This document is part of a series of Departmental Reports (Cm 6811 to Cm 6838) which, along with the Main Estimates 2006-07, the document Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2006 and the Supplementary Budgetary Information 2006-07, present the government's expenditure plans for 2005 to 2008.
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Forestry Commission

Departmental Report 2006

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury by Command of Her Majesty
May 2006
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Defra opened up public access to mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land.
Foreword by the Secretary of State

Since the publication of the *Five Year Strategy* in 2004, Defra has made significant progress under the leadership of Margaret Beckett and her Ministerial team. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key achievements over the past year:

- the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act gave local authorities further powers to address issues such as litter, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles;
- the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act established Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities as independent Non-Departmental Public Bodies;
- the successful launch of the second phase of the Warm Front Scheme – the scheme will tackle fuel poverty by assisting vulnerable, fuel poor households in a targeted and sustainable way;
- agreement on lifting the ban on the export of beef and live cattle to the rest of the EU, reopening markets for UK farmers;
- achievement of our Public Service Agreement target to open up public access to mountain, moor, heath and down, and registered common land;
- the launch of the Marine Fisheries Agency to improve face-to-face delivery for the individual fisherman and the fishing industry; and
- agreement under the UK Presidency of a new EU Chemicals regulation and significant reform of the outdated sugar regime.
It is vital we continue to deliver progress right across Defra’s priorities from food and farming to animal welfare and rural affairs. Failure in any part of our work could undermine the impact of the Department. In recent years, the Department has strengthened its risk management and contingency planning. This is something we must continue to focus on over the next year, particularly in the face of the ongoing threat of Avian Influenza.

My top priority will be to continue to make progress on climate change domestically and internationally. Without local and national action, we lose our power and leverage internationally. Without action on a global scale, we cannot convince British citizens and businesses that their actions will be backed up by others. Every part of Defra has a part to play.

The next year will be challenging – from the Single Payment Scheme to the Rural Development Programme, the creation of Natural England to the Waste Strategy.

I will be working with colleagues across Government, and with our international partners, to forge an environmental contract that develops the roles and responsibilities of individual citizens, businesses, and government. We have the opportunity and responsibility to develop a long-term framework for change. I look forward to working with you over the next year.

Rt Hon David Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Introduction

Defra’s Departmental Report (Cm 6827) sets out its progress against the Public Service Agreement objectives and targets reached under the 2004 Spending Review. It also reports on other areas of activity, which support the achievement of the Department’s aim and strategic priorities.

Chapter 1

In Chapter 1, the Department’s key aim of sustainable development and its strategic priorities are set out, highlighting how they will achieve a range of outcomes which together will make a difference in key areas.

The report looks at Defra’s vision\(^1\) for the future and how its values\(^2\), structure and ability to work with others will enable the Department to achieve its aim and strategic priorities. In particular it highlights that the pursuit of environmental, economic and social sustainable development is vital to achieving this vision.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 focusses on Defra’s over-arching aim to promote Sustainable Development across Government and in the UK.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 sets out Defra’s progress\(^3\) in delivering its aim and 2004 Spending Review Public Service Agreement targets by reference to the Department’s strategic priorities. It also covers other key areas of the Department’s work, which support its objectives, and sets out key achievements during 2005-06 and a forward look to 2006-07.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 sets out Defra’s contingencies for emergency preparedness.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 focusses on Defra’s Executive Agencies and how they work in partnership with the core Department to achieve its aim and strategic priorities.

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\(^1\) Defra’s vision is available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/aims/vision.htm


\(^3\) The Department also provides regular on-line updates against its Spending Review targets. These can be found on HM Treasury’s website at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/performance/
Chapter 6

Chapter 6 focuses on how Defra works with its other delivery partners. These include the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Nature, its largest Public Corporation, British Waterways and the Rural Development Service. The Chapter sets out their relationships with Defra and how they work together to achieve their shared aims and objectives.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 looks at the management of the Department and the progress of Defra's Delivery Strategy.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 focuses on Better Regulation and the Hampton Review.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9 sets out in detailed tables Defra's staffing and expenditure plans for the remainder of the 2004 Spending Review and reports on the Department's expenditure and resource plans over the next three years.