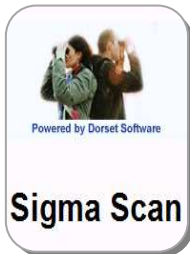


# uk government futures

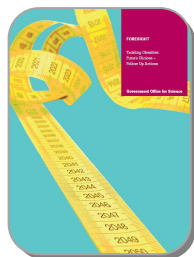
Outsights is conducting an extensive programme of work with the UK Government as part of an ongoing initiative to broaden the use of futures thinking across Whitehall, using the groundbreaking [Sigma Scan](#). The [Foresight Annual Review 2007](#) surveys the range of projects. An e-version of this paper is available on [www.outsights.co.uk](http://www.outsights.co.uk).



## sigma scan

Outsights has led the development of one of the world's leading and most authoritative scans of future issues and trends – the Sigma Scan ([www.sigmascan.org](http://www.sigmascan.org)). Commissioned by the Horizon Scanning Centre to look ahead up to 50 years, the Sigma

Scan is a quality assured synthesis of some of the world's best Horizon Scanning sources. It covers future issues and trends across the full public policy agenda, including a broad and deep scan of the key developments in science and technology. It is drawn from a range of sources including think tanks, academia, mainstream media, corporate foresight, expert/strategic thinkers, government sources, alternative journals, charities/NGOs, blogs, minority communities, and futurists.

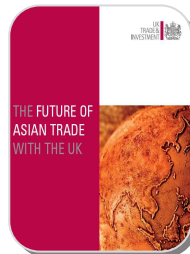


## tackling obesity: future choices

As part of a major Foresight programme under the leadership of former Chief Scientist Sir David King, the Tackling Obesity Project produced a long-term vision of how to deliver a sustainable response to obesity in the UK over the next 40

years. Using Scenario planning and Systems analysis, Outsights and its partner gathered evidence from across a wide range of disciplines, produced a strategic view of this issue, and analysed how future levels of obesity might change and the most effective future policy responses. This involved designing and facilitating numerous workshops, across Government and with key stakeholders inside and outside of the obesity domain, including a diverse group of academics and scientists.

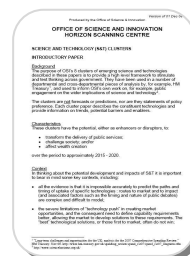
The policy response in the light of future challenges is highlighted in the [Obesity Action Plan](#) from Foresight. The cross Government strategy, [Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives](#), for instance, has introduced [compulsory cooking in schools](#).



## future of asian trade with the uk

The Asia Task Force (ATF) was established as a forum to make practical recommendations on how to boost UK trade and investment with Asian markets. One of the objectives was to identify the current and [future challenges](#) of UK companies

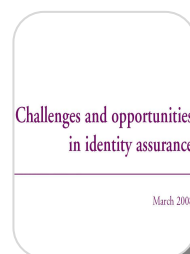
operating in the Asian markets, and to suggest practical ways to anticipate and overcome them. Outsights designed and conducted a workshop programme with top Government officials and key businesses in five key Asian countries to meet the objectives of the Task Force.



## science & technology clusters

The UK Government Office for Science worked with Outsights to identify key science and technology clusters to anticipate developments in these areas affecting wealth creation, changing society or transforming public services in the decade to 2017.

Outsights facilitated the workshops, involving senior officials from a number of Government Departments and scientific institutions, and wrote up the output. The science clusters formed the framework for the [Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review 2006](#) (p. 69-72). Outsights went on to develop identify technology and innovation issues for the CBI's Innovation, Science and Technology Committee as input to the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.



## future of identity management

By looking at the broader future challenges in society and the future of technology, Outsights worked with Sir James Crosby and the Treasury team on his independent review, ['Challenges and opportunities in identity assurance'](#). This review

looked at how to maximise the economic and social advantage to the UK from having the most effective ID assurance systems and infrastructure.

# uk government futures

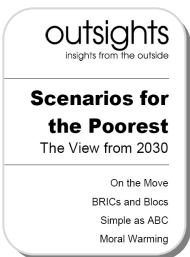


## future international environment 2010-2020

Outsights developed four scenarios for the [future international environment \(to 2020\)](#) for use by UK Government in assessing its strategy and policies. The scenarios - developed for DIUS's Horizon

Scanning Centre - reflect and illustrate key uncertainties identified in international governance, the world economy, security and the environment.

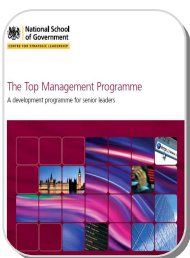
Their purpose is to explore some of the permutations of a wide range of drivers that will determine the shape of our future international environment. The process involved key stakeholders (experts, policy makers, industry representatives) from across the spectrum, in a number of workshops run by Outsights. In addition, ten papers on key dimensions of uncertainty were written by Outsights (forthcoming).



## future of the poorest to 2030

Outsights developed a number of scenarios for the [future of the very poorest](#), to stimulate new thinking and to look for ways in which the future can be changed. An implicit assumption behind the focus on the very poorest is that even if the

Millennium Development Goals are reached by 2015, many of the poorest will miss out entirely or remain in serious poverty. A wide and varied group of 70 stakeholders from 10 countries participated in the workshops or as interviewees in the project.



## national school of government

The [Top Management Programme](#) (TMP) is the Cabinet Secretary's flagship leadership development programme for the most senior leaders in the Civil Service and the private sector. Outsights' future thinking module has enabled

participants to debate the uncertainties of the future, and supports them with tools to anticipate, interpret and act on potential future developments in order to make sounder decisions today. Courses are run in the UK and Abu Dhabi.

## other projects include

business council for britain 2020 vision  
future of communications convergence  
future of food  
future of uk engagement with health  
future technologies and justice  
uk futures: economy & society 2030

## departments using future thinking

cabinet office  
department for business, enterprise and regulatory reform  
department for communities and local government  
department for culture, media and sport  
department for innovation, universities and skills  
department for international development  
department of health  
foreign and commonwealth office  
hm treasury  
home office  
ministry of defence  
ministry of justice  
national institute for clinical excellence

## further reading

[scenario planning](#)

[Learning from the Future](#)

Scenario planning in practice in the private sector.

## [Future of the Global Economy to 2030](#)

Four futures looking beyond the global 'credit crunch' at what is driving change in the global economy.

## [EBRD Futures 2025](#)

Key driving forces for emerging markets from the Balkans to Mongolia.

[horizon scanning](#)

[Tomorrow's World Today](#)

The UK government's bid to use horizon scanning to better plan for the future.

## [21 Drivers for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century™](#)

A future-orientated scan of 21 key forces shaping the century, from the rise of the BRICs to the explosion of information.