

Our future



Environment Strategy 2006-2011

Bolton
Council



Contents

- 01 Foreword
- 02 Introduction
- 05 Sustainable Consumption and Production
- 09 Climate Change and Energy
- 15 Protecting our Natural Resources and
Enhancing the Environment
- 23 Sustainable Communities
- 33 Summary
- 34 Baseline information
- 36 References



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Foreword

As Executive Member for Development it gives me great pleasure to introduce Bolton Council's new Environment Strategy for 2006-2011. The strategy reinforces past and continuing efforts placing environmental issues at the forefront of Council decision making and making a very significant contribution to the achievement of sustainable development for Bolton.

This is a tough challenge, as it requires all of us to become more aware of environmental issues and the consequences of our behaviour and actions. The Environment Strategy represents the Council's continuing commitment to improving its environmental performance. The strategy supports people – both members of the public, Council staff and partner organisations to make better choices to help protect our local environment and achieve a sustainable future for today's generations and generations to come.

The Council is tackling many environmental issues which directly contribute to this challenge; some derived from legislation and central Government initiatives, while others are motivated by our own commitment.

These all help safeguard the environment; whether this is action on climate change, environmental education, local nature conservation or sustainable purchasing.

These are all defining elements of the Council's Environment Strategy. Over the next 5 years, the Council has to lead by example, and we have set ourselves some tough targets in order to address how global challenges like climate change and loss of biodiversity impact locally, and how we can respond to protect natural resources and enhance the environment. The adoption of the Local Development Framework will ensure that Bolton's land use development is sustainable, which in turn will ensure that the diversity of Bolton's natural assets is safeguarded for the future.

I believe that the new Environment Strategy reinforces the Council's commitment to the environment and contributes substantially to the principles of sustainable development as articulated through the Bolton Vision. It also recognises the important role the Council must play; not only as a leader of the community, but in challenging itself and setting an example for others to follow.

Councillor Ebrahim Adia
Executive Member for Development
November 2006



Introduction

The aim of the Environment Strategy 2006-2011 is to build on, update and complement the work and successes of the previous Environment Strategy. This new strategy strives to be a more flexible piece of work than its predecessor in response both to the changing pace of environmental change and a culture of much more constructive partnership working. The strategy is designed in this way to facilitate the Council's responses to changing priorities and to strengthen its ability to react to serious environmental issues.

The objectives and targets set out are Bolton Council's reaction to global issues like climate change and local changes such as household recycling. Bolton Council is rated as a four-star Council by the audit commission and as such is committed to transforming its environmental performance. The 2006-2011 Environment Strategy clearly demonstrates this promise and functions as the corporate framework to co-ordinate these commitments both internally and in partnership.

Examples of this commitment to transformational change are highlighted as '**Transformational Objectives**'

1. An externally verified Council-wide Environmental Management System
2. Installing an additional 1.0 Megawatt of renewable energy technology on Council buildings
3. Approval and adoption of sustainable development toolkit for evaluation of all Council plans and policies
4. Mainstream Education for Sustainable Development using School Self Evaluation Forms and the Sustainable Schools framework

The strategy will ensure that environmental considerations fully integrate with all Council policies and plans including: *The Bolton Plan and Bolton Vision – Bolton's Sustainable Community Strategy* – as well as other priorities such as Neighbourhood Renewal which are at the heart of Council strategic decision making.

The Council will set a new level of environmental performance, hoping to influence by example the behaviour of individuals and partners alike.

The Environment Strategy also articulates the Council's response to the environmental elements of the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*.



It is for this reason that the strategy is purposely broadly scoped, embracing a selection of environmental issues set in the context of environmental sustainability which the Council is committed to achieving.

The strategy recognises that the collective environmental impact of the Council's activities extends far beyond Bolton, contributing in part to most global environmental issues such as resource use or climate change, and the effects of much of this activity are regrettably long lasting and could affect the quality of life of future generations of Bolton residents.

