

# Here today, here tomorrow

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## Here today, here tomorrow

When the Local Agenda 21 Strategy, 'Here today, here tomorrow', was first agreed in April 2000, it was promised to review the strategy after five years of operation.

This version of the strategy is the result of a comprehensive review and will be implemented over the next five years. The next review of the strategy will be in 2010.

The first aim of the strategy is to create a new vision for the environment in the future and on which the LA21 Strategy should focus.

The second aim is to set a framework for integrating the principles of sustainable development into the day to day working of the Council and its partner organisations.

The Council's policy document Towards 2010 has a vision for Gateshead where communities live in and contribute to a clean, pollution free, attractive and sustainable environment.

The Local Agenda 21 strategy is designed to help deliver this vision and at the same time integrate national, regional and local policies, which benefit local people and contributes to regional, national and the global environment. It contributes to the UK Strategy on Sustainable Development, the UK commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and helps in tackling climate change.

It also forms the basis of the Environment Partnership's themed contribution to the Gateshead Strategic Partnership.

If you want more information about what Gateshead Council and its partners are doing around environmental issues or would to receive additional copies of this strategy or a summary document of the 'Local Agenda 21 2005 Strategy', please contact Tim Deveaux on:

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## Different formats

If you would like to have this leaflet in large print, Braille, on audiotape or in a different language please contact Tim at the number above.

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## Adapting to Climate Change

### Objectives

- To limit the impact of adverse weather on local people, local property and local wildlife
- To consider future weather patterns in long term plans for Gateshead
- To raise awareness of the local threats of adverse weather and how to deal with them

### Introduction

Climate change has been the subject of national and international political focus in 2005. Most of the debate has been about reducing the emission of greenhouse gases which cause global warming and in turn climate change.

There has also been some media focus on the natural weather disasters in this country (for example, Floods in Corbridge and Carlisle) and in other parts of the world.



Dealing with this extreme weather will become more important as weather patterns change over the next few decades.

### Progress since 2000

This is a new objective for the Local Agenda 21 Strategy. In Sept 2001 the Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which committed us to the production of an action plan on adapting to climate change.

'Coping with the Effects of Climate Change - an action plan for Gateshead' was launched in April 2004 outlining the process that was needed to assess the impact on its services and on local people, property and wildlife. That process is still going on and will be integrated into policies, plans and operations when appropriate and when a full assessment has been completed. The assessment is likely to be completed by the end of 2005.

### Actions over the next 5 years

The Council and its partners will develop and implement the 'Coping with the Effects of Climate Change' action plan. This will:

- Incorporate climate change issues into the delivery of obligations under Civil Contingencies Legislation.
- Build climate change predictions into long-term planning processes and decision making.
- Develop self-help capacity within the community to deal with adverse weather.

### Performance Indicators and Targets

These will be identified and developed over the next five years.

## Air Quality and Noise Management

Objectives:

- To improve air quality by reducing or controlling levels of air pollutants
- To keep the public informed about air quality in Gateshead
- To protect the people who live or work in the Borough, or are visiting, from unnecessary exposure to noise
- To seek to reduce ambient noise levels where it is reasonable to do so.

## Air Quality

### Introduction

Good air quality is vital for healthy people and a healthy environment. There is firm evidence to link high levels of airborne pollutants such as sulphur and nitrogen oxides and particulate matter (dust) to the incidence of respiratory diseases. These pollutants can also have a detrimental impact on sensitive wildlife habitats.

Air quality is monitored at four local stations, which form part of the Tyne and Wear monitoring network. Monitoring at these stations in 2004 showed an overall improvement in air quality compared to 2003, with the number of days when pollution was moderate or high similar to that in 2002. However, the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide are gradually increasing.

### Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

Two rounds of review and assessment of air quality in Gateshead have been done. The first in 2001 concluded that there was no need to declare air quality management areas and breaches of air quality limits were not expected in the next 5 years. To date there have been no breaches of air quality standards in Gateshead.

The second assessment of air quality has recently been completed and it was concluded that an air quality management area in the centre of Gateshead needs to be declared. The details of this are to be worked up. A Tyne and Wear air quality strategy has also been agreed.

Monitoring facilities have been upgraded and extended. The levels measured in several sites in the Borough are contained on the Council's website: [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

A Tyne and Wear air quality website is also available [www.enviweb.sunderland.ac.uk](http://www.enviweb.sunderland.ac.uk)

The Council is meeting its targets in inspecting local companies for compliance with environmental legislation. Most Council fleet vehicles now run on biodiesel.



## Actions over the next 5 years

The Council and its partners will:

- Continue to carry out updated screening and assessment of air quality in Gateshead. Further assessments are due in 2006 and 2009.
- Develop the use of Air Quality Management Areas in maintaining air quality in the Borough. Further detailed assessment for Nitrogen Dioxide will be carried out and, if necessary, an action plan will be produced with the aim of reducing levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in the area. This will involve tackling local air pollution from traffic affecting the health of residents living on busy roads.
- Ensure that air quality remains a key objective of the Local Transport Plan.
- Continue with partnership working with other Tyne and Wear local authorities to develop a Tyne and Wear Air Quality Strategy by the end of 2005.
- Continue to expand the scope of air quality monitoring in Gateshead.
- Continue to use relevant legislation to maintain air quality.
- Liaise with the Environment Agency in regulatory matters
- Consider and encourage voluntary measures in areas such as fleet management and commuter policy.
- Raise awareness through education of the dangers of air pollution and how it can affect health.
- Inform the public about levels of air pollutants through various media.

		Gateshead				
Pollutant / Site	UK Standards	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
NO <sub>2</sub> A1 Dunston	Average - 40 micrograms/m <sup>3</sup>	31	23.8	27	29.9	39
	Maximum - 200 micrograms/m <sup>3</sup>	97.5	106.8	117.1	137.9	148.6
PM10 (dust) A1 Dunston	Average - 40 micrograms/m <sup>3</sup>	20.5	17.8	24	26.5	22.4
	Maximum - 50 micrograms/m <sup>3</sup> - 35 excedences allowed per year	52.4	65.4	67.4	91.3	60.3
	(number of breaches in brackets)	-1	-8	-6	-25	-7

## Targets

Days when air pollution was moderate or higher (2005-2010)

### Nitrogen Dioxide Urban peak levels

National standard 200 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> - 1 hour mean - not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year

### Nitrogen Dioxide Urban annual average levels

National standard 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> - annual mean

### Particle dust (PM10) Urban peak levels

National standard 50 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> - 24 hour mean - not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year

## Noise Control

### Introduction

Noise can affect a person's health and quality of life by disturbing work, rest, sleep and communication. Noise control policies are integral to many procedures within the Council such as Licensing and Planning applications.

### Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

A mediation service was introduced in 2001 and improvements were made to the registration scheme for intruder alarms and advice issued on how to complain about them. The Council continues to work with construction contractors to prevent noise problems occurring and all planning applications are monitored for the effects of noise on the community. Noise complaints continue to be dealt with through a rigorous procedure.

## Actions over the next 5 years

### The Council will:

- Continue to investigate noise nuisance complaints and improve the service by upgrading and adding to monitoring equipment, and review the need to adopt additional measures to deal with noise problems.
- Encourage the construction industry to use quieter techniques to reduce the impact of construction noise
- Continue to ensure that all new planned development is assessed for the effects of noise on the community and that the appropriate measures are incorporated to reduce impacts
- Ensure that licensed premises do not give rise to unreasonable noise disturbance. The effects of the new Licensing system on the demand for noise control assessments are yet to be seen.
- Encourage quieter techniques to be used in the design or alteration of the transport infrastructure
- Continue to advise and enforce the use of soundproofing in appropriate situations.
- Raise the awareness of the dangers of excessive noise exposure.
- Keep a watching brief on the implications of the implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive

## Performance indicators and targets

Year	2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5
Domestic Complaints	499	473	576	639	436
Nuisance	27	20	50	25	11
Traffic	7	7	2	6	NA
Construction	18	42	27	35	NA
Commercial / Industrial	107	75	84	111	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>NA</b>

The increase in complaints is thought to be due to a combination of raised profile, a less tolerant society and communities looking to agencies to deal with problems.

### Targets

The Council has a reactive service to deal with noise complaints and a proactive service to minimise potential nuisance and disturbance.

The service targets are:

- To respond to requests for the noise control service within two working days
- To respond to planning and licensing consultations within identified deadlines

### Biodiversity - the Variety of Animals and Plants

Objectives:

- To maintain and enhance the variety of animals and plants in Gateshead
- To maintain and improve habitats and protect species
- To generate greater awareness of local wildlife and global biodiversity
- To create greater public access to wildlife and wildlife habitats, where appropriate
- To maintain or improve water quality in rivers, streams and standing water.

### Introduction

The variety of animals and plants in an environment is a fundamental indicator of sustainable development and the quality of life of local people. Good progress has been made in most areas of biodiversity in the Borough with several sites maturing and becoming very popular with local people. Community work has increased, with many schools and local groups engaging in work with wildlife and their habitats.

## Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

- Derwenthaugh Park and Watergate Forest Park were completed in 2000 and 2001 respectively.
- The Council has worked with the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP) Implementation Officer to implement the actions in the DBAP relevant to Gateshead.
- The Next to Nature environmental outreach project began in 2002 and continues working with local communities in urban areas. This project has resulted in the declaration of 5 new Local Nature Reserves in urban Gateshead.
- Wildspace funding from English Nature has also funded access improvements at Shibdon Pond and Ryton Willows Local Nature Reserves.
- Land at Lamesley Pastures and Burdon Moor has been acquired to enhance grassland and create wetlands (Lamesley) and develop lowland heath with associated grassland and wetland habitats (Burdon Moor), both with managed access for the public (total area - 33 hectares).
- The Council is working with the Environment Agency on the River Team Revival project. It is also working with the Great North Forest to assist in achieving its objectives.
- Ryton Willows has also been declared a Local Nature Reserve. Clara Vale and Shibdon Pond Local Nature Reserves have been extended.
- A biodiversity action plan for Saltwell Park was produced - this was one of the first for an urban park.
- The North East Red Kites project was launched in 2004.

## Actions over the next 5 years

The Council and its partners will:

- Designate at least 5 further sites as Local Nature Reserves, including Blaydon Burn.
- Work in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust to protect Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCl)s, by informing all landowners of designations and providing management advice for all sites (there are currently 121 SNCl)s in the Borough).
- Commit resources to ensure that all Council-owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Gateshead are in favourable condition or unfavourable recovering condition as defined and monitored by English Nature.
- Ensure that the total area of land designated as SNCl)s is maintained or increased.
- Contribute significant resources (finance and staff time) to support the Durham Biodiversity Partnership, in implementing the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP).
- Contribute fully to the regular revision of the DBAP.
- Contribute directly to the delivery of the DBAP through a series of habitat and species-related actions. Examples include the conservation of declining farmland bird species.
- Encourage landowners to carry out positive management to safeguard vulnerable habitats, such as ancient woodlands and herb-rich lowland meadows.
- Continue and develop environmental outreach work through initiatives such as the Next to Nature project and Watergate Watchers and ensure their long-term sustainability as mainstream projects.

- Implement works in accordance with accessibility audits undertaken on Next to Nature and other countryside sites, to create access for all.
- Provide appropriate new access to enable the public to enjoy the habitat creation projects at Burdon Moor and Lamesley Pastures.
- Improve access on other countryside sites such as the Derwent Walk Country Park, Ryton Willows and Watergate Forest Park where resources allow.
- Support regular Durham Biodiversity Partnership/Durham Wildlife Trust public participation wildlife surveys, and offer support for the work of the proposed Tyne and Wear Museums Environmental Resource Centre.
- Provide new on-site interpretation on at least 5 countryside sites.
- Support the successful implementation of the North East Red Kites Project.
- Provide a regular wildlife/biodiversity update as part of the countryside section in Council News.
- Further develop the capacity of the Gateshead Countryside Volunteers to deliver practical management for wildlife and access work on countryside sites, by investing in transport and staff support.
- Continue to implement the River Team Revival Project, including the further development of Lamesley Pastures and Norwood Nature Park.
- Contribute to the River Team Catchment Plan.
- Publish results of water quality monitoring.
- Encourage all agencies to adopt practices which protect vulnerable species during developments.

- Develop environmental schemes in the urban and urban fringe environment, with the aim of increasing accessibility and enhancing biodiversity at sites including Blaydon Burn, Windy Nook and the proposed Wardley Manor Country Park.

Gateshead Council will ensure that its wider activities are also 'wildlife friendly', supporting the implementation of the DBAP and avoiding adverse impacts on local wildlife or global biodiversity. This will include revising grounds maintenance plans in consultation with the Durham Biodiversity Partnership, to ensure good environmental practice.

