

Local Agenda 21 Strategy update 2007

Introduction

The Local Agenda 21 strategy was first agreed in April 2000 and was fully reviewed in 2005 after 5 years of operation. This is the first update since the revised LA21 strategy was published. It shows that progress made in the last 18 months and what issues that are expected to arise in the next 12- 18 months.

Strategic Objective - Adapting to Climate Change

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

Progress in 2006/7

- Updated guidance for emergency response team to respond to severe weather has been completed.
- An analysis of the risks of flooding at key ICT council network locations was carried out in July 2006. No locations have been identified as being high risk.
- The National Heatwave Plan to protect vulnerable people has been tailored to Gateshead. Leaflets are available for the public and other agencies.

Focus in 2007/8

- Determine progress against 2004 strategy and action plan
- Review and consolidate the options provided by service assessments
- A regional assessment of the effects of climate change on the North East region will inform the effects on Gateshead
- Use regional assessment to inform updated strategy and action plan

Strategic Objective - Air Quality and Noise Management

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.

Progress in 2006/7

- Further detailed assessment of NO₂ confirmed the need for an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the town centre.
- Air Quality Action Plan for AQMA drafted. Submitted to DEFRA 2006.
- The Council endorsed an Air Quality Strategy for the Tyne & Wear Area on 15 December 2005.
- Two NO₂ monitoring units installed within AQMA during 2005, and NO₂ diffusion tube network expanded. The shared Tyne & Wear mobile unit has been relocated to Birtley to monitor 4 pollutants, mainly for traffic pollution.
- Construction Services have introduced a driver training programme to improve driving techniques in order to reduce fuel consumption. A Pilot scheme has been introduced to run part of fleet on 80/20 bio fuel mix.
- There has been a substantial increase in noise complaints over the last year or so, which is mainly due to the introduction of the 101 telephone service.

Focus in 2007/8

- Develop the Air quality management areas

- Respond to the increase in noise complaint received through the 101 telephone service

Performance indicators and targets

Pollutant / Site	UK Standards	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005/6	2006/7
NO ₂ A1 Dunston	Average - 40 micrograms/m ³	31.0	23.8	27.0	29.9	39.0	36.8	38.9
	Maximum - 200 micrograms/m ³	97.5	106.8	117.1	137.9	148.6	138.6	159.3
PM10 A1 Dunston	Average - 40 micrograms/m ³	20.5	17.8	24	26.5	22.4	23.4	24.7
	Maximum - 50 micrograms/m ³	52.4	65.4	67.4	91.3	60.3	57.2	76.7
	Maximum - 35 micrograms/m ³ - 35 exceedences allowed per year (number of breaches in brackets)	(1)	(8)	(6)	(25)	(7)	(3)	(10)

Targets

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

Nitrogen Dioxide Urban peak levels

National standard 200 micrograms/m³ - 1 hour mean - not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year

Nitrogen Dioxide Urban annual average levels

National standard 40 µg/m³ - annual mean

Particle (PM₁₀) Urban peak levels

National standard 50 micrograms/m³ - 24 hour mean - not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year

Strategic Objective - Biodiversity

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.

Progress in 2006/7

- The Review of the DBAP was completed in 2007 with contributions from Gateshead Council.
- Environmental outreach work is ongoing, including the provision of support for local community 'Friends of' groups at Blaydon Burn and Windy Nook.

the Borough						
The area of lowland meadows and pastures	283 hectares	283 hectares	283 hectares	283 hectares	283 hectares	283 hectares
The area of ponds (and wetlands)	22 hectares	22 hectares	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)	0.47 hectares (0.285)	0.47 hectares (0.285)
Sites of Nature Conservation Importance From Countryside service				121 sites 1786 hectares	121 sites 1786 hectares	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	8 sites 151.5 hectares 100% 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		

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.

Strategic Objective - Energy Conservation

To reduce energy consumption,

To ensure energy is used efficiently,

To encourage the increased use of renewable energy and encourage and

Adopt renewable energy generation projects in the borough.

Progress in 2006/7

- The Gateshead Warm Zone started installing insulation measures in January 2006. At the end of March 2007, 3690 cavities had been filled and 6783 lofts had been insulated.

