were adopted by both Houses in 2005. These policies set targets for the following areas.

### **Energy**

7. Our current energy efficiency targets is to reduce energy consumption measured in terms of kWh of fuel and electricity used per square metre of building floor area by 15% by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000.
8. We are unlikely to meet this energy efficiency target as our energy usage for 2006/07 was the same as the 1999-2000 base year figure; this still represents a considerable achievement when account is taken of the increased number of people using the Palace, and the additional demands for cooling, IT equipment, etc. A proposal to reduce electricity consumption by 10% through a voltage controller is being investigated; were this to be successful the 15% target by 2011 would be challenging but achievable.
9. DEFRA's revision has the following additional target
- Departments to increase their energy efficiency by 30% by 2020, relative to 1999/2000 levels.
10. This target would be extremely challenging. The feasibility study into sustainability measures for the Mechanical & Electrical Services project has identified potential energy efficiencies of 12%, but meeting this target would require considerable investment.
11. An additional energy target to be set is for the display of a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in each of our buildings by 1 October 2008; in a prominent place clearly visible to the public. This is required of all public sector occupiers of larger buildings.

### **Renewables**

12. The Parliamentary Estate's current renewables targets are:
- To source at least 10% of electricity from renewable sources; and
  - To source at least 15% of electricity from good quality combined heat and power (CHP) by 2010.
13. The first of these targets was met by switching the estate's electrical supplies on to green energy tariffs. The contract is let through the Office of Government Commerce and they have given assurances that 100% renewal tariffs will continue to be available.
14. DEFRA's revised targets state that the above two commitments continue until completion. The completion date for the first commitment is 31 March 2008.

### Water

15. Our current water efficiency target is to reduce annual mains water consumption by 12% by 2010-11, relative to 1999/2000. Last year we reduced the total amount of water used on the estate by 15% from the previous financial year. Our water consumption figures for 1999/2000 are unreliable and we are re-checking meter readings to establish the baseline figure.
16. DEFRA's revised targets are as follows:
- Reduce water consumption by 25% on the office and non-office estate by 2020, relative to 2004/2005 levels.
  - Reduce water consumption to an average of 3m<sup>3</sup> per person/year for all new office builds or major office refurbishments.
17. These targets are achievable with initiatives such as rainwater harvesting and water saving initiatives.

### Carbon emissions

18. The Parliamentary Estate's current carbon emissions target is to reduce annual absolute carbon emission, from fuel and electricity used in buildings, by 12.5% by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000. We have met this target by some way, as all our electricity is now sourced from renewable energy generation, and this has reduced the carbon footprint for our energy use by 70%.
19. DEFRA's revised targets have the following additional targets:-
- Reverse the current upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007.
  - Reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2020, relative to 1999/2000 levels.
  - Central Government's office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012.
20. The first of these targets has expired, but it is suggested that we should adopt this target with a date of March 2009.
21. These targets are achievable, and indeed we are well advanced towards them through our renewable energy use; we are already investigating renewable gas supplies to reduce our carbon footprint from energy use still further.

### Waste

22. Our current waste target is to recycle 44% of waste in 2007/08; the target of 39% for 2006/07 was met with the percentage of waste recycled rising to 40%.
23. DEFRA's revised targets are as follows:
- Departments to reduce their waste arisings by 5% by 2010, relative to 2004/2005 levels.
  - Departments to reduce their waste arisings by 25% by 2020, relative to 2004/2005 levels.

- Departments to increase their recycling figures to 40% of their waste arisings by 2010.
  - Departments to increase their recycling figures to 75% of their waste arisings by 2020.
24. To date our focus has been on recycling rather than waste reduction so the first two targets are achievable. We already meet the 40% waste target, but meeting the 75% target will require joint efforts with our waste disposal contractors to increase the number of waste streams that can be recycled.

### **The Issues**

25. The Houses' recent targets have followed some of those set in the Framework for Sustainable Development, but have focussed on the major impacts associated with managing the Estate. Areas such as travel, biodiversity and sustainable procurement have not been addressed.
26. There has been a lack of clarity over co-ordination of environmental activities and the recent Internal Audit report on Environmental Management identified the need to develop a clearly articulated corporate statement of vision, values and strategic direction relating to environmental performance, with ownership at Board level.
27. In the past individual Departments have focussed on their environmental impacts in isolation.

### **Recommendations**

28. The Board is asked to note progress against the current energy and environmental targets
29. The Board is asked to note the sustainability targets through to 2020 taken from the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate.
30. The Board is asked to commission the Parliamentary Estates Directorate to present an overarching policy and action plan on Sustainability, with recommendations on appropriate new sustainability targets for the House.
31. The Board is asked to confirm that Parliamentary Estates Directorate should speak to the House of Lords to discuss the adoption of a joint policy on Sustainability.

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