Corporate report

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

Updated 23 May 2018

The UK is committed to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. The most effective way to do this is by ensuring that the Goals are fully embedded in planned activity of each Government department. The most effective mechanism for coordinating implementation is the departmental planning process.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a historic global agreement to eradicate extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and leave no one behind. Agreed by world leaders at the UN in 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs are universal with all signatories expected to contribute to them internationally and deliver them domestically.

The UK was at the forefront of negotiating the SDGs and will be at the forefront of delivering them. The UK lobbied hard to make sure the SDGs support the continuation of work undertaken through the MDGs.

Below you can see some of the ways that the Government is supporting the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

How we will achieve this

Evaluate effective competition in financial services and improve outcomes for consumers by supporting access to products and services, protecting vulnerable consumers and improving the fairness of the financial system

Lead the world in the hard work to end extreme child poverty

Continue delivery of the universal pensioner benefits, including Winter Fuel Payment, Cold Weather Payments for people on Pension Credit, Christmas Bonuses and cash funding of free TV licences for people aged 75 and over

Influence employers to recognise the positive benefits of an older workforce and break down preconceived opinions about employing people with a disability or long-term health condition

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

How we will achieve this

Develop a new environmental land management scheme to deliver outcomes from the 25 year environment plan

Ensure England has the regulatory and governance framework in place to protect consumer interests on food safety, compositional standards and labelling

Deliver the commitments in the cross-government Childhood Obesity Plan

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

How we will achieve this

Manage the risk of a major pandemic flu or emergency infectious disease outbreak

Fund research and development to tackle the most serious infectious diseases in developing countries, including malaria, tuberculosis, Ebola, neglected tropical diseases and drug-resistant infections (caused by antimicrobial resistance)

Improve healthcare outcomes for offenders in custody and improve pathways of care for those with severe mental health illness

Review the 2016 Psychoactive Substances Act and implement the Drug Strategy

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

How we will achieve this

Work to ensure inclusive and quality education for all

Build a sustainable future for libraries

Scrutinise the quality of technical education at higher levels through a qualifications review, focused on levels 4 and 5

Continue our ground-breaking reforms to apprenticeships, with quality at the core

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

How we will achieve this

Continue to lead global efforts to tackle sexual violence in conflict

Work across government to continue the successful work of specialist FGM and forced marriage units, refuges, rape crisis centres and other support services for victims (including against women and girls)

Maintain an equal number of women and men on the honours lists and improve wider diversity

Meet the specific needs of female, young, black, Asian and minority ethnic offenders and those with other vulnerabilities, including taking forward the government's response to David Lammy's report on disproportionality in the criminal justice system

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

How we will achieve this

Ensure resilient, sustainable, affordable water and sewerage services to homes and businesses in England, through a strategic framework for water sector planning and investment, strengthened regulatory framework and development of further market reforms

Work to ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

How we will achieve this

Ensure that every household and small business in the country has been offered a smart meter by the end of **2020**

Help deliver a doubling of global public funding of clean energy Research, Development and Demonstration under the Mission Innovation Initiative

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

How we will achieve this

Keep the Government on course to meet its fiscal rules by reducing the structural deficit below 2% of GDP and net debt falling in **2020-21**, putting the UK to a balanced budget by the middle of the next decade

Introduce new policies to improve skills in all parts of the country, create more connected infrastructure, harness innovation strengths, ensure land is available for housing growth, and strengthen our cultural assets

Work in partnership with NHS England, Public Health England, employers and local partners, to deliver the manifesto commitment to see 1 million more disabled people in employment over the next 10 years, as set out in the command paper, Improving Lives: The Future of Work, Health and Disability

Develop Local Industrial Strategies that identify priorities to improve innovation, infrastructure, skills and business growth

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

How we will achieve this

Work to increase investment in R&D across the economy to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 and work with industry to develop a roadmap to meet this target