Northumbria Water and the Coal Authority will create 5.6 hectares of new reedbed at Lamesley as part of solution to treat minewater and final sewage effluent.

Northumbrian Water will continue to enhance their operational sites within Gateshead for wildlife through tree planting and creation of new hedgerows. For example at Lockhaugh sewage treatment works - over 1000 native trees and shrubs have been planted to enhance biodiversity on the site.



## Targets

- Designate at least 5 further sites as Local Nature Reserves by the end of 2010.
- Inform all known landowners of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance designations and provide management advice if required, for all sites, working in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust, by the end of 2008.
- Ensure that all Council-owned Sites of Special Scientific Importance in Gateshead are in favourable condition or unfavourable recovering condition, as defined and monitored by English Nature, by 2010. Working with Durham Biodiversity Partnership, ensure completion of DBAP review by the end of 2006.
- Complete the environmental improvements of the Blaydon Burn Project by the end of 2010.
- Complete access improvements at Burdon Moor and Lamesley Pastures by the end of 2006.

## Energy Conservation

### Objective

- To reduce energy consumption, ensure energy is used efficiently, encourage the increased use of renewable energy and encourage and adopt renewable energy generation projects in the Borough.

### Introduction

We need to become more energy efficient, increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable resources and develop an effective renewable energy generation infrastructure.

Saving energy not only reduces the amount of greenhouse gases in the air it also saves money. Good progress has been made in achieving the targets for energy efficiency

set by the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. The act required local authorities to make a 30% energy efficiency improvement in housing within 15 years (i.e. by 2020). By April 2005 the people and homes in Gateshead had saved 18.2%.

The generation of renewable energy has been the topic of debate throughout the country over the last few years and the debate will continue indefinitely as we enter an era of transition between using fossil fuels inefficiently and producing energy more efficiently and generating renewable energy.

### Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

Approx. 13,200 homes have been provided with cavity wall insulation and/or loft insulation. Over 20,000 energy saving light bulbs have been distributed to Gateshead residents. An insulation standard of cavity wall insulation and 250 mm of loft insulation for all homes has been adopted for the Decent Homes programme. All programmed Council house central heating refurbishments and other Council buildings since 2000 have replaced grossly inefficient coal & gas fired boilers with high efficiency & condensing boilers.

A Fuel Poverty Strategy was agreed by the Council in 2001.

In October 2004 an energy and water policy was agreed by the Council for its own buildings.

## Biodiversity Indicators

	2001	2002	2003	2004
% length of rivers and canals in good and fair quality grades in Environment Agency Chemical and biological General Quality Assessment From Environment Agency	81% Chemical 40% Biological	58% 40%	54% 28%	Not available Not available
The area of woodland in the Borough	1121 hectares	1121 hectares	1121 hectares	1121 hectares
The area of lowland meadows and pastures	283 hectares	283 hectares	283 hectares	283 hectares
The area of ponds (and wetlands)	22 hectares	22 hectares	22 hectares	22 hectares
Local Nature Reserves hectares per 1,000 population	0.3 hectares (0.285)	0.3 hectares (0.285)	0.47 hectares (0.285)	0.47 hectares (0.285)
Sites of Nature Conservation Importance From Countryside service				121 sites 1786 hectares
Sites of Special Scientific Interest From English Nature	8 sites 151.5 hectares 94.4% (62%) in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	8 sites 151.5 hectares 94.4% (62%) in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	8 sites 151.5 hectares 94.4% (62%) in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	8 sites 151.5 hectares 100% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition
Number of hectares of publicly accessible green spaces per 1,000 population	5.64 hectares (4.90)	5.81 hectares	5.81 hectares	5.81 hectares

Renewable energy and sustainable construction are relatively new issues for Gateshead and work has been done in preparation for the integration of such work into future energy generation and construction practices. We are also working to increase the inclusion of sustainable construction techniques into new and existing buildings. An example of this new approach is the Gateshead International Business Centre which has photovoltaic panels on its roof and above the main entrance to the building.

Combined heat and power schemes were considered on two sites but were found not to be viable. Commercial renewable energy generation projects have not been adopted anywhere in the Gateshead area.

Grey water & rainwater harvesting schemes have also been designed but unfortunately omitted due to project cost restrictions.

Over the last five years the Council have designed & installed a number of energy saving measures into its buildings - both refurbishments & new build - such as:- Heat Recovery Ventilation, Natural Ventilation, Thermostatic Radiator Valves to radiators in Council buildings & housing, water saving taps & controls, improved plant & fabric insulation, inverter driven pumps & fans (using less electricity), occupancy control of fans & lighting, daylight control of lighting, high efficiency lighting, automatic plant control & monitoring via a central control system.

These have been the design norm for Council buildings over the last 5 years but such considerations have recently become regulation (Part L of the Building Regulations).

The Council and several partners have been working for the last 12 months on setting up a Warm Zone with the aim of reducing fuel poverty and increasing energy efficiency in all homes in Gateshead.

## Actions over the next 5 years

The Council and its partners will:

- Lead a partnership for the implementation of a Warm Zone to tackle fuel poverty and increase energy efficiency to be completed by 2010.
- Encourage residents to take up grants for heating, insulation and renewable technologies.
- Agree an energy and water efficiency policy action plan for its own buildings to include an emissions reduction programme by the end of 2005.
- Re-introduce an annual energy and water use report for all its buildings.
- Work with partners, locally and regionally, to participate in publicity campaigns to encourage residents to save energy.
- Encourage the development of renewable energy generation in Gateshead.
- Implement a small hydro electric generation scheme on the River Derwent.
- Implement renewable energy installations through the Private Finance Initiative for Schools.
- Continue to make full use of powers under planning, building control, other legislation and forthcoming 'Code for Sustainable Buildings' to help optimise the energy efficiency of new buildings.
- Encourage developers to exceed the current building regulation standards for construction particularly energy efficiency, through achieving the Eco Homes and BREEAM standards optimizing the use of Council's BREEAM assessors.
- Design all new Council buildings, engineering installations and refurbishments with regard to energy efficiency, whole life costs with integrated renewable energy generation.