The Environment Strategy is set out in four shared priorities for action, taking its reference from chapters in *Securing the Future*:

- 1. Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- 2. Climate Change and Energy**
- 3. Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement**
- 4. Sustainable Communities**

Monitoring

The Environment Strategy is overseen by an Officer Steering Group which meets quarterly. Progress on objectives and targets will be reported to the Performance Management Group, the Elected Members for Development and Regeneration, the Executive, the Council's Executive Management Team and the Sustainable Development Forum of the Bolton Vision, our Local Strategic Partnership. Targets are included in the Service Improvement Action Plan for the Council section or unit primarily responsible for delivery.

Successes

Since 2000 we:

- Have retained ISO 14001 accreditation for Highways Management, Waste and the Environment Team
- Have reduced water use by 9.7%
- Have reduced energy CO₂ emissions by 33%
- Now recycle over 200 tonnes of office paper a year
- Recycled 24.9% of household waste in 2005/06
- Reused or recycled 20,000 tonnes of highways material on road schemes in 2002/03
- Planted over 103,000 trees in Bolton under Red Rose Forest Management
- Sourced the Council's electricity from a green tariff
- Saw the first renewable energy scheme on a Council building at the Halliwell Urban Care and Neighbourhood Centre, a 5kW roof mounted Photo-Voltaic installation in October 2004

Communication

As well as being reported to members, chief officers and the Sustainable Development Forum, it is imperative that the strategy aims and objectives are communicated to all staff. This will be done in conjunction with the Communications and Marketing Agency.

Consultation

In September 2005 and in preparation for revising the Environment Strategy, the 2,122 members of the Bolton Citizen's Panel and 70 members of the Young Peoples Panel were consulted on environmental issues that were important to them. The priorities of panel members broadly matched those of the Government. The responses of the two panels have contributed to what issues and topics are included in the strategy. 97% of the Citizen's Panel felt that environmental issues were important to them and over 90% of young people said the environment was an important issue. 99% of the Citizen's Panel thought that the Council should be recycling the waste it produces. Nearly 90% of young people wanted more nature areas created and more than 75% felt that the Council should recycle its waste, buy green, save energy and teach more about the environment in schools. These responses are very encouraging, confirming that there is a public expectation that the Council should be continually improving its environmental performance.

Extensive internal consultation has been undertaken with officers at every stage of the development of the strategy. This has been done through the steering group and directly with the staff who will be responsible for delivering targets.





1. Sustainable Consumption and Production

1. Sustainable Consumption and Production

The environmental impacts from most of our consumption and production patterns are very severe; they are often inefficient, are a drain on the economy and degrade the environment. We all need to do more with less so that products and services can be delivered with lower environmental impacts over their life cycle.

One consequence of consumption that we can all relate to is the amount of rubbish and waste associated with modern lifestyles. This waste can dramatically reduce our quality of life and can cause very serious environmental problems. However as resources become scarcer more and more of this waste has a residual value. Much of it can be reduced in the first place, reused or recycled.

Bolton Council spends in excess of £280 million on goods and services paid to third parties. It is imperative that this public money is spent on supporting a sustainable local economy, one which is competitive, efficient and less damaging to people and planet. This presents many incentives and opportunities for new local markets and innovation.

The Council's procurement strategy, alongside work with partners supporting local businesses, will start to reduce the environmental impact of the Council's procurement decisions and begin a process whereby that impact on the environment is considered over the full lifetime of the goods and services the Council is procuring.

Local businesses just like the Council will also benefit from being more efficient. Local firms need to be supported to take this common sense approach which not only makes the bottom line look healthier but uses less precious resources and raw materials



1.1 Sustainable Procurement

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
To procure goods and services using sustainable criteria	To reduce the environmental impact of procurement decisions	Bolton Council Procurement Strategy published by end of 2006 to include sustainable procurement policy	Publish strategy	Corporate Resources Department Sustainable Development Team (SD Team)	Produce sustainable procurement policy
Making ordering sustainable products easier for staff	Reduce the environmental impact of purchasing	Adapt Oracle system to include a range of prescriptive sustainable purchasing by product by end of 2008	Number of product units purchased/ amount of spend	Corporate Resources Department	Install specialist software or highlight preferred products using Oracle system

