

Best Value and Sustainability
Development Toolkit:
“Reflection and Application”

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Taking Stock

- **Changed context**
 - Politically
 - Sustainable Development policy
- **Evolution of the Toolkit**
- **Experience of practice**
- **Ways forward**

Contribution to Sustainable Development: Chapter 7

2003 Act S1.5: requires local authorities to “discharge duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development”.

This means:

- 1. Leadership commitment & integrated approach**
- 2. Embedded in all strategies and plans at corporate and services level**
- 3. Informed by communities and key local partners**
- 4. Quality of life indicators identified and reported**
- 5. Review and impact assessment**
- 6. Procurement strategy**
- 7. Management of resources**

Key Role of Local Government

- **Central to delivery of sustainable development**
- **Sustainable development integral to Best Value**
 - Common features: procurement; resource management; participation
 - Should be evident in all aspects
- **Reflects comprehensive scope of 'Choosing Our Future'**
 - Joint and joined-up working
 - Potential to re-shape local government

Evolution of the Toolkit

- **Best Value and Sustainable Development Guidance**
- **Partnership process over two years drew on:**
 - Exchange of good practice
 - Peer review: evaluation and learning
 - Used before finalised
- **Challenging remit**
 - Concise but also comprehensive
 - Self-directing but “don’t leave us to fill in the gaps”
 - Step by step: what would a sustainable social work services look like?

Specification of Guidance

- **Aim: Mainstream SD, building on BV requirement**
- **Style: clear, practical, concise, comprehensive**
- **Auspices: high level endorsement**
- **Content:**
 - **Statutory and related requirements**
 - **What a sustainable authority would look like**
 - **The transition towards sustainability:**
 - **steps or improvement paths for Chap 7 & for services**
 - **illustrate by case studies**
 - **Integrated approach to indicators & performance measures**
 - **Supporting processes**

Use of Toolkit

- **What's it for:**

- Mainstreaming SD: influence overall policy agenda
- Contribute to public sector reform
- Aid for Best Value audit process
- Useful for tasks which have to be done

- **Use it as a tool:**

- Raising awareness, and contributing to training
- Enabling managers to see how their work contributes to sustainable development
- Assessing stage reached and identifying priorities
- Developing sustainable development action plans, & linking to service improvement plans and community planning

Experience of practice

- **Positive aspects:**
 - Is being used, including for self assessment
 - Is useful
- **Debating points?**
 - Length & complexity: always a dilemma
 - Interpretation - 3 boxes: better if list evidence
 - Limited evidence of adaptation
- **Missing?**
 - Sustainable corporate / central services
 - Output framework
 - Emphasis on leadership & examples

Ways Forward: Starting Points

- **Support process**
 - Scottish Executive
 - Improvement Service / COSLA
 - SSN
- **Web-based version**
- **Training and exchange of experience**
- **In-depth applications by authorities**
- **Further tool-kits**
- **Annual review**

Ways Forward: Developing the Toolkit

- Using it
- Making it more accessible / user friendly
- Adapting it
- Updating it
- Scope for précis
- One tool amongst others

Ways Forward: Wider Context

- **Leadership pivotal**
- **Changes to Best Value / Public Sector Improvement Framework**
- **Role of climate change**
- **Retain comprehensiveness**
- **Broadening the appeal**

Guidance and Support

