



Islington agenda 21



LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY

FEBRUARY 2001

For more information please contact:

Miles Duckworth
Environmental Policy Co-ordinator
Islington Council Tel: 020 7527 2001 e-mail:
miles.duckworth@islington.gov.uk

CONTENTS

Summary

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1.0 Introduction | p. 1 |
| 1.1 Purpose | p.1 |
| 1.2 Aims | p.1 |
| 1.3 Objectives | p.1 |
| 1.4 Audience | p.2 |
| 2.0 Local Agenda 21 | p. 2 |
| 3.0 Vision | p. 3 |
| 3.1 Principles | p.4 |
| 4.0 Issues | p. 4 |
| 4.1 Greening the Council | p.4 |
| 4.2 Energy | p.6 |
| 4.3 Air quality | p.7 |
| 4.4 Transport and access | p.8 |
| 4.5 Natural environment | p.9 |
| 4.6 Waste minimisation | p.11 |
| 4.7 Environmental education | p.12 |
| 4.8 Green economy | p.13 |
| 5.0 Implementation processes | p. 15 |
| 6.0 Appendices | p. 18 |

Summary

The strategy initially outlines the major sustainability issues facing Islington, and sets them in a global context. The strategy recognises the inter-relationship between environmental sustainability and a range of issues such as crime, education, health and regeneration.

The strategy consists of 4 main parts:

- A vision for sustainable development in Islington;
- Aims, achievements and actions for each of the issues that make up sustainable development in Islington;
- The main processes that will be required to implement these aims;
- How progress will be monitored.

A **vision** for sustainable development is set out that includes 4 key principles:

- Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone
- Protection of the environment
- Careful use of natural resources
- A vibrant and sustainable local economy.

(A Better quality of Life, DETR, 1999)

The strategy comprises several aims that the Council believes will move Islington towards the goal of sustainable development. The aims for sustainable development are comprehensive, and include statutory duties as well as aims that move beyond that.

The aims of the strategy are also relevant to our partners: local organisations, institutions, public bodies, community groups, households and individuals. The strategy recognises that much work has already been undertaken on sustainable development in the Council and in the Borough.

Issues

The strategy looks at the following issues: Greening the Council, Energy, Air quality, Transport and access, Natural environment, Waste minimisation, Environmental education and Green economy. The strategy sets out aims, achievements, and actions for each of the issues. Actions under each issue are prioritised on a now, soon, later basis.

Implementation processes

Five key implementation processes that supplement the above issues are identified:

- Information and awareness raising
- Consultation and involvement
- Working in partnership
- Integrating sustainability
- Monitoring, measuring and reporting.

1.0 Introduction

Islington faces a number of issues that affect our environment and quality of life. These issues are part of a global picture that threaten the world's natural

resources, change our climate, cause pollution and affect human health. Islington Council is working in partnership with communities and individuals to find solutions and implement actions that will help make our Borough more sustainable, and contribute to sustainable development on a global scale.

Much activity is already underway in Islington thanks to the actions of a number of committed individuals, the voluntary sector, academia, business and the Council. We will build on this as part of our mission towards a sustainable Borough.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to:

- Outline the Council's vision and principles for achieving environmental sustainability in the Borough;
- Set out our key objectives for environmental sustainability;
- Describe what we have achieved so far in terms of sustainability;
- Identify the main issues that are the focus of the strategy;
- Explain how we will achieve the aims and objectives, and highlight areas where our partners can take action;
- Illustrate how we will measure the success of the strategy.

1.2 Aims

The strategy consists of 4 main parts:

- A vision for sustainable development in Islington;
- Aims, achievements and actions for each of the issues that make up sustainable development in Islington (see section 4.0);
- The main processes that will be required to implement these aims;
- How progress will be monitored.

The strategy comprises several aims that the Council believes will move Islington towards the goal of sustainable development. The aims for sustainable development are comprehensive, and include statutory duties as well as aims that move beyond that. The aims of the strategy are also relevant to our partners: local organisations, institutions, public bodies, community groups, households and individuals. Each group has a continued role to play in working in partnership with the Council towards sustainable development in Islington.

1.3 Objectives

- A comprehensive sustainability strategy for the Council;
- Integration of sustainability principles across all Council strategies, policies and financial reports;
- Implement strategies that will move Islington towards sustainability, and;
- Consult, involve and engage people in participation in local environmental sustainability environmental sustainability projects and processes.