- Continue to encourage builders and developers to use sustainable construction techniques in new buildings and in refurbishing existing buildings following the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy policy 39 and 40 and emerging renewable energy and sustainable construction policies of the Replacement Unitary Development Plan.
- Agree a specific policy on dealing with planning applications for solar panels and other renewable energy generation on domestic housing.
- Lobby Government, where appropriate, to make such developments easier to install by requesting the government to consider permitted development status for renewable energy installations
- Encourage developers to incorporate means of generating renewable energy into new buildings.
- Set up a pilot project for the trial installation of solar hot water in houses in Gateshead.
- Consider the role that microgeneration (small scale generation of renewable energy) will have in Gateshead and seek to pilot projects for it.
- Continue to encourage local businesses to reduce their energy consumption and increase their energy efficiency by publicising regional services and initiatives.
- Continue an emission reduction programme (CO2) for Gateshead Council and Gateshead as a whole through a Warm Zone, Local Public Service Agreement and the Home Energy Strategy 1996.
- Encourage renewable energy solutions and projects through Bridging NewcastleGateshead regeneration.
- Enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Energy Savings Trust Advice Centre.
- Carry out a pilot street lighting scheme using lamps of a lower wattage and lanterns which provide greater control over the amount of light pollution.



## Performance indicators and targets

Require all major developments i.e. a floorspace of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or 10 or more residential units to have a site installed renewable energy commitment of 10% of actual total building energy use.

By 2010, have 3.9 megawatts of renewable energy being generated or planned in the Borough of Gateshead.

Provide 20,000 houses with cavity wall insulation and loft insulation

Reduce fuel poverty by 50% by 2011 (Currently it is 27%)

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from council buildings to 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010.

Improve energy efficiency of dwellings by 30% by 2011 (based on 1996 levels)

All new housing developments

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Energy efficiency improvement in the public and private sector housing Source – HECA return	8.22% Target 10%	10.2% Target 12%	12.83% Target 14%	15.06% Target 16%	18.2% Target 18%

## Green Purchasing

### Objective

- To encourage individuals and organisations to purchase goods and services which are sustainable and to reduce wasteful consumption of materials.
- To encourage developers, builders, registered social landlords, private landlords and homeowners to follow sustainable construction techniques.

### Introduction

Many of the resources we use are finite. Their use requires care and consideration or they will not be available for future generations.

We need to encourage the greening of products and processes. This means having sustainable procurement practices, reducing the consumption of natural resources and the production of waste.

Becoming a more resource efficient borough will create opportunities in terms of employment and education, such as the development of new industries and raising consumer awareness in relation to product purchasing.

### Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

A green purchasing policy was adopted by Gateshead Council and the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) (22 north east local authorities) in 2001.

All corporate purchasing staff were trained in level 1 environmental awareness in 2002.

The Council uses recycled paper or paper from sustainable sources and all timber used by the Council is from sustainable sources.

All electricity used by all council buildings including schools and street lighting is being purchased from renewable sources.

The NEPO catalogue contains a system of highlighting environmentally friendly products through the use of the 'ef' logo. Customers are encouraged regularly to purchase the environmentally friendly products. The catalogue is now available on the internet and an on line ordering facility is available.

Energy efficiency is a major criteria when IT equipment is purchased.

A sample selection of suppliers' environmental policies are considered each year.

Work has progressed so that all transactions by the Council will be capable of being done electronically by the end of 2005.

The Council has adopted a sustainable construction guide 'Building in Sustainability - a guide for developers in the North East'.

### **Actions over the next 5 years**

The Council and its partners will:

- Develop its Fair Trade policy and practices with the aim of becoming a Fairtrade Borough.
- Encourage local people to buy local produce where it is available.
- Adopt Sustainable Construction standards as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- Encourage the use of biodegradable materials.
- Encourage local businesses and industry to follow sustainable purchasing policies, including the purchasing of local produce, fair trade products, and to consider adopting environmental management systems.

The Council will continue to:

- Buy electricity from renewable sources for all its buildings and services
- Publicise its policy of purchasing energy from renewable sources to raise awareness of this issue
- Encourage individuals to reduce consumption and follow sustainable consumption principles for example, buying energy from renewable sources and using public transport
- Encourage business to use sustainable sources for their products
- Encourage manufacturers and suppliers to use less packaging
- Encourage positive advertising of products and services that follow sustainable consumption

The Council will adopt sustainable construction practices in all its new buildings and refurbishment and maintenance of existing buildings, based on government guidance and whole life costs.

The Council will encourage NEPO to:

- Encourage customers to buy environmentally sound products
- Ensure that suppliers have sound environmental policies which are put into practice
- Hold customer surveys for raising awareness and determining customer preferences
- Extend the use of the EF (environmentally friendly) logo to many more products

## Performance Indicators and Targets

Increase the % by value of environmentally friendly goods sold to Gateshead customers by 5% a year for the next five years

Give consumers better information and encourage purchasing initiatives which help to encourage the market in goods with a recycled content

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
The percentage by value of goods which are identified as environmentally friendly sold to Gateshead customers		32%	31%	Not Available	
Training of Corporate Purchasing staff in environmental awareness		100%			
Dealings dealt with electronically					Target 100%

## Land use planning

### Objective

- To create a sustainable pattern of development, and thereby integrate planning with sustainable development principles, particularly in relation to the environment.

### Introduction

The use of planning controls is an essential part of ensuring that communities follow sustainable lifestyles. The main instrument used for these controls is the Unitary Development Plan until 2010. It will then be replaced with a Local Development Framework.

What is important is that both of these documents and the processes which contribute to their content are based on sustainable principles.

Both documents have and will be subject to a sustainability appraisal to determine whether they follow these principles.

### Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is being reviewed which includes several associated surveys a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a sustainability appraisal. Sustainable development is at the core of the UDP.

A Contaminated land strategy was agreed in 2001 and a survey has been completed. Site investigation is now underway.

Most development is on brownfield sites and there is a presumption against development on greenfield sites. An Empty Properties officer has been employed since 2003. An empty properties strategy was agreed in 2004. In 2002 a Housing Needs survey was undertaken to assess the amount and type of Housing required in the Borough.

The NewcastleGateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder, established in 2003, will over the next 15 years tackle problems caused by low demand for housing, by providing housing choice and quality which meet the needs and aspirations of residents, in an environment in which people will choose to live and work.

A State of the Environment Report has not been produced however information was collected and is used to inform environmental policy.

