

Sustainability: A Reporting Framework for the Public Services

FOREWORD

Successful partnerships often flourish when both partners make distinctive contributions. CIPFA and Forum for the Future wanted to combine our complementary strengths to prepare this reporting framework, drawing on CIPFA's skills and experience in the public services, and Forum for the Future's knowledge and experience of sustainable development.

Sustainability is now more important than ever and impacts on everyone. Our actions will impact on the whole population and all future generations, and we are all responsible for ensuring that we live within our environmental limits and achieve a just society. We can achieve this by means of a sustainable economy, good governance and sound science.

In the UK, sustainable development is increasing in profile – the UK government and the devolved administrations have prepared a single UK strategy, highlighting a UK-wide commitment to pursuing a sustainable agenda across the whole public sector – government departments, local authorities, NHS organisations, and all other public service organisations. Forum for the Future makes an important contribution to this programme by supporting organisations to develop and implement sustainable strategies.

Many public sector organisations are already pursuing a sustainable development agenda, implementing initiatives that enable them to make a contribution to a more sustainable world.

However, in many instances they have not gone as far as their private sector counterparts when communicating their schemes and successes to stakeholders. This reporting framework hopes to be a first step towards redressing the balance. It provides the tools for organisations to help them introduce reporting processes that will highlight sustainable initiatives – the initiatives that in many cases they are already delivering or where clear objectives have already been agreed. The guidance included in this framework can help all public sector organisations, regardless of sector or size, to produce a sustainability report and to make their contribution to a more sustainable world.

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