

Making government work better by...

# Equipping the country for **THE FUTURE**



**In a world where global challenges are speeding up the pace of change, how do we know if we've got the right policies for the next 10 years? In October 2006, the Cabinet set up the cross-departmental Policy Review to explore exactly this question, by examining every major area of government policy.**

Led by the Cabinet Office, this wide-ranging review assesses the policies of the last decade and pulls together recommendations for the long-term strategic priorities of the UK. Two Cabinet Office Ministers, Pat McFadden and Ed Miliband, are coordinating the Policy Review to bring in a range of views from across government. This has involved seminars with ministers discussing topics such as NHS reforms, child poverty and behavioural change.

The six reviews, led by ministerial working groups, cover economic dynamism; energy and the environment; public services; security, crime and justice; the role of the state; and Britain in the world; and aim to address how the country can prepare for the impact of long-term changes. The Strategy Unit, along with other parts of the Cabinet Office, including

No.10 and other departments, have been supporting the ministerial groups and wider consultation and engagement on the review.

Public input to this review has been keenly sought and the review team has worked with Ipsos MORI to bring together a cross-section of 100 members of the public to consider three key strands of the public services working group: encouraging culture change; developing a new relationship between the citizen and the state; and improving customer care.

A national Citizens Forum was held at 10 Downing Street on 3 March to give people a chance to have their say and help the Government learn lessons that can be applied in future policy making. As Pat McFadden explains, 'Our Citizens Forums will be faced with real-life examples of the choices government faces.' The No.10



website, [www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk), has also helped people join the debate with online seminars and web chats involving senior ministers.

The review process will conclude in late spring 2007 and outputs are being published in a series of papers. The Policy Review process is informing the broad approach the Government will take across policy areas over the coming decade, and the outcomes of the review will feed into a range of different pieces of government business, including the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, Public Service Agreement targets, departmental plans and strategies, White Papers and other aspects of government business.

Further background on the Policy Review, as well as outputs published so far, are available at [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy\\_review](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy_review)

**It's been sincerely great to meet Cabinet ministers and to meet peers and different types of people from all across the country and share opinions.**

**I actually came here feeling like a statistic and I'm going away feeling like a citizen.**

**We had quite an in-depth conversation on all the subjects. There was a bit of disagreement but at the end of the day it was fantastic.**

**What's really struck me is what a difficult job the Government have truly got in terms of coming up with a blanket policy.**

Quotes from some of the members of the public who attended the Downing Street forum