### Actions over the next 5 year

The Council and its partners will:

- Continue to subject all major policies and developments to a sustainability appraisal
- Develop planning policy on domestic renewable energy facilities
- Continue to consider environmental issues in all planning decisions
- Continue with the Unitary Development Plan process until 2010 and then produce a Local Development Framework to replace it. This will integrate policies for protecting and enhancing the environment using sustainable development principles.
- Encourage all new initiatives, such as Bridging NewcastleGateshead and Schools PFI to adopt positive and leading approaches to sustainable construction using an integrated design philosophy for renewable energy.
- Encourage private developers to follow sustainable construction practices as a matter of course using an integrated design philosophy for renewable energy.
- Investigate whether it is viable to create an eco-friendly housing development.
- Implement the contaminated land strategy.
- Develop and implement a strategy for underused land.

- Begin a process of Community Involvement before the end of 2005. This will set out how communities will be involved in the preparation of Local Development Documents and in the consideration of planning applications.
- Review the Housing Needs Assessment (2002).



## Performance Indicators and Targets

Proportion of land that is derelict.

Percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land

Vacant dwellings as a percentage of stock

### Land use Planning

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
The proportion of land stock that is derelict		2%	2%	402.4 hectares (2.8%)	389 hectares (2.7%)	
The percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	61%	Target – 56% Achieved – 48%	Target – 57% Achieved – 53%	Target – 58% Achieved – 85%	Target – 59%	Target – 60%
Vacant dwellings as a percentage of the stock (empty for more than 6 months)					2024 (2.2%)	

## Sustainable Transport

### Objective

- To reduce car usage, increase the quality and attractiveness of public transport and promote transport alternatives
- To improve public access to amenities and services, with less need to travel
- To reduce the amount of travel by motorised means through provision of genuine alternatives which are less damaging to the environment.

### Introduction

Road traffic continues to increase in the Borough, as does the car's share of the total distance travelled by all modes of transport.

Satisfaction with public transport remains low in rural areas however,

there has been considerable improvement in urban public transport over

the last few years (eg: Centrelink and Quaylink).

Opportunities for cycling have improved yet there is more work to be done to provide the public with the facilities they are asking for.

## Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

The CentreLink scheme has been completed and is now operational, incorporating the major improvements to the Gateshead and MetroCentre interchanges.

The MetroCentre circular shuttle service is now operational.

The Quayside Transit scheme has been completed, and the QuayLink services are now in operation.

A Quays shuttle service was introduced linking Gateshead Interchange with Baltic and the Sage Gateshead - QuayLink has superseded this service.

Quality Transport Corridor schemes have been completed on Durham Road, Old Durham Road and Durham Road, Birtley.

Major improvements to the 93/94 service, 'The Loop', have been made possible by a successful Urban Bus Challenge Kickstart bid.

Fifteen 'superoutes' now operate within Gateshead.

Annual programmes to provide bus shelters at new locations and upgrade existing shelters are in place.

A Real Time Information system is being trialled on selected routes in Gateshead.

The Ryton mini-hub was opened in 2001 and is the base for the UCall demand responsive transport service in the west of the Borough.

The Council adopted its cycling strategy in 2003.

Phased programmes of improvements to the Bowes cycleway and the Keelman's Way have been implemented.

Phased programmes to create the East Gateshead, Cross Lane and West Gateshead cycleways have been instigated.

Annual programmes to provide new cycle parking facilities and to improve cycle signage are in place.

The Gateshead Cycle Map was produced in 2005 and 5000 copies have been distributed.

The Council takes the lead role in the production of the annual Cycle North East events booklet.

The Millennium Bridge was opened in 2001.

A Town Centre Pedestrian and Cycle Access Strategy have been adopted.

Three subways have been replaced by surface crossings, and a further two improved, on approaches to the Town Centre

The Council has employed Workplace and School Travel Plan co-ordinators.

41 schools are now part of the School Travel Plans programme, 27 of which have authorised plans.

The Council has agreed a Travel Plan for its employees and operations.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Inland Revenue and the International Business Centre have also adopted Travel Plans.

Phase one of the Staiths South Bank housing development, built as a Home Zone where people have predominance over cars, was completed and won a national award.

A pilot has begun on the Council's first 'retro-fit' Home Zone.

The Council vehicle fleet is being fuelled by biodiesel where possible and trials are underway to establish how the proportion of bio diesel used in fleet vehicles can be increased further.

The ten vehicles dedicated to the QuayLink services are hybrid diesel-electric with regenerative braking.

An Air Quality Management Area has been adopted for Gateshead Town Centre.

## Actions over the next 5 years

### Public Transport:

The Council and its partners will:

- Work closely with Nexus and bus operators to stabilise the public transport network in the Borough, seeking innovative solutions to provision where necessary
- Improve traffic conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport by the completion of quality corridor schemes on A692, Shields Road, Sunderland Road and Felling Bypass

### Congestion:

The Council and its partners will:

- Continue development and implementation of a demand management strategy for Tyne and Wear, looking at all aspects of parking provision and the potential for congestion charging.
- Reduce congestion in and around the Town Centre Air Quality Management Area
- Work with local schools, employers and partners to set up school and workplace travel plans.
- Review the Council's Cycling Strategy, including facilities, inspection, maintenance and repair standards.
- Create Regional Route 11 cycleway in partnership with South Tyneside Council, City of Sunderland, Durham County Council and Sustrans.
- Continue the programme of creating new and upgrading existing cycleways.

### Sustainability

The Council and its partners will:

- Ensure that housing and workplace developments are located and designed to provide for and encourage sustainable travel.
- Introduce a programme to create 'retro-fit' Home Zones.
- Raise awareness of the health, social and environmental benefits of sustainable travel.
- Investigate the further development of green corridors for cyclists and walkers.



**Indicators**  
**Traffic Flows**

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Road traffic in Tyne and Wear (Million vehicle km)	7,548	7,784	7,839	7,894

**Cycle facilities**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Km of dedicated cycle path per 100km of road in Gateshead	6.16	6.45	6.94	7.20	

Public Transport Patronage – Tyne and Wear

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5
All public transport boardings (millions)	183.2	177.3	176	172.4
Buses only boardings (millions)	147	139.4	136.7	134.3

Travel to School

Primary Schools with Travel Plan in Gateshead

Mode	2004/05
Walk	46.7%
Cycle	0.3%
Bus	4.3%
Car/Van	39.7%
Rail	0.0%
Other	0.7%

Secondary Schools with Travel Plan in Gateshead

Mode	2004/05
Walk	51.0%
Cycle	2.0%
Bus	24.0%
Car/Van	22.0%
Rail	0.0%
Other	0.6%

## Targets

Public transport patronage targets - Scenario 1 (Free concessionary travel on bus and Metro, current levels of investment continued)

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
All Public Transport (Millions)	172	170	177	177	178	178
Busses only (millions)	134	131	137	137	137	137

Public transport patronage targets - Scenario 2 (Free concessionary travel on bus and Metro, increased levels of investment continued)

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
All Public Transport (Millions)	172	170	177	177	179	181
Busses only (millions)	134	131	137	137	137	140

### **Tyne and Wear Traffic targets (limit growth to 10% over next 5 years)**

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Road Traffic (million vehicle kilometres)	7507	7630	7760	7880	8010	8120	8260

### **Buses with Euro IV engines (Operating in AQMA's only)**

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
% of Euro IV buses in AQMA's	0	0	10	10	20	20	50

Targets for Punctuality and reliability of buses and the number of easy access buses are currently being prepared.



