



## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

---

Finance and Central Services Department  
Head of Public Service Reform & Efficiency Group

Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Environment and Rural Affairs Department  
Head of Environment Group

Telephone: 0131-244-7964  
0131-244-0780

Fax: 0131-244-7020  
0131-244-7705

ruth.parsons@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
john.mason@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

September 2006

«Name»

«Organisation»

«Address1»

«Address2»

«Address3»

«Address4»

«Address5»

«Address6»

«Address7»

---

### DELIVERING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DUTY OF BEST VALUE

Sustainable development is at the heart of government policy in Scotland and central to securing the duty of Best Value. It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to contribute towards sustainable development under section 1 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, and a requirement for Accountable Officers in discharging their Best Value duties flowing from the Public Finance & Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. These requirements are also subject to audit.

Scotland's sustainable development strategy, *Choosing Our Future*, published in December 2005, sets out the Scottish Ministers' vision for a sustainable Scotland, and what action the Scottish Executive will take to make this happen. Sustainable development places challenges upon all public service organisations to ensure that they consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of their activities and decisions both in the shorter and longer term. This contribution must be secured as part of the continuous improvement process of Best Value, and to support this, guidance on the duty has been issued to Scotland's local authorities in 2004 and to Accountable Officers in the wider public sector in 2006.

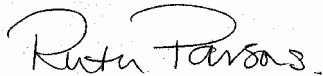
To help public service organisations to implement the duties, a pair of Toolkits on Best Value & Sustainable Development are being issued. These give practical advice, case studies and links to useful information, and have been prepared following extensive consultation. Publication of the Toolkit for **local authorities** has been facilitated by the Sustainable Scotland Network, supported by the Sustainable Development Commission, COSLA, WWF and the Scottish Executive and it can be accessed on the Sustainable Scotland website, [www.sustainable-scotland.net](http://www.sustainable-scotland.net). The Toolkit for public service organisations with **Accountable Officers**, such as NDPBs and Executive Agencies, has been prepared by the Best Value in Public Services Sustainable Development Steering Group, and can be accessed on the Scottish Executive website, [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/14838/12310](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/14838/12310).



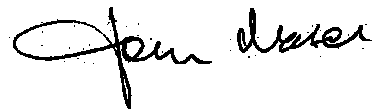
The publication of these two Toolkits fulfils the commitment made by Ministers in *Choosing Our Future* to support the publication of further practical advice to public service organisations on how to make sustainable development happen. We hope that your organisations will engage with this material, and that it will form a key element in enabling you to meet the requirement to mainstream sustainable development as part of your Best Value duties. This will be an on-going process and officials in the Scottish Executive and Sustainable Scotland Network will continue to work with your organisations over the coming months, and would welcome your feedback and comments on the Toolkits.

This work has been taken forward very much in a spirit of partnership and with strong agreement, consensus and commitment from the full diversity of Scotland's public service organisations. Maintaining that commitment, and 'making it happen' will ensure that together, Scotland's public sector can truly make its contribution to sustainable development.

Yours sincerely



RUTH PARSONS  
*Head of Public Service Reform & Efficiency Group*



JOHN MASON  
*Head of Environment Group*