1.4 Audience

This strategy is aimed at a wide audience consisting of:

- Voluntary organisations
- Institutions

- Businesses
- Community groups, representative organisations and associations
- Individuals and residents.

The Local Agenda 21 steering group - a mix of representatives from community groups, the voluntary sector, academia, individuals and council officers and members - have provided strategic guidance and expertise to the process. Working groups, forum meetings and other consultation events have also shaped this strategy and provided a considerable contribution to the development of Local Agenda 21 in Islington.

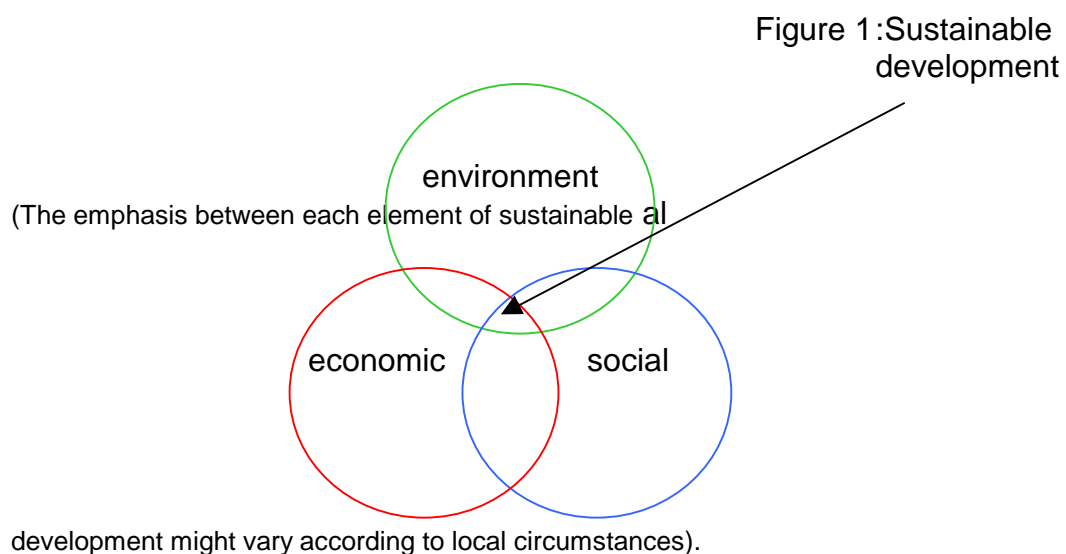
2.0 Local Agenda 21

Agenda 21 began in the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Local authorities signed up to an agreement called Local Agenda 21. This set out how local authorities could work in partnership with their communities towards sustainable development. Local Authorities were encouraged to produce Local Agenda 21 plans to show how this would be done.

Since then a number of global, European and national initiatives that have maintained the momentum. A Better Quality of Life (DETR, 1999) is the latest national policy document on sustainable development. Building on four principles for sustainable development (please see vision below), it aims to build the concept into central government, local government and society.

The Greater London Assembly is also giving strategic guidance to local authorities in London. This includes policy guidelines for land-use planning, transport, biodiversity and waste, all of which aim to contribute to the move towards sustainable development at regional and local level.

Figure 1: What is sustainable development?



Sustainable development has been described as:

- “Sustainable development means improving the quality of human life whilst living within the carrying capacity of the earth’s ecosystems” IUCN, UNEP, WWF 1991.
- More simply, the DETR describes it as, “a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations,” (A better quality of life, May 1999, p.1).”

We need to move towards sustainable development because we cannot continue to develop as a society as we have done in the past.

Developing in a sustainable way means respecting environmental limits, acknowledging and addressing the gap between rich and poor, understanding that pollution and waste means we are acting inefficiently and recognising that a healthy environment means a healthier population and better quality of life for all.

3.0 Vision

The Council and its partners want Islington to be a sustainable community where a good quality, healthy, safe environment exists alongside a good quality of life for those living and working in the Borough, now and in the future.

The Council will continuously improve its environmental performance, and encourage others to do so, by working in partnership with the community. We will make sustainable development the bedrock of all our strategies, policies and programmes, so that we can promote action within the Council and improve quality of life for residents, communities and businesses in Islington. Together with the community we will regenerate our Borough to make it greener and achieve the highest quality of life for all that live, work or visit.