## Waste Management

### Objectives

- To minimise waste by reuse, recovery or recycling, and to encourage a reduction in the use of packaging materials
- To secure arrangements for the safe management of waste in the most economic and environmentally acceptable manner
- To dispose of residual waste in a manner which has a minimal effect on the environment.

### Progress since 2000 - successes and failures

- Renew North East was set up in 2001 as a facility to train young people to service, repair and reuse white goods.
- A Kerbside Recycling scheme was introduced in 2003 for all homes in Gateshead to recycle glass, cans and paper. This was extended to green waste in 2005.
- A green waste and on farm composting pilot scheme was started in 2004.
- Subsidised home composting units are offered to residents and over 11,000 units have been purchased to date.
- A Schools Waste Education Support Programme was introduced in 2003 - 8 schools a year are included in the programme.
- In 2003 a successful partnership was established with a neighbouring local authority to collect green waste and timber from the Waste and Recycling Centres.
- The Council has introduced a permit system to restrict commercial wastes going into the Waste & Recycling Centres and reduce congestion for residents using the sites.
- 13% of household waste was recycled and composted in 2004/5.

- Having introduced some waste reducing measures in its own operations the Council is considering how it can significantly implement waste minimisation further.
- An environmental management system was not progressed due to lack of resources and other more pressing priorities.
- Construction waste and waste from road works is recycled to such a level that over 35,000 tonnes a year is regularly being recycled.

### Actions over the next 5 years

- The Council is to revise its Waste Strategy in order to address the significant challenges faced in meeting its long-term targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill in complying with the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive.
- A new generation waste management contract will be developed and that will include the aim of achieving government standards and targets.



## Waste and Recycling

The Council will:

- Pursue potential sources of funding to provide dedicated recycling facilities for hard to reach areas eg. high rise flats.
- Develop and increase participation in various recycling and composting activities.
- Review the potential for extending the types of materials that can be recycled through the bring bank system by the end of 2006.
- Respond to new legislation impacting on the management of wastes (eg WEEE, batteries and tyres)
- Monitor the viability of introducing plastics recycling in the Borough.
- Investigate the potential for the recycling wastes such as cardboard, timber, metal and green waste from bulky refuse collections.
- Continue to raise awareness of the facilities available for waste disposal and recycling.
- Continue education initiatives for waste reduction and recycling through the schools Waste Education Support Programme and presentations to community groups on request.
- Look at ways to extend the Schools Waste Education Support Programme to include awareness raising competitions and industrial site visits.
- Investigate the viability and effectiveness of street - based recycling systems
- Investigate how it can widen our role in waste minimisation.
- Promote the benefits of using real nappies and investigate the viability of a separate disposable nappy collection and treatment scheme.

- Review receipt of trade magazines and marketing literature to reduce amount of waste where practicable and to promote the use of the mail preference scheme.
- As part of the Unitary Development Plan identify sites for alternative waste management facilities

## Litter

The Council will:

- Pilot dog toilet or dog walk in a park by the end of 2006.
- Encourage dog owners to place dog waste in litter bins
- Provide more litter bins
- Investigate the use of mobile CCTV to tackle fly tipping in the Borough with other agencies.
- Use the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to control litter, fly tipping and other anti social behaviour with regard to the environment
- Investigate ways of working closer with other agencies to ensure that roadside litter problems on busy routes like the western bypass are reduced.
- Investigate the potential for more frequent main road litter picking
- Continue with the Environment Agency Memorandum of Understanding on fly tipping.

When the opportunity arises the Council will lobby government on the following issues:

- Reducing the level of consumer goods packaging
- Encourage the establishment of waste volume targets
- Recycling more plastics

### Waste Management - Performance indicators and targets

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 Target
Household waste recycled (BV 82a)	6.8%	3.25%	4.53%	9.76%	10.44%	18%
Household Waste composted (BV 82b)	0%	0%	0.22%	2.49%	2%	
% Refuse to landfill (BV 82d)	93.2%	95.19%	95.21%	87.72%	87.52%	82%
Home composters sold (cumulative)	9374	9844	10637	10,835	11001	No target
Construction waste recycled	10620	22771	26346	41,000	38033	No target
Number of abandoned vehicles (Collection and publication to be considered)						No target yet
Amount of secondary/recycled aggregates used compared with virgin aggregates (Collection and publication to be considered)						No target yet

## Water Conservation

### New Objective

- To reduce water consumption, ensure water is used efficiently and encourage the use of rainwater recycling and grey water in buildings and work with agencies and communities to ensure good water quality is maintained.

### Progress since 2000

Water quality has remained high over the last 4 years. Water quality in most rivers, streams and ponds is good. Work started on improving the water quality in the River Team Revival project and it is hoped that this work will result in an improvement in the river over the next five years.

Drinking water quality has continued to be very good.

The work on sustainable construction has included the encouragement of developers to install grey water drainage and rainwater recycling.

### Actions over the next 5 years

The Council and its partners will:

- Raise awareness of water conservation issues
- Investigate how it can make effective and sustainable use of water resources in its grounds maintenance and horticultural activities
- Work with other agencies to reduce the consumption of water and promote efficient use of water.
- Promote the reporting of water leakage.
- Promote dual flush toilets and push taps in new and refurbished buildings

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- Promote the use of rainwater recycling and grey water systems in new and existing buildings where possible.
- Encourage developers to include rainwater recycling and grey water recycling into new buildings.
- Promote the use of low cost water butts and where practical promote jointly with compost bins.
- Encourage the use of Sava flush in all toilets installed prior to 1999
- Promote the installation of WC's compliant with the Water regulations 1999
- Promote 'Bag it and Bin it' and 'Grease Monkey' campaigns

The Council will agree an energy and water action plan with a view to reducing the energy and water consumption.