1.2 Waste Management

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Increase the recycling rate	Reduce household waste arisings	Recycling at least 33% of household waste or more by 2010	Tonnage and percentage of arisings recycled	Environmental Services Department	Continue to support and promote kerbside scheme
Increase recycling rates from Council premises	Reduce Council waste arisings and reduce disposal costs	Council recycling rate to track targets set for household waste, 33% from 2005 baseline tonnage	Tonnage recycled	Environmental Services Department	Introduce internal recycling collection Expand paper recycling service Raise staff awareness through briefings, newsletters etc

1.3 Business Support

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Support a sustainable local economy	More environmentally responsible business practice	25 businesses a year (as a minimum) to receive environmental reviews and be supported to produce environmental policy/action plans	Businesses supported (those attending fair and other referrals)	Sustainable Development Team/ Regeneration and Economic Development/ Bury Groundwork	Work with partners and local businesses e.g. MBDA (formerly British Aerospace) to provide support and peer reviews to promote benefits of sustainable business practice
To green the Council's supply chain	Support the local economy Reduce environmental impact, risks and liability Improve image and perception	All suppliers and contractors doing more than £250k worth of business annually with the Council to have or be working towards certified EMS (Environmental Management System) – Council to resource initial training – from end 2007/8	Suppliers and contractors with certified EMS	Corporate Resources Department	Council to organise initial training programme



2. Climate Change and Energy

2. Climate Change and Energy

The world's scientists agree that most of the global warming seen over the last fifty years, as well as extreme weather events, is attributable to human activity, through emissions of greenhouse gases – such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. The consequences of climate change could be catastrophic for the natural world and society. We need to make a profound change in our use of energy and other activities that release these gases. Local authorities have a key role in facilitating this shift in attitude and behaviour playing an important role in meeting the UK's targets under the Kyoto Protocol and objectives in the 2003 Energy White Paper. Bolton Council needs to make preparations now for reducing CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050.

Bolton Council is already committed to reducing emissions. The Council buys its electricity from a green tariff, (produced from renewable energy sources and exempt from the climate change levy) which has reduced the total CO₂ emissions from energy use by 33% compared to 1998/9. In 2004/05, the Council used a massive total of 135,452,021 kWh of electricity and gas.

Being more energy efficient will save the Council significant sums of money. With its partners, the Council will also need to start preparing for the climate changes that are now already inevitable and unavoidable, such as health effects or water shortages and begin to prepare and raise awareness with the community who will experience and have to live with these environmental impacts.

Reducing the environmental impact of Council vehicles must run in parallel with energy efficiency measures if we are to see real sustainable benefits. The use of fleet vehicles as well as journeys by staff on Council business also contributes significantly to CO₂ as well as other emissions. In 04/05 the Council vehicle fleet used more than 1.4 million litres of diesel. The strategy commits the Council to stabilising and reducing mileage and emissions.

2.1 Climate Change and Energy

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Demonstrate public commitment to tackling Climate Change	Sign Nottingham Declaration or North-West Climate Change Charter	To formalise energy efficiency and CO ₂ reduction objectives and targets	Sign declaration	SD Team	Align strategic CO ₂ objectives with charter requirements
Contribute towards UK Climate Change targets	Reduce CO ₂ emissions and reduce kWh Raise the profile of issues with staff and public	For the 5 largest (by staff occupation) Council buildings including the Town Hall to reduce CO ₂ emissions by 20% from 2005 baseline by end of 2008	Sites annual kWh total and related CO ₂ emissions	Corporate Property	Energy audits Staff awareness Continued installation of energy efficient equipment
Reduce CO ₂ emissions and kWh consumption	More energy efficient Financial incentives Contribute toward national CO ₂ reduction targets Reduce climate change impact	Reduce energy CO ₂ emissions from buildings by 20% from 2005 baseline	kWh and CO ₂ Members of staff working from home	Corporate Property	Homeworking expansion Property rationalisation Energy audits Staff awareness Equipment replacement