Islington Council recognises the connections between the three elements of sustainable development - environment, economic and social – and the implications that this has for the Council’s culture, organisation and activities. We recognise the relationship between sustainable development and a range of issues such as crime, education, health and regeneration.

3.1 Principles

The Council recognises and supports 4 key principles:

1. Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone
2. Protection of the environment
3. Careful use of natural resources
4. A vibrant and sustainable local economy.

(A Better quality of Life, DETR, 1999)

4.0 Issues

This section of the strategy contains the aims, achievements and actions for each of the main issues identified as the focus for the strategy. For each of the issues, actions for the Council are prioritised on a now, soon, later basis.

It is inevitable that there is a degree of overlap between aims that appear under the different issue headings. For example, awareness raising is a feature of several of the issue headings.

4.1 Greening the Council

Aims:

- Take a lead in environmental responsibility by developing a comprehensive sustainable development strategy for the Council;
- Further integrate environmental sustainability across all Council departments and into the organisational culture of Islington Council;
- Raise awareness and provide information to officers about environmental sustainability issues;
- Develop and implement a green travel plan for the Council;
- Improve the Council's efficient use of resources and energy, and reduce and recycle waste;
- Develop incrementally an environmental management system that will identify, manage and monitor our environmental impacts;
- Through our Best Value green procurement policy, continuously improve the Council's environmental performance i.e. purchase and develop environmentally friendly products, processes and services.

Achievements:

- An initial independent environmental audit of the main council buildings has been undertaken;
- Green procurement policy developed under Best Value;
- Paper recycling underway in selected offices;
- Undertaken an initial staff travel survey, as a step towards a green travel plan.

Action

Now:

- Increase staff awareness of environmental sustainability by including policies and information into the staff induction pack (this follows recommendations in the independent environmental review);
- Communicate our sustainable development policies and strategy to Council staff and the community;
- Identify and disseminate examples of environmental good practice from within the Council;
- Extend existing recycling procedures, in operation in Council buildings, to all Council buildings (follows recommendations in the environmental review).

Soon:

- Examine the feasibility of converting Council vehicles to a low/ zero emission vehicle fleet;
- Implement a green travel plan for the Council;
- Raise awareness of environmental sustainability issues in the workplace and provide appropriate training for staff;
- Develop and introduce environmental sustainability targets into the Performance Management System;
- Assess the sustainability of strategies, policies and services and construct baselines from which progress can be measured;
- Examine the procurement of green energy tariffs for all Council buildings (see LA21 and Renewable Energy, DTI New and Renewable Energy Programme/ ETSU, 2000);
- Demonstrate the Council's commitment to sustainable development by signing up to "Making a Corporate Commitment" (Government Office for London/ DETR, 2000);
- Examine the feasibility of developing incentives to achieve better environmental performance in the Council e.g. sustainable employee of the month and competition between units and departments etc.

Later:

- Undertake a feasibility study with the Council's finance department to see if "carrots and sticks" incentives can be developed to guide our environmental performance (see Environmental Taxation LGA/ IdeA, 1999);
- Develop a methodological approach to the reporting of the Council's environmental performance (see Guidelines on company reporting on waste, DETR, June 2000 and Guidelines on company reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, DETR, June 2000).

4.2 Energy

Aims:

- To reduce energy demand by improving energy conservation and efficiency;
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions through a combination of measures;
- Increase the supply and procurement of renewable energy in Islington;
- Raise awareness of energy conservation and efficiency with community groups, schools, businesses and individuals.

Achievements:

- Islington Energy Centre has undertaken a neighbourhood insulation programme covering 27 000 homes;
- It has provided advice to tenants, residents and community groups on energy efficiency through the Islington Energy Centre's Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC);
- Under the Home Energy Conservation Act the Islington Energy Centre: provided advice to 6,000 clients annually; issued 11 450 (for the year

2000) low energy light-bulbs to low-income households saving 709 tonnes of CO₂;

- Undertaken promotional events e.g. fairs, exhibitions, competitions, advertising to promote energy efficiency and involvement in theme weeks such as National Energy Efficiency Week 2001;
- Installed solar panels at St. Mary's school under Scholar: the solar schools programme;
- Islington Energy Centre has involved 23 schools in energy efficiency under the CREATE programme;
- In partnership with L.B. Camden and Islington and Camden Health Action Zone, a dedicated officer is addressing the issue of fuel poverty;
- Provided guidance on energy efficient design;
- Implemented programmes to improve energy efficiency in the Council's buildings and operations.