## Performance indicators and targets

- That all Council buildings are water efficient
- All new buildings achieve the BREEAM standard

Indicator	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5
Household water consumption per head (Annual, Regional figures)	148 litres per day	146.5 litres per day	Measured 145.92 litres per day Unmeasured 150.04 litres per day	Measured 142.62 litres per day Unmeasured 146.74 litres per day
Water leakage target (Annual, Regional figures)	161.4 mega litres per day	152.8 MI/Day	160.2 MI/day	Target 159MI/day

## General actions

The Council will:

- Undertake an environmental audit of its policies and practices to determine definitively how it is progressing with regard to the Local Agenda 21 strategic objectives.
- Investigate the level of resources which are needed to ensure that the appropriate level of commitment can be given to the environmental objectives of Local Agenda 21, particularly for environmental education, the community environmental grants scheme, Next to Nature and Fair Trade.
- Discuss with the Environment Agency sign of the 'Working Better together' protocol.
- Develop a training programme on sustainable development for all Council staff.
- Set up eco footprinting scheme.
- Consider an environmental awards scheme for individuals, community groups and businesses.

- Suggest to the Gateshead Strategic Partnership that the Community Strategy be subject to a sustainability appraisal.



## Education

### Introduction

It is vital that schools adopt Local Agenda 21 principles by integrating environmental issues into the curriculum and the school timetable. Children are key to the future of our environment and what we do now will determine the quality of life and the quality of the environment in the future. Support for schools needs to be provided by a whole range of agencies and the LA21 strategy forms the core of what is necessary for schools to spread the message of LA21 and sustainable development.

### Progress since 2000

All schools have had training on how to implement citizenship through their Personal, Health and Social Education programmes. A regional conference for Primary Schools was held in 2001 to inform School Heads about Citizenship and its links to LA21. A Directory of LA21 Resources were circulated to all schools detailing the support available to schools in implementing the LA21 part of Citizenship. The Quality Curriculum Authority used Gateshead as a good example of how to implement Citizenship by making links with LA21, Education Business Partnership, the Gateshead Youth Assembly, European Issues and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development component of the National Curriculum.

Twenty schools have School Travel Plans and 10 have Safer Routes to Schools schemes. 23 schools have registered for Ecoschools award and one has achieved gold status, 2 have silver status and 3 have bronze status.

Staff from Thornley Woodlands Centre have attended ECO school support group meetings and have worked with school staff and pupils on environmental issues.

The Next to Nature project has supported schools in their Environmental Challenge at Norwood Park in various outdoor activities.

The Great North Forest made a presentation to Environmental School Coordinators, resulting in some Gateshead schools working with it on environmental activities.

An officer has worked with 8 schools in the Schools Waste Education Support Programme over each of the academic year since 2003.

Since 2002, seven Primary schools and two Secondary schools have been involved in Gateshead Environmental Challenge projects. Projects dealt with issues such as bio-diversity, waste management, energy conservation, air quality and noise management and sustainable transport.

### Action over the next 5 years

The Council will continue to:

- Support schools wishing to achieve Ecoschools awards
- Implement the Schools Travel plans programme
- Implement Safer Routes to Schools projects
- Offer environmental and outdoor education as part of the Next to Nature Project
- Continue to develop and operate waste education in schools through the Waste Education Support Programme
- Hold the Gateshead Schools Environmental Challenge
- Organise an Education/Environmental Conference for Head Teachers, Governors and school staff
- Support schools through Thornley Woodlands and the Countryside service.

## Community involvement and consultation

### Objective

- To develop a closer relationship with the people of Gateshead and make effective public participation an integral feature of the LA21 process.

### Introduction

The involvement of the community is essential for progress to be made in achieving the LA21 strategic objectives. Individuals and local communities must take part in the development and implementation of the strategy. This means all partners and individuals working closely together with all agencies and communities to prepare, promote and actions to develop and achieve the aims of LA 21.

### Progress since 2000

A Full time Local Agenda 21 officer was appointed in 2001. A Local Agenda 21 Focus group was set up and meets every two months to discuss environmental issues in detail.

The Local Agenda 21 officer meets with the Gateshead Youth Assembly each year to consult them on current issues e.g. Climate change and annual updates.

An environmental grant scheme for local communities was introduced in 2003/4 and 2004/5 but due to lack of resources it was discontinued in 2005/6.

A member of the LA21 focus group is now attending the Gateshead Strategic Partnership steering group representing the environment theme partnership.

An Environment partnership has been set up to deliver the Environment theme of the Community Strategy. It meets every 2 months. The LA21 forum meets annually.

### Actions over the next 5 years

The Council will

- Continue its support of the Local Agenda 21 community group, the LA21 Forum, the Environment partnership and the Gateshead Youth Assembly.
- Be more consistent and co-ordinated in carrying out its consultation processes and provide more feedback to questionnaires and consultation through Council News etc.
- Consider using Planning for Real consultation methods for major developments.
- Use the Community network and neighbourhood management areas to generate more interest from the community.
- Pilot a skills audit in a local community with the aim of meeting the needs of their own community.
- Develop better two-way communication in consideration of ideas and suggestions from the general public.
- Consider holding promotional events on environmental issues.

The LA21 strategy review will be reported to the Council, the LA21 forum and the Gateshead Strategic Partnership to illustrate how it can revitalise Gateshead by improving the Environment.

The Themed Partnership members of the Gateshead Strategic Partnership will be involved at the early stages of consultation for each Sustainability Appraisal, and will provide input to policy and design proposals, so as to integrate the wider aspects of social, economic and environmental good practice into all of Gateshead's plans and programmes.

## What you said about Local Agenda 21 in Gateshead

### Discussion document

Most thought that there had been good progress towards achieving the LA21 objectives, but there is still much to do.

*'Impressive progress, Love the Red Kites!'*  
John Frostick.

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The strategic objectives are still valid yet some additions may be necessary. As Geoff Porter put it:

*"It would be good to see them as components of a comprehensive regeneration project"*

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The majority of people commenting thought that targets would be needed to measure progress.

Many of the suggestions made to improve the local environment are included in the list of suggested actions over the next few years. There was a wide range of activities from a full Environmental Management System to talking to children about litter.

Most thought that the structure is working reasonably well, but some thought that a separate strategy is needed to deal with climate change - both mitigation and adaptation together.

The addition of an Environment Partnership involving key organisations and feeding into the Gateshead Strategic Partnership is seen as a useful addition.

