

## Chapter 3

# Sustainable development is...?



Sustainable development...

“...will enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life for future generations.”

(Extract from the UK Strategy for Sustainable Development – ‘Securing the Future’.)

For DWP, sustainable development is about achieving a fair balance between people and community, economic and environmental factors in all our internal and external policies, in our decision making and procurement, so that sustainable development principles become intrinsic, not additional, to all that we do. Where a natural balance does not occur between the three elements, all practicable steps must be taken to mitigate and minimise the impact of one on the others.

Our core business is undoubtedly concerned with people and community issues, through benefit and pension provision and support into employment and training. Improvements in the administration of those provisions are constantly sought and we strive to build in greater social elements to procurement decisions and to push those improvements down the supply chain.

Economically, we must ensure that taxpayers’ money is wisely spent, giving value for money and ensuring our spending decisions do not deplete the environment or impoverish communities.

In making decisions, environmental considerations include the careful use of natural and finite resources, reducing pollution, waste and greenhouse gas emissions and stewardship of the natural environment and biodiversity.