Action

Now:

- Highlight energy conservation and efficiency through project feasibility and approval processes e.g. via integration with regeneration programmes.
- Improve the SAP ratings of local authority dwellings;
- Develop supplementary planning guidance, under the UDP, e.g. via a checklist that builds on the Energy Centre's advisory leaflet, examples of best-practice etc. to influence developers and builders in incorporating energy efficiency measures in new buildings;
- Islington Energy Centre will continue to advise and prepare businesses for the forthcoming climate change levy (see Climate Change Programme, DETR, November 2000).

Soon:

- Develop programmes that link energy, fuel poverty *and* training in regeneration areas. The Islington Energy Centre Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) can assist communities through the provision of training for an "energy ambassadors" programme i.e. local people trained in energy conservation advice and practice. This would also meet other regeneration goals such as increasing community capacity *and* training people for potential employment in environmental services;
- Switch all the Council utility supplies to green tariffs;
- Introduce energy conservation duties into job descriptions for the Council's premises managers;
- Develop an affordable warmth strategy to address fuel poverty issues.

Later:

- Develop a methodology for quantifying the Council's CO₂ emissions;
- Extend and apply the methodology to the emissions for the Borough of Islington;
- In consultation with businesses and other stakeholders, develop a target of renewable energy supplied and/or procured in Islington to work towards

the national target of 10% of UK electricity supply from renewables by 2010 (see Climate Change Programme, DETR, November 2000).

4.3 Air quality

Aims:

- Meet national standards for air quality by 2005 by reducing the levels of major air pollutants;
- Monitor air quality so that actions to improve it are based on sound data.

Achievements:

- The Council has undertaken its latest assessment of air quality in Islington (Third stage, review and assessment of air quality in Islington, August 2000);
- In consultation with the community, business and interested groups, we have drawn up an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) as a framework for the following actions: low emission zones; car free developments; green travel plans; congestion charging; improvements to bus lanes;
- Monitored air quality using a new monitoring station in the Holloway Road;
- Last year no exceedances occurred for the major air pollutants (although it is acknowledged that the weather was a factor).

Action

Now:

- The review document will focus on emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide from vehicles;
- Implement the Greater London Authority's air quality guidance and actions due by end of the year;
- Working together with other London Boroughs to address air quality issues in a co-ordinated way.

Soon:

- Develop supplementary planning guidance for the UDP to address the issues of air quality through the land-use planning process;
- Model the air pollution effects of proposed new developments e.g. Finsbury Park station redevelopment.

Later:

- Monitor the effects of the individual actions that form the AQMA strategy to determine their success in improving air quality.

4.4 Transport and access

Aims:

- Reduce car dependency;
- Prioritise environmentally friendly forms of transport such as cycling, walking and public transport by increasing their availability and attractiveness;
- Plan changes to development patterns so as to minimise the need for travel;
- Promote accessibility for all;
- Ensure all journeys within Islington are safe and secure;
- Raise awareness of travel issues.

Achievements:

- Sustainable Transport Round Table established;
- Safe Routes to School programme undertaken with 12 schools;
- Implemented a bus shelter improvement programme;
- Implemented bus priority measures;
- Improvements to Finsbury Park station;
- Introduced controlled parking zones (CPZs) within the borough to reduce commuter traffic;
- Raised awareness and provided information through campaigns e.g. Road Safety, Travel-Wise;
- Developed land-use policies for mixed use developments and densities;
- Developed supplementary planning guidance on green travel plans.

Action**Now:**

- Implementation of parking allocation in accordance with needs, with highest priority to residents and *essential* business use;
- More effective enforcement of the London Bus Priority Network and areas outside CPZs;
- Working with local schools to develop school travel plans as part of the Safer Routes to School initiative;
- Working with communities to reduce their reliance on the car by assisting them in adapting their travel behaviour and by developing solutions projects such as car share clubs;
- Developing partnerships with other local authorities in support of traffic reduction schemes and measures;
- The Council is developing a Quality Partnership agreement with Railtrack;
- Improving public participation in decision-making and in formulating proposals e.g. through the Sustainable Transport Round Table.