2.1 Climate Change and Energy

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Reduce CO ₂ emissions and kWh consumption	Contribution to CO ₂ reduction targets	Reduce energy consumption by 20% from 2005 baseline	kWh and CO ₂	Corporate Property	Homeworking expansion
	Reduce climate change impact				Property rationalisation Energy Audits More efficient IT equipment Staff awareness
Increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable technologies on Council buildings	Security of supply	* Additional 1.0 MW or more generated across the Council portfolio by 2011 to be combined with energy efficiency measure & sustainable design principles	KW/MW generated on Council properties	Corporate Property	Identify energy efficient sites for renewable installations
	CO ₂ reduction				Access funding
	Improved public perception				
	Financial benefits	* Transformational Objective			

2.2 Council Transport

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Reduce Council business miles	Reduce the environmental impact of staff travel	By 2008 stabilise levels of business miles. From 2009 reduce business miles CO ₂ by 2% per year from 2005 baseline	Staff miles/Km and derived CO ₂	SD Team/Policy & Transport Planning Human Resources	Review staff travel plan
Reduce environmental impact of the Council vehicle fleet	Reduce fleet CO ₂ emissions and other emissions	To use 5% bio-diesel by end of 2006	Litres of bio-diesel/CO ₂ emissions	Environmental Services - Transport	Source and agree contract for supply
Plan for further reduction in the environmental impact of Council vehicle fleet	Reduce fleet CO ₂ emissions and other emissions	To be on course for using 50% bio-diesel by 2012 – in time for new fleet contract	Litres bio-diesel/CO ₂ emissions	Environmental Services - Transport	Stipulate in lease contract at least 50% bio-diesel mix where vehicle warranty is unaffected

2.2 Council Transport

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Reduce fleet CO ₂ emissions	Less fuel use (diesel and petrol)	To plan for reducing fleet CO ₂ emissions by 10% from 2005 baseline by 2011	Litres of fuel used Drivers trained Software used	Environmental Services - Transport	Driver training Route mapping Vehicle efficiency/ vehicle replacement (Euro standards)



3. Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment

3. Protecting our Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment

Our health and wellbeing are inextricably linked to the quality of the air, water, soils and biological resources. Our whole existence is reliant on a functioning ecosystem.

The Government recognises that to tackle the most challenging environmental issues effectively, an ecosystems approach is required if we are to live within environmental limits. This holistic approach includes embracing the precautionary principle for decision making in order to safeguard resources, prevent environmental degradation and reverse local losses in biodiversity e.g. following actions already set out in the Bolton Biodiversity Action Plan.

Although Bolton is a metropolitan borough, half of the borough is rural in character. The countryside, our diverse landscapes such as the West Pennine Moors, and our native flora and fauna are inseparable from our culture and sense of identity.

As a large organisation, Bolton Council uses lots of resources during its day-to-day activities, one such being water. As part of its regulatory function, it also monitors air quality and works in partnership across Greater Manchester to reduce harmful emissions.

Water is essential for all life and it is a resource we can no longer take for granted without consequences for ourselves and the environment. Collective action by both industry and consumers is essential to protect the sustainability of supply in the long term, as well as safeguarding fresh water as an essential wildlife habitat. In 2004/05, Bolton Council used 330,615 M³ of water across 290 of its premises.

Local air quality is much improved compared to Bolton's industrial past. Today the impact is not from industry but from motor vehicles. Poor air quality can reduce some people's quality of life, especially for those residents with respiratory problems. Transport emissions also contribute very significantly to climate change (see chapter 4).



