



## Bedford Borough Council

Bedford Borough council used its sustainable development action planning workshops to enable the integration of sustainability into the Best Value process.

### Sustainable development action planning

Key staff from each council section attended two workshops run by the Sustainable Development Officer. At the first workshop staff were asked to think about their area of work and working practices, and to consider how these impacted upon sustainable development. Each section then recorded their positive and negative impacts on a matrix against a set of characteristics of a sustainable society. At a second workshop staff were asked to identify actions arising from the matrix to reduce their negative impacts and enhance their positive impacts. Each section drew up a list of actions towards which they would work.

Actions are monitored on a six-monthly basis by the Sustainable Development Officer, with progress reported to the sustainable development working group.

A comprehensive review of the sustainable development action plans was carried out at the end of 2003, and each council section has updated their matrix and adopted new actions to take the plan forward for the next 12 months.

### Property management review

The property management section's SDAP matrix identified, among other things, the following sustainable development impacts:

<b>Characteristic of a Sustainable Society</b>	<b>Property Management's Impact</b>
Use energy, water and natural resources efficiently.	60% of electricity used by the Town Hall complex is from renewable sources
Protect human health and amenity through clean, safe and pleasant environments.	Survey for Legionella undertaken to identify areas of potential risk.
Ensure access to good food, water, housing and fuel at a reasonable cost.	Provide land for social housing,
Help to reduce crime of the fear of crime.	Considered the environmental implications for crime e.g. improved lighting, removal of shrubberies from shopping areas. Provision of

	bollards where appropriate.
Create a vibrant local economy.	Business build lease scheme provides a flexible lease programme for unit factories.

**Property Management's actions to improve their impacts on sustainability include:**

- Continue to review work/improvements possible to property when vacant and before reletting/disposal
- To periodically investigate and improve the levels of security for Council owned premises to minimise the fear of crime, improve a sense of community and ensure the best use of land and buildings by maximising security
- To continue to maximise health promotion by continuing the deleterious and harmful product surveys and inspections, including asbestos and legionella, and by encouraging local business start-ups to remove travel stress and encourage local economic performance
- To add to the local economy and assist in local employment creation by continuing to positively promote the take up of the council's business builder lease option for new business start-ups
- To explore further, the opportunities for recycling within the Town Hall complex.

**Links to Best Value**

Having gone through the process of developing and revising the sustainable development action plans, each section is aware of how their work impacts on sustainability. This can be fed into Best Value reviews, and sustainability improvement actions into best value action plans. This ensures that sustainable development is at the heart of the Best Value process.

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