Sign off over £50bn to overhaul the rail network in England and Wales over the next six years – increasing asset renewals, improving reliability and reducing disruption

Deliver the first Road Investment Strategy, commencing over 100 major road projects including major upgrades to the A303, A14 and new Lower Thames Crossing, and consult on the second Road Investment Strategy

Deliver a world-class broadband infrastructure

Drive economic and housing growth through a joined-up programme for the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge corridor

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

How we will achieve this

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Report on the UK's implementation of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Ensure that by 2022 50% of public appointees are female and 14% are from ethnic minority backgrounds, through the public appointments diversity action plans

Deliver a new UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support growth in local economies across the UK

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

How we will achieve this

Create a public estate for public benefit, through helping government departments to identify surplus and under-utilised land to deliver 55ha capital receipts by **2020** and free up enough land for housing

Work with Network Rail, Highways England and other DfT agencies to release surplus land to support the creation of new homes

Build community resilience, supporting them to be ready for, respond to, and recover from emergencies

Promote and protect the historic environment so that future generations can appreciate and enjoy heritage assets

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

How we will achieve this

Support the take-up of energy efficiency improvements in the owner-occupied, privately-rented and social housing sectors, with a view to as many homes as possible reaching Energy Performance Certificate Band C by 2030

Work together with business, academia and civil society to deliver our Clean Growth Strategy, building on our already world leader capabilities in areas including offshore wind, smart energy systems, sustainable construction and waste freeze. This will generate jobs and economic across the UK as the whole country benefits from our carbon economic opportunities

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

How we will achieve this

Publish the wider Clean Air Strategy, setting out how we will work towards our international targets to significantly reduce damaging emissions of the five pollutants pollutants on human health and the environment

Continue to support international action on climate change, while meeting our ambitious national targets

Lead cross-government action to develop and implement plans to build resilience to a changing climate and meet climate adaptation obligations under the UK Climate Change Act

Continue to lead international action against climate change

Deliver the Walkers and Cycling strategy, including the Bikeability programme which will deliver cycle training to 300,000 children during 2018/19

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

How we will achieve this

Safeguard and improve the quality of surface and ground waters through an effective and modern framework of protection and tools

Ensure cleaner, healthier, more productive and biologically diverse seas, while allowing marine and coastal industries to thrive

Work to prevent catastrophic environmental degradation, and tackle degradation of habitat and loss of species, including action to address marine plastic pollution

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

How we will achieve this

Protect, improve and expand England's woodlands, including planting 11 million trees this parliament and keeping the public forest estate in trust for the nation

Develop a professional, trusted emergency response capability that is well-prepared to respond rapidly and recover from floodwater, drought, environmental and chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incidents

Restore landscapes, to create more beautiful places with cleaner water and greater biodiversity through projects with our partners

Promote human and environmental security through the London Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in 2018, reducing threats to endangered species

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

How we will achieve this

Reduce threats to the UK and its interests overseas from Daesh, extremism and terrorism, weapons proliferation, focused on North Korea and Iran, and illegal migration and serious and organised crime

Overhaul the outdated system for identification and supervision victims of modern slavery

Improve the electoral system and maximise the participation of voters within the UK and for overseas electors

Ensure that the UK tackles barriers to trade and investment and secures trade arrangements that are in the best interests of developing countries

Strengthen our international defence partnerships through regional engagement strategies

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

How we will achieve this

Deepen relationships between states and regions, including through follow up work from the Commonwealth Summit in April 2018 which agreed action to help build more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fair societies

Maintain the commitment to spend 0.7% of our gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies, and keep aid our aid untied

Ensure developing countries have full access to global automatic tax information exchange systems and continue to build the capacity of tax authorities in developing countries

Strengthen the rules based international order including through capacity-building, international Defence trainers and nuclear weapon counter-proliferation

Build a domestic economic environment that supports businesses to export, and to trial new ways of strengthening trading partnerships, identify opportunities in overseas markets, and connect UK companies to these opportunities

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