Over 5000 measures installed in The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC) properties to date resulting in an estimated saving of 4500 tonnes of CO2 emissions, together with an estimated reduction in energy bills of £200 per household.

Gateshead Warm Zone has received funding from the Single Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) of £ 237,000 for 2006/2007

It has been agreed to second a welfare rights post to the Gateshead Warm Zone to visit every household in the borough to maximise benefits (by 2010)

- In 2006 Local Environmental Services implemented a "100 days of carbon Clean Up" pilot at Shearlegs Road, which reduced energy costs by 28%.
- All ICT equipment procured is Energy Star rated and the Council only procure flat screen monitors
- Pool covers are used at Felling, Blaydon, Birtley, Gateshead and Dunston swimming pools to conserve heat and reduce evaporation of water.
- TGHC has rationalised the number of offices from which it delivers service. Five offices have been closed and have been converted back into homes for rent. Two others have been closed resulting in significant energy savings.
- Some PFI schools have had wind turbines and solar hot water installed.
- Six homes in Deckham and High Fell areas were fitted with solar hot water systems in March/April 06.

Focus in 2007/8

- Continue to support and implement the Gateshead warm Zone
- Investigate the setting up of renewable energy services companies
- Investigate and implement renewable energy projects
- Implement energy efficiency programmes within the Council
- Implement renewable energy projects through Building Schools for the future
- Implement the Council's energy and water policy and action plan

Performance indicators and targets

Require all major developments i.e. a floorspace of 1,000m² or 10 or more residential units to have a site installed renewable energy commitment of 10% of actual total building energy use. **(This is being implemented and records are being kept and will be reported at the next update)**

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

Provide 20,000 houses with cavity wall insulation and loft insulation. (10473 by March 2007)

Reduce fuel poverty by 50% by 2011 (Currently it is 27%) March 2007 - 48%

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from council buildings to 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010. (Currently being calculated)

Improve energy efficiency of dwellings by 30% by 2011 (based on 1996 levels) - March 2007 - 27.82%

All new housing developments to attain Very Good BREEAM EcoHomes assessments. (Developers are being advised to achieve Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Buildings - the current equivalent)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Energy efficiency improvement in the public and private sector housing	8.22%	10.2%	12.83%	15.06%	18.2%	22.28%	27.82%
Source - HECA return	Target 10%	Target 12%	Target 14%	Target 16%	Target 18%	Target 20%	Target 22%

Strategic Objective - Green Purchasing

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 home owners to follow sustainable construction techniques.

Progress in 2006/7

- Gateshead became a Fairtrade Borough on 26 February 2007
Fairtrade options are available in all Council outlets including schools children's centres and community centres. The Fairtrade Steering Group oversees Fairtrade activity and continues to promote Fairtrade within existing resources.
- The Council has agreed to purchase electricity from renewable sources and good quality combined heat and power.
- Building cleaning use a "Green Valet" dispensing system for cleaning products at Northumbria Police Authority HQ. This reduces the quantity of packaging used as chemicals are supplied in 5L containers and transferred to the "Green Valet" which dispenses measured doses of product. Pumps to deliver measured doses of cleaning products are used in all buildings.
- The Council recycles as much construction waste as possible - setting internal targets to recover 100% glass.

Focus in 2007/8

- Introduce a sustainable procurement policy and action plan
- Maintain Fairtrade Borough status

Corporate Procurement Dealings dealt with electronically target of 100% by 2006 has been achieved

Strategic Objective - Land Use Planning

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

Progress in 2006/7

- Registered Social Landlords already apply eco homes standard as directed by the Housing Corporation within any new build. Bridging NewcastleGateshead has introduced BokLok designed properties in East Gateshead in partnership with Live Smart@Home. It will achieve BREEAM excellent standard. BNG has also worked with Lansing homes on the Sunderland road site. It will achieve BREEAM very good standard.
- Sites of land contamination have been identified categorised in terms of priority for action, based on the current use of land, site conditions and knowledge of historic uses. A small number of sites have been determined as contaminated where it has been felt that significant harm is or has the potential to be caused, and where a pollutant linkage has been shown to exist. These sites are being dealt with.
- A Housing Needs and Adult Social Care Assessment was completed in August 2006. A Rural Area Sustainability Assessment was completed in August 2006. An Older Persons Aspirations Study was also undertaken 2006.
- The Unitary Development plan process is now complete. Work on Local Development Framework process to commence in October 2007.