Soon:

- More effective control of private car parks through planning controls;
- Develop supplementary planning guidance on car free housing;
- Implementation of congestion charging proposals;
- Promote car-free developments;
- Create of borough-wide 20mph zones and traffic restraint measures;

- Improve pedestrian environments through better design and expanding cycle networks, linking local facilities to the strategic transport network;
- Further extend bus priority measures;
- Include green travel plans in planning agreements (sn. 106);
- Apply pedestrian and cycle audits for all new developments;
- Work in partnership with major employers (e.g. universities, hospital, schools and colleges) to develop green travel plans;
- Undertake awareness raising initiatives e.g. European Car Free Cities day and Don't Choke London.

Later:

- Implement workplace parking levies;
- Develop 'home zones' in residential areas.

4.5 Natural environment

Aims:

- Conserve, protect and develop Islington's natural environment;
- Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Enhance and improve the Borough's biodiversity in partnership with communities and organisations;
- Raise awareness of the importance of the natural environment and the links to local quality of life and health;
- Manage Council parks and gardens in an environmentally friendly way.

Achievements:

- The Council has signed the Peat Charter;
- The Greenspace unit is increasing the number of parks and gardens it manages organically, and is undertaking the first trial of soil association approved organic slow release fertiliser in a peat free compost;
- The Parks and Gardens team recycles pruning chippings as mulch, and potting trays are made from recycled materials, water recycling occurs at selected sites;
- The Ecology Centre has undertaken a Song Thrush Survey which encouraged local people to monitor and record this key species;
- Raising awareness of ecology via the Islington Ecology Centre.

Action

Now:

- Implement environmentally friendly management techniques for parks and gardens e.g. planting that minimises water use and a "dry" gardens;
- Monitor indicators of environmentally friendly parks and gardens management e.g. the number of parks recycling leaf fall; the percentage of parks mulched with recycled material; percentage of new saplings surviving their first year; the percentage of key indicator species present on local nature reserves.

Soon:

- Set up a central facility to compost waste from municipal parks and gardens (funds are being sought under the Landfill Tax Credit Mechanism to implement this);
- Develop a sustainable planting strategy;
- Develop and implement a green travel plan including: a bicycle fleet, reduce vehicle use and purchase clean emission/ alternatively powered vehicles;
- Use parks as “classrooms” as part of the environmental education and awareness raising strategy;
- Include sustainability and conservation training in job descriptions for the Greenspace unit;
- Involve the community in monitoring parks and gardens and key species;
- Use parks and gardens as an approach to achieving the outcomes of other strategies such as urban regeneration, health and education.

Later:

- Encourage wildlife in residents’ private gardens (the largest area of green-space in the Borough) via a number of awareness raising methods and practical steps e.g. window boxes;
- Work with the Council's housing department to look at improving estate grounds with residents and enhancing habitats for wildlife.

4.6 Waste minimisation**Aims:**

- Reduce the amount of waste being produced in Islington and make the best use of the waste that is produced;
- Raise awareness of the need to re-use resources, reduce and recycle waste;
- Increase awareness of, and participation in, waste minimisation with householders, community groups, businesses and schools;
- Spread door-to-door recycling across whole borough to all residents/ tenants;
- Stimulate the market for environmentally friendly goods and services through Council purchasing policy.

Achievements:

- Launched and expanded the door-to-door green box recycling scheme - 40 000 Islington homes are now served by the green box door to door collection scheme which takes glass, paper, textiles, tin and can recyclables;
- Undertaken a pilot recycling scheme on the Barnsbury estate;
- Christmas tree recycling;
- Compost bins are sold on request to residents and schools;
- The Council has published a Waste Recycling Plan for the Borough;
- Set up Waste Alert North London, in partnership with other North London authorities, to address waste minimisation issues for small and medium sized businesses;

- Putting waste to good use by supporting Waste Alert's Waste Exchange Service;
- Raised awareness about recycling and waste minimisation;
- Integrated waste management policy into land-use planning (see sn. 3.7 Sustainable Resource Management, UDP First Review Revised Plan June 2000).

