

## NHS Supply Chain Sustainable Development Strategy November 2008

NHS Supply Chain

### Introduction

NHS Supply Chain recognises the importance of Sustainable Development in creating a better quality of life now and for generations to come. It upholds the widely used definition of 'sustainable development' as 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. It recognises the need to align economic, social and environmental goals.

### Aim

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that activity within NHS Supply Chain takes into consideration economic, social and environmental impacts. This will assist in / enable our organisation to:

- stimulate innovation to deliver development which is sustainable both upstream and downstream our supply chain
- meet stakeholder expectations and ensure we remain a trusted supplier
- reduce risks associated with sustainability posed through the practises of supply chain partners, the sourcing of materials, the design & manufacture of goods and the transportation of materials.
- provide a consistent framework of policies and practises for achieving sustainable development across NHS Supply Chain.

### The Strategy

NHS Supply Chain's activity will contribute to the achievement of the UK Government's sustainable development objectives, by seeking to optimise the wider social and environmental benefits to society that can be derived from effective purchasing decisions, effective procurement procedures, effective operational processes and effective work within our local communities.

This strategy has been developed in order to meet the targets set within the Memorandum of Understanding on addressing the issue of Sustainable Development under the Agreement as signed by NHS Supply Chain and NHS Business Services Authority on 23 February 2007. It has also been developed to support the work being undertaken within DHL.

### Scope

This strategy covers NHS Supply Chain's total UK activities / business and encompasses three key areas of activity:

- sustainable procurement
- sustainable operations
- social & community.

Each of these three key areas is supported by a separate policy and action plan but in general we will:

- comply with relevant environmental legislation, regulations, codes of practice and industry standards
- adopt Government targets on sustainable development where appropriate
- implement and maintain an environmental management system certified to ISO14001
- consider the sustainability aspects of significant policy decisions
- set and review annual sustainability objectives and targets
- assess and seek to improve the sustainability impacts associated with the purchase and supply of products and services
- provide internal training and information sharing on the our sustainable development agenda
- support research and participate in discussions with stakeholders to improve our performance
- publicly report on sustainability performance annually.

### Delivery and measurement

Delivery against the actions plans is reviewed on a quarterly basis with NHS Business Services Authority's Supply Chain Management Division.