3.1 Environmental Management

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
* For Bolton Council to have an authority wide externally accredited EMS (Environmental Management System) * Transformational Objective	Improve the Council's environmental performance and minimise environmental impact	Accreditation by the end of 2007/8	International Standard Organisation Accreditation	Sustainable Development Team (SD Team)	Identify benefits and quantify savings Get corporate agreement for Council wide EMS Project team established
Meet international standard requirements	Increase internal Council capacity and raise environmental awareness	50 qualified internal EMS auditors trained by start of formal EMS process	Staff with auditing certificate	SD Team	Seek volunteers or nominations for training across all departments Appoint certified trainer

3.2 Water

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Reduce water consumption	Safeguard natural resources and reduce water costs	Reduce water use in all premises by at least 10% from 2005 baseline (includes schools)	Cubic metres of water used	Corporate Property	Staff Awareness Installation of efficient equipment e.g. Whiffaway waterless units Grey-water recycling
Reduce water consumption	Reduce water costs	Identify the 10 highest consuming sites by means of a water audit and introduce reduction measures by end of 2007	Water reduction in cubic metres	Corporate Property	Introduce reduction measures e.g. installing water recycling equipment at Council vehicle wash Fit trigger hose units to all hosepipes

3.3 Countryside Management & Biodiversity

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Improve landscape quality, biodiversity and amenity value	Production of an integrated estate management and restoration plan for the Smithills Estate	Produce Smithills Landscape Restoration and Estate Management Plan by end of 2008	Plan produced and approved	Environmental Services	Identify funding Collate existing site information and identify gaps Commission plan
Engage communities to help deliver Bolton Biodiversity Action Plan, species and habitat action plan targets (SAPs and HAPs)	Individuals and groups trained as habitat surveyors SAPs and HAPs progressed contributing to BAP actions Encourage volunteering	To engage and recruit interested individuals from interest groups from priority estates Actions written for sites surveyed	BAP targets met Number of people trained	SD Team	Source funding/ submit bids Engage partners Manage projects Research and collate baseline data
Designate more areas as Local Nature Reserves	Increase area of and accessibility to Local Nature Reserves	To create and/or designate 1 ha of LNR area per 1000 population by 2011 260 ha by 2011	Area of Local Nature Reserve in hectares (ha)	Environmental Services	Designate sites Bring sites up to LNR criteria

3.3 Countryside Management & Biodiversity

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Improve habitat/nature reserve quality	Improve management of nature reserves/key habitats	Devise and apply assessment methodology to measure reserve/habitat quality by end of 2007	Area of habitat or LNR entering favourable management status in ha	Environmental Services	Apply accepted methodologies as quality control measure
Undertake local surveys of woodland and farmland birds	Begin to reverse declines in biodiversity – wild birds	Undertake annual surveys of woodland and farmland bird species (winter and summer)	Survey results/bird populations	SD Team	Agree annual programme of surveys with RSPB/BTO local group
Prevent spread of non-native invasive species	Protection of native flora and fauna by preventing spread of invasive weeds	Stabilise coverage of Japanese Knotweed around sensitive habitats by end of 2011 Record area cleared	Area cleared in ha	Environmental Services	Identify priority sites Record area cleared in ha
Promote tree planting and woodland management and provide green framework for leisure recreation business, investment and economic regeneration	Sustainable management of Council woodland and forestry assets	By 2010 bring into sustainable woodland management over 500 Ha of Council owned woodland	Area of new woodland planted and under sustainable management in ha Number of new street trees planted	Environmental Services Red Rose Forest	Work with Council and other landowners to identify sites for planting or sustainable management

3.4 Environmental Protection

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Bolton contribution to the publication of a Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan	Improve air quality	Hit targets in revised National Air Quality Strategy (2007)	Days recorded	Environmental Health	Emissions testing
		Reduce the number of days of moderate or higher air pollution	Premises complying with process guidance notes Site inspections Vehicles tested		Awareness raising Regulatory function
Implement Air Quality Action Plan	Monitor and reduce air pollution and CO ₂ emissions	Reduce NOx (Nitrogen Oxide) emissions by 39% by 2010 (GM average) Maintain the air quality inventory with a view to include CO ₂ by 2008	NOx emissions Inventory produced CO ₂ levels after 2008	Environmental Health	Continue monitoring Work with Greater Manchester Transport Unit to include CO ₂ monitoring

3.4 Environmental Protection

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Improve coverage and reporting of air quality data	To show Bolton's air quality	Report data from University monitoring site to show Bolton's background air quality - (annual)	Monitoring and reporting from University site	Environmental Health	Monitoring and data recording
To survey Bolton's contaminated land sites	Improve information held on contaminated land sites	Undertake assessments of 100 site investigation reports per year	Number of sites assessed	Environmental Health	Desk top studies
	To reduce the amount of contaminated land		Ha of land investigated		Site assessments
					Site identification
					Investigations