Focus in 2007/8

- Start the development of the Local Development Framework
- Continue to implement the contaminated land strategy
- Implement sustainable construction policy through the planning process

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

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
The proportion of land stock that is derelict	2%	2%	2%	2.8% (402.4 hectares)	2.7% (389 hectares)	2.86%	
The percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	61% Achieved - 48%	Target - 56% Achieved - 54%	Target - 57% Achieved - 85%	Target - 58% Achieved - 89%	Target - 85% Achieved - 86%	Target - 85% Achieved - 92%	
Vacant dwellings as a percentage of the stock (empty for more than 6 months)				2024 (2.2%)	3.83%	4.91%	

Strategic Objective - Sustainable Transport

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.

Progress in 2006/7

- The 'People In Motion' project is a feasibility study into the long-term management of traffic congestion in Tyne & Wear, funded by the Government's Transport Innovation Fund. The study is due to report in early 2008.
- At the end of 2006-07, 54 schools had produced an authorised School Travel Plan. This represents 59% of all Gateshead schools, and is ahead of the Government's 55% target.
- Various schemes on the East Gateshead Cycleway, Bowes Mineral Line, Keelman's Way, Cross Lane Cycleway, Whickham Cycleway and West Gateshead Cycleway were undertaken in 2006/07.
- The Council has again produced the Cycle North East magazine – promoting cycling across the Region. There was a series of events held at the Civic Centre for Bike Week and Cycle North East stand at the Gateshead Flower Show. A public transport information event was also held in the Civic Centre in March 2007.
- The environmental impact of the fleet vehicles has been assessed, alternative fuels have been considered. The majority of fleet vehicles now use either LPG or bio-diesel.
Vehicles over 18 Tonnes have been fitted with exhaust CRT to filter out the majority of particulates.
- We are signed up to the Energy Saving Trust's "Motorvate" Green Fleet Management Scheme. We were initially awarded 3 stars and reassessment in 2006 should lead to our 4th (of 5).
- Last year's Green Fleet Awards saw us awarded runner up in Public Sector Fleet of the Year.

Focus in 2007/8

- Discussions with Go North East and Nexus nearing completion on a pilot Quality Bus Partnership for East Gateshead, which will hopefully be launched in the 2008. The partnership will offer a new approach to the way bus services are planned and delivered in the area.
- Various partners are working together on bids to the Department for Transport on two major schemes. One is a Tyne and Wear wide project to provide improvements for buses on the major transport corridors. The other seeks to provide a cycle and pedestrian bridge linking Blaydon Town Centre and Newburn.
- In addition, the second phases of bus priority schemes on the Felling Bypass and at Lobley Hill are being work up. There are also proposals to upgrade the eastern and western ends of the Keelmans Way.
- The Highways Agency and other key stakeholders are working together to develop an A1 Corridor Action Plan aiming to address congestion and development pressures along the route. There will also need to be considerable transport input to the emerging Town centre regeneration proposals.

Sustainable Transport Indicators

Cycle facilities

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Km of dedicated cycle path per 100km of road in Gateshead	6.16	6.45	6.94	7.20	X	X

Cycle Trips - Gateshead

	2005	2006	2007
Annualised Trip Index (2004 = 100)	108	110	106

Public Transport Patronage - Tyne and Wear

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
All public transport boardings (millions)	183.2	177.3	176	172.4	166.3	172.5
Buses only boardings (millions)	147	139.4	136.7	134.3	129.3	133.5

Travel to School

Primary Schools with Travel Plan in Gateshead

Mode	2004/05	2005/6	2006/7
Walk	46.7%		59.2
Cycle	0.3%		0.3
Bus	4.3%		4.3
Car/Van	39.7%		34.9
Rail	0.0%	Metro	0.2
Other	0.7%	Taxi	1.1

Secondary Schools with Travel Plan in Gateshead

Mode	2004/05		2006/7
Walk	51.0%		58.1
Cycle	2.0%		0.4
Bus	24.0%		23.1
Car/Van	22.0%		16.8
Rail	0.0%	Metro	1.3
Other	0.6%	Taxi	0.3

There has been a change in collection methodology that means that the above figures are now more accurate than previous figures. This new methodology will be used each year.