### Priorities from Gateshead Youth Assembly and the Council News questionnaire

- Provide a good quality local environment through more parks, more tree planting, better litter control and less dog mess.
- Close, meaningful consultation on Town Centre and other major redevelopments.
- Better consultation by the public transport companies with a view to better bus routes and cheaper public transport.
- More fair trade products available.
- Better energy conservation including more renewable energy production in Gateshead.
- Better waste management, particularly, more recycling, plastics recycling, incentives for kerb-it scheme.

### Themed partnerships

There is strong support for sustainable construction within the partner organisations particularly in the Bridging Newcastle Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder.

There are good business opportunities for recycling of materials particularly in the concept of sustainable growth parks where there is a 'circle' of each business using the waste streams of its neighbours and the creation of recycling business clusters.

Involving the business community in LA21 is essential for the success of LA21. There were serious concerns at the transport to and from the west of the Borough.

## LA21 forum and focus group

The focus group point to a lack of resources both human and financial to harness and co-ordinate the energy and knowledge of the group and other interested groups in Gateshead. There is some scepticism about what partnership means for the public when not enough publicity and education work has been done to put the social, economic and environmental model at the heart of the public consciousness.

The link between the environment partnership and the strategic planning process needs urgent attention.

For issues such as dogmess, flytipping, recycling, some transport measures there are signs that the right action is being taken despite the fact that there is always something to grumble about.

There is an energy in the group and some other community groups which could fuel a campaign They have a level of knowledge, experience and loyalty which the council should view as a greater resource than it is currently able to do.

There needs to be support for making something tangible happen on an occasional basis which demonstrates an aspect of the LA21 key issues which would build on the strengths of the group, create a visible and useful example in the public view and demonstrate, even in a small way that participation and contribution can happen.

Many of the actions in this strategy were suggested by the LA21 Forum and the focus group.

## Views expressed on consultation and participation

- More community involvement is needed. Skills audits should be co-ordinated and used to generate interest of the local community.
- Use the Community network and neighbourhood management areas to generate more interest from the community.
- Consultation is usually based on a pre prepared document or issue that the Council or other organisations want the public's view on. Ideas from the general public are another aspect to engaging with the community. There needs to be a mechanism to allow such ideas to be considered by the Council. IT contact points and Housing offices are examples of methods of contacting the Council. This needs to be more developed.
- There needs to more feedback to questionnaires and consultation through Council News etc.
- There should be an event which crystallises what we have in Gateshead and the objectives we want to address. The event should capture people's imaginations and it should be fun. This should be part of a much more comprehensive programme of raising awareness which has community involvement at its heart i.e. doing, seeing and interactive.
- Actions should be broken down to the various levels of action i.e. the global, national, regional, local, community and individual actions people can take.
- The Council should take a lead on helping SME's in relation to environmental management of their business particularly recycling.

## Our 9 objectives

1 Limit the impact of severe weather on the people and property in Gateshead.



2 Protect air quality and reduce noise.



3 Maintain natural habitats, protect animals and plants and improve access to them.



4 Improve energy efficiency in the borough and produce more renewable energy.



5 Buy sustainable goods and services and to follow sustainable construction practices.



6 Consider environmental issues in all land use planning decisions.



7 Improve public transport, reduce car journeys and promote cycling and walking.



8. Reduce waste, increase recycling, and dispose of the remainder of waste economically with minimal effect on the environment



9 Use water efficiently, reduce its use and increase rainwater recycling.



## Glossary

### Air Quality Management Areas

If a local authority finds any places where its air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area there.

### 'Bag it and Bin it' and 'Grease Monkey' campaigns

'Bag It and Bin It' is a national water industry-led campaign promoting responsible disposal of discarded personal products. 'Grease monkey' is a Northumbria Water campaign to persuade customers not to pour household-fat and grease down their sinks to prevent flooding and damage to their homes.

### Biodiversity

The variety of all life including man, animals and plants.

### BREEAM

Building Research Establishments' Environmental Assessment Method

### Climate Change

Major climate changes can result from global warming. This can have serious implications for agriculture, reduce biodiversity and cause coastal flooding.

### Fly tipping

The act of dumping large amounts of rubbish such as furniture, building waste or packaging, on any land or street.

### Focus Group

A group of people brought together to hold a carefully planned discussion to obtain perceptions on a defined area of interest in a supportive, non-threatening environment.

### Fuel Poverty

A person is regarded as fuel poor if he or she pays more than 10% income on fuel bills.

### Gateshead Strategic Partnership

A single partnership for Gateshead Borough to take an overview of existing and new regeneration activities and to improve communication between the various partnerships and joint bodies operating in the borough.

### Global Warming

An increase in the earth's temperature due to the use of fossil fuels and other industrial processes leading to the build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

### Green corridors

These link housing areas to the national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities. They help to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas and can also act as vital linkages for wildlife dispersal between wetlands and the countryside.

### Green Purchasing

Buying goods and services which have a minimal effect on the environment.

### **Green Transport Plans**

A comprehensive and integrated plan to minimise the effect of an organisation on the local and national transport system.

### **Green waste**

Waste which can be composted e.g. grass cuttings, hedge clippings

### **Greenhouse gases**

Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chloro-fluorocarbons.

### **HECA**

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

### **Local Development Framework**

This is made up of a portfolio of Local Development Documents (LDDs) which will replace the Unitary Development Plan.

### **Local Transport Plan**

A plan for a comprehensive and integrated approach to transportation planning in a defined area.

### **Microgeneration**

Small scale (household) generation of renewable energy

### **NEPO - North East Purchasing Organisation**

A group of 12 Local Authorities which purchase goods and services for use by their respective organisations.

### **Ozone depleting substances**

Chemicals which reduce the ozone in the upper atmosphere.

### **Photovoltaics**

Technology which can convert the sun's rays into electricity.

### **Renewable Energy**

Energy from natural sources like the sun, wind and wave power.

### **Sustainable construction**

Building or refurbishing in a more sustainable way.

### **Sustainable Development**

Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

A single appraisal tool which provides for the systematic identification and evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of a proposal.

### **Towards 2010**

Gateshead Council's vision policy document for Gateshead.

### **Unitary Development Plan**

A blueprint for development in Gateshead.

### **Waste arisings**

Waste produced by business, industry and households.

### **Waste Management Plan**

A plan for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the collection, treatment and disposal of waste in a defined area.

### **WEEE**

Waste electrical and electronic equipment.