4. Sustainable Communities

4. Sustainable Communities

Sustainable development is a very straightforward principle. In *Securing the Future* the UK Strategy it is defined as “..to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.” Sustainable development is about choice and opportunities as well as rules and restrictions. It is necessary that activities or development which may be inconsistent with this concept are regulated and controlled. The principles are simple ones; to live within environmental limits and in a just society and we will do it by means of a sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science.

Integrating strategic priorities locally to ensure the delivery of common goals to benefit our communities and create sustainable public services will be a challenging task, but one that all stakeholders have to face up to. It is recognised that sustainable development in practice has to happen at the local level and engage local people on issues that affect their quality of life. Creating sustainable communities depends on consultation and participation as well as support and effective delivery. Working together in partnership will help create these sustainable communities. The Government sees Sustainable Communities as those which are: active inclusive and safe, well run, environmentally sensitive, well designed and built, well connected, thriving, well served and fair for everyone. Some of the local environmental sustainability agenda is dealt with under the

Government’s Cleaner, Greener, Safer initiative. Other topics such as transport and accessibility are addressed locally and through the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan.

Giving people information so that they can make informed choices is central to achieving sustainable development. Recent Government campaigns highlighting the seriousness of our changing climate hope to raise awareness about the most serious global issue. The Government realises that it needs to begin a process of changing the way we live our lives.

Teaching children about environmental issues and social responsibility goes some way to achieving this. Making links across the curriculum to further the Education for Sustainable Development agenda in schools will support this educational shift. The Government has recently announced that creating sustainable schools is one of its education priorities.

Our surroundings are hugely influential in affecting our quality of life. The Government’s Cleaner, Greener, Safer agenda aims to dramatically improve the quality of local neighbourhoods including access to and quality of parks and open spaces. The Council is working to provide and manage open spaces which meet community needs as well as existing as vital urban wildlife refuges.

4.1 Transport

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Improve local bus services	More people travelling by bus (reducing traffic, pollution and CO ₂)	Increase bus use by 10% by 2010	Increase in passenger numbers	Development and Regeneration	Introduce town centre bus gyratory system
		Increase length of quality bus routes by 2 Km per year	Km of bus lanes	Environmental Services Policy & Transport Planning Highways Management Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive	Extend quality bus routes along major radial roads Design and build new bus/rail interchange by 2012
All schools to have travel plans by 2010	Decrease in journeys getting to and from school by car	Percentage of non-car journeys to school – 58% Primary 80% Secondary (maintain) Period 2006/2011	Journeys by mode	SD Team	Work with schools and Highways Division
			STP Monitoring	GM Transport Unit	
			STP School Census (from Jan 07)		Raise awareness of pupils, staff and parents
			GM 'Hands-Up' survey		

4.1 Transport

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Increase levels of cycling	More people cycling	Increase the number of (daily) cycling trips by 10% per year by 2011 from 03/04 baseline	Cycle survey Km of cycle path	Policy & Transport Planning (PTP) Highways Management	Increase cycle paths
	Positive health benefits				Bike week promotion
	Reduces car use				Automated and manual monitoring See objectives in Cycling Strategy
To develop the cycle network	Increase levels of cycling	Increase cycle paths by 30% (18km) by 2011	Cycle Strategy indicators	PTP Highways Management	Develop the cycle network by accelerating network implementation See objectives in Cycling Strategy