Number of schools with travel plans

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
<i>Primary</i>	20	26	37
<i>Secondary</i>	0	1	4

Strategic Objective - Waste Management

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 in 2006/7

- Cabinet adopted Waste Strategy for Gateshead June 2006
- Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils are seeking to develop a formal waste partnership that will include waste treatments and disposal. The three councils have finalised a Stakeholder Agreement
- Successful bid for SSCF funding for 2006/07. Recycling facilities for all high rise flats were rolled out during 2006/07. This action now complete and has been well received, working in partnership with TGHC to consult residents.
- New subsidised home composting scheme for 2007. Council has been successful in being awarded WRAP partnership funding to market a brand new home compost bin from 2007 at a reduced price of £8.
- From July 2006 all tyres collected are recycled
- TV's now being recycled at Waste Reception Centres
- Domestic/ small battery recycling collection boxes are now installed at both Waste Recycling Collection sites's.
- Waste Education Support Programme is being modified to develop schools waste education packs to allow delivery to ALL primary schools, using teaching support staff. Planned to commence Sept term 2007.
- Street recycling systems have been approved and will be installed across a range of high street / shopping precincts in 2007/08.
- We provide designated dog toilet areas at some cultural events, like at the English National Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers.
- Implementation of modified waste bins to allow deposit of dogwaste. Signs have been erected.
- Order was placed for mobile CCTV equipment for use against fly tippers in early 2007.

Focus in 2007/8

- Develop the joint waste management strategy with South Tyneside and Sunderland
- Introduce a wider range and increase the number of recycling opportunities
- Focus on increasing recycling rates and control fly tipping

- Implement the new subsidise home composting scheme.

Indicators	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Household waste recycled (BV 82a)	6.8%	3.25%	4.53%	9.76%	10.44%	11.64%	13.13%
Household Waste composted (BV 82b)	0%	0%	0.22%	2.49%	2%	8.23%	9.27%
% Refuse to landfill (BV 82d)	93.2%	95.19%	95.21%	87.72%	87.52%	80.12%	77.58%
Home composters sold (cumulative)	9374	9844	10637	10,835	11001	11073	11418
Construction waste recycled	10620	22771	26346	41,000	38033		
The percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours of notification						64.31%	53.85%
The percentage of abandoned vehicles removed from the point at which the authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle investigated within 24 hours of notification						78.95%	78.85%
Amount of secondary/recycled aggregates used compared with virgin aggregates (Collection and publication to be considered)						100%	100%

Strategic Objective - Water Conservation

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 in 2006/7

- At the Central Nursery we have 2 x 25,000 gallon water tanks which collect and store rain water for plant watering. We ensure that plant watering bowser is filled using collected water from the central nursery supply.
- At Gateshead International Stadium a small domestic UV disinfection system is used in the reclamation of rainwater from the roof. The water is transferred to a holding tank and after passing through the system, is used, to flush toilets.

- All swimming pool shower areas are fitted with automatic mixer valves, which turns water off after 30 seconds.

Focus in 2007/8

- Continue to promote water conservation through sustainable construction in the planning a building control process.

Indicator	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
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	NA	NA
Water leakage target (Annual, Regional figures)	161.4 mega litres per day	152.8 MI/Day	160.2 MI/day	Target 160MI/day	NA	NA

Conclusion

It can be seen from the report that substantial progress has taken place over the 18 months reporting time. However, there is still much to be done, particularly in the areas of adapting to climate change, energy conservation, sustainable transport and waste management. All parts of the community need to make a great effort to address all of these issues for us to succeed in protecting the environment and protecting ourselves from the effects of climate change.