4.2 Well Built

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Evaluate spatial plans for sustainable development contribution	Compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and alignment with Bolton Vision	For Local Development Framework Plans to undergo Sustainability Appraisal Ongoing from 2006	Sustainable Development Appraisals completed	SD Team PTP	Appoint SEA Officer Develop work programme
* Use Sustainable Development Appraisal Toolkit * Transformational Objective	Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and alignment with Bolton Vision priorities	Formal approval and adoption of appraisal toolkit by end of 2006	Adoption and use	SD Team	Establish Sustainability Appraisal in plan development process
Produce Sustainable Design & Construction Supplementary Document (SPD)	Delivering sustainable development and sustainable physical regeneration	Produce Supplementary Planning Document by Dec 2006	Approved and adopted SPD Developments adhering to SPD requirements	SD Team	Sample monitoring Undertake research Scope content of SPD
Delivering Sustainable Development - ensure that brownfield land is developed first for new housing	Protection of greenbelt Urban regeneration	By 2008 the Council will achieve the Government target of at least 80% of new homes on brownfield sites	Ha of new homes on brownfield sites	Planning Division	Draft SPD Town centre regeneration Liaise with developers

4.3 Environmental Education

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
* Embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) across the curriculum * Transformational Objective	Begin a process of educating and learning focussing on respect, responsibility and environmental values	ESD referenced in all School Self Evaluation Forms by 2008	Guidance produced ESD statements in school SEFs	SD Team supported by School Improvement Team	Develop documentation and guidance showing schools how to highlight Education for Sustainable Development in Self Evaluation Forms and include in the guidance for section 4 produced by the School Improvement Team in 2007 Work with schools on how to highlight Education for Sustainable Development in Self Evaluation Forms



4.3 Environmental Education

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Bolton's schools to become sustainable schools with strong links to the 3c's – Curriculum, Campus, Community	Reduce the environmental impact of schools and embed ESD in the school curriculum	All schools working towards becoming Sustainable Schools by 2011 (in line with DFES national framework)	Number of schools implementing Sustainable Schools activity using national framework	SD Team	<p>Promote Sustainable Schools through ESD, Citizenship and (PSHE) Personal, Social Health Education networks and School Improvement Team</p> <p>Conference arranged to coincide with Sustainable Schools launch</p> <p>Provide one-to-one guidance and support/ support for schools</p>
Increase number of Eco-schools	<p>Engage pupils in environmental agenda</p> <p>Mainstream environmental education</p>	All schools to be registered as Eco-Schools by 2011	Registered schools	SD Team	<p>Work with individual schools</p> <p>Integrate with work by (PCT) Primary Care Trust on Healthy Schools initiative and link to work on School Travel Plans</p>

4.3 Environmental Education

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Increase membership of Education for Sustainable Development Network	Improve understanding and awareness of sustainable lifestyles and act as support mechanism for teachers and group leaders	All educational establishments and youth groups to join Education for Sustainable Development Network by end of 2007	Establishments and groups on ESD network	SD Team	Promote ESD network through Children's Services Link resources available via the network to Every Child Matters and Sustainable Schools Framework
Increase the number of groups undertaking Environment Challenge Award	Improve understanding and awareness of sustainable lifestyles	10 groups achieving local environment challenge award per year	Groups with award	SD Team	Promote the award with groups and publicise at events Support groups

4.4 Community Involvement

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
To find out what people understand by the term Sustainable Development	Have baseline information/ survey results of whether people in deprived communities know what Sustainable Development means People in the surveyed community have changed their behaviour based of the survey meetings	Survey 50 community groups using Community Ambassadors by March 2007 Re-survey the same groups 9 months later to note any change in their behaviour	People in the 50 groups have a better understanding of what SD is Whether people in the 50 groups are carrying out sustainable practices within their local communities	SD Team via the SD Forum	Enlist Bolton Community Network to train Community Ambassadors to undertake survey work Compile and interpret survey results Publish data

4.5 Local Environmental Quality

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Improve the visual appearance of Bolton's roads and streets	Reduce levels of litter and street detritus	To hit or exceed annual target set by DEFRA 24% in 06/07 23% in 07/08	Local Environmental Quality survey score	Environmental Services	Undertake regular visual surveys of streets
Provide high quality, accessible and safe parks and open spaces	Improve satisfaction with parks and open spaces	To hit or exceed annual targets in Local Area Agreement 73% in 06/07 74% in 07/08 75% in 08/09	Levels of residents satisfaction as %	Environmental Services	Parks and Open Spaces audit Greenspace management including Country Parks Residents surveys

4.6 Home Energy Conservation

Objective	Outcome(s)	Target	Indicator	Lead	Task(s)
Increase the energy efficiency of Bolton's housing	Reduce levels of fuel poverty	All Council and registered social landlord dwellings to score 72 or more against Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) by 05/06	SAP ratings	Affordable Warmth Steering Group	Raise standards as part of Decent Homes Programme
	Reduce domestic CO ₂ emissions	All households to be at SAP 65 by 2010			Promote take up of energy efficiency grants to the public See tasks in Affordable Warmth Strategy

Summary

In many respects this is an ambitious strategy as it sets out to fulfil a number of objectives which, whilst it is fair to say Bolton Council is committed to it will nevertheless still find challenging. Other people will argue that it doesn't go far enough and the situation in five years needs to be planned for now. There is some justification to this. The 2006-2011 Environment Strategy for Bolton Council has learnt some valuable lessons from its predecessor. Those responsible for its delivery realise that the work which stems from the strategy objectives itself has to be flexible and have the ability to react to the many changes that will act upon it.

These changes might come from a range of sources: observed environmental changes, new scientific data, changes in funding regimes, organisational changes, social changes or changes in values. This new strategy is much better able to adapt to the inevitable changes that will occur over the next 5 years. By demonstrating this core characteristic, the Environment Strategy will act as a fresh catalyst for transforming the Council's environmental performance over its 5-year lifetime. Embedding these improvements using the existing performance management processes is essential. Bolton Council's performance against the targets in the strategy will be of increasing importance when the Council is audited under Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

A sustainable development evaluation of the Council's Change Programme will ensure that the environmental implications to service delivery and support are communicated and acted upon. The strategy can lay the foundations for a sustainable Bolton, making a significant contribution to the achievement of genuine sustainable development and of a much more creative and productive relationship with all partners and stakeholders as we strive to transform both Bolton Council and Bolton.



Baseline information

Those baselines that can be transferred across from the previous strategy remain unchanged e.g. CO₂ emissions or fleet mileage.

Where new baselines are required these will be consistent with other performance indicators e.g. Local Environmental Quality scores.

Where there is no established baseline these will be developed as work on strategy targets progresses.

Baselines

1.1 Sustainable Procurement:	Establish baseline for products or units purchased or amount of spend		
1.2 Waste Management:	Total household recycling tonnage annual baseline 24.9%		
	Total Council recycling tonnage annual baseline = 323 tonnes or 8.5% 04/05		
2.1 Climate Change and Energy	Establish site baselines for 5 highest energy consuming Council sites (gas and electric)		
	Total kWh = 151,892,615		
	Total CO ₂ = 21,295 tonnes		
2.2 Fleet miles	05/06 6,270,047 miles	1,524,971 Litres	CO ₂ = 4086 tonnes (ULSD)
Staff miles	05/06 3,258,801	CO ₂ = 1173 tonnes	
3.2 Water	Total M ³ 330,615		
3.3 Local Nature Reserve area Bolton BAP	52.37 Hectares		
	17 Habitat Action Plans and 4 Species Action Plans produced		

Baseline information

3.4 Local Air Quality	Days of moderate or higher air pollution NOx emission levels
4.1 School Travel Plans	July/06 16 with plans from 145 schools as of July/06 (11%)
4.2 Brownfield land developed	05/06 87% of development on brownfield sites
4.3 Eco-schools	July/06 16 schools registered on scheme
4.4 Local Environmental Quality	05/06 22% survey score
4.5 Home Energy	04/05 SAP 67 for Bolton at Home housing stock

References

- Securing the Future* – delivering UK sustainable development strategy 2005 www.defra.gov.uk
- Energy White Paper – Our energy future, creating a low carbon economy 2003 www.dti.gov.uk
- Bolton Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – 2001
- The North West Plan - Draft Regional Spatial Strategy – 2006 www.nwra.gov.uk
- Bolton Vision: Bolton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2003–2012 www.bolton.gov.uk





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

*Definition of sustainable development, Securing the Future the UK Strategy 2005