Action

Now:

- Extending the green box recycling scheme to housing estates and private blocks of flats;
- Providing better quality information by updating the web-site and improving the recycling help-line and revising our "3R's" leaflet;
- Undertaking events to raise awareness of waste issues e.g. via theme months such as Going for Green's waste month in October.

Soon:

- Establish a central facility to compost our waste e.g. from municipal parks and gardens (funds are being sought under the Landfill Tax Credit Mechanism to implement this);
- Develop targets to reduce the growth of household waste;
- Increase participation in composting by promoting it to householders and schools. This will be kick-started with an awareness-raising programme in 2001.

Later:

- Investigate the feasibility and options for establishing a system of tradable permits for biodegradable waste in partnership with other local authorities and waste authorities;
- Devise ways of putting waste to good use e.g. by working with businesses to identify which of their wastes can be used as inputs to other businesses or to develop a scrap store that will allow schools etc. to use materials for educational purposes;
- Tackle the quantity of waste produced by breaking the link between increased waste and economic growth and investigate ways in which Islington's economy can move from linear to circular flows of materials.

4.7 Environmental education

Aims:

- Integrate sustainable development with the schools' curriculum via core subjects such as citizenship;
- Work in partnership with relevant organisations to raise awareness and develop educational programmes and projects that increase understanding of sustainable development amongst school children and teachers;
- Increase the number of schools that subscribe to "Eco-Schools";

- Develop and implement initiatives to educate other sections of the community, e.g. youth and the elderly, about sustainable development.

Achievements:

- Set up a grey water recycling project at Hungerford school;
- Implemented a Safe Routes to School programme;
- Operating a Healthy Schools Scheme (part of a national DfEE and DoH initiative) under the Health Action Zone (Camden and Islington) and Health Promotion with 25 schools in Islington;
- Involved 28 schools in energy efficiency under the CREATE programme;
- Raised awareness of ecology with the community and schools;
- Assisted the development of the sustainable development project at Hargrave Park;
- Assisted Islington Green School with their project (sponsored by BP) about sustainable development.

Action

Now:

- Local Agenda 21 is building on the links to the Healthy Schools Programme in a number of ways ranging from the links between environment and health, to healthy food, healthy environments and sustainable development;
- Work with Education Services by participating in relevant Inset training days, and assisting them in producing a directory of agencies that can, or do, work in partnership with schools on sustainability projects.

Soon:

- Seek and disseminate information such as schools' packs on sustainable development and issues such as waste minimisation to schools;
- Integrate sustainable development into Lifelong Learning Programmes.

Later:

- Work with the Education Curriculum and Policy advisers to integrate environmental sustainability with citizenship, which will soon be a statutory part of the national curriculum for secondary schools. Participation is an element of both the citizenship curriculum and Local Agenda 21;
- Local Agenda 21 will also make links with the Changemakers initiative, also part of the citizenship curriculum, which involves facilitating students in making a practical difference in their community. An opportunity therefore exists to link local issues to global sustainability issues. Initially, a pilot project may be undertaken with one school to test the Changemakers initiative.
- Work in partnership with relevant organisations to raise awareness and develop programmes and projects that increase awareness and understanding of sustainable development amongst school children and teachers. Projects must be developed that relate to Key Stages of the curriculum and are appealing to young people e.g. using technology;
- Integrate sustainable development into higher education programmes.

4.8 Green economy

Aims:

- Encourage the development of green businesses and community enterprises in Islington;
- Encourage existing businesses and other organisations to improve their environmental performance;
- Develop a robust and diverse economy that sources labour and material locally, where appropriate;
- Develop training programmes (e.g. through partnerships in regeneration areas via Lifelong Learning strategies) that provide people with skills and knowledge related to the aims of the green economy;
- Stimulate the market for goods and services, that are produced in an environmentally friendly way, through Council purchasing policy;
- Develop measurements of a sustainable development in Islington and report them alongside traditional measures of progress.

Achievements:

- Incorporated sustainable economic regeneration and a vibrant local economy as a policy aim of the UDP;
- Undertaken an environmental appraisal of UDP policies;
- Developed an Affordable Housing policy as part of the UDP, so that people can afford to live *and* work in Islington;
- Included local shopping policies in the UDP;
- Developed a green procurement policy that will develop green supply chains and encourage businesses to improve their environmental performance.

Action

Now:

- Devise ways of putting waste to good use e.g. by working with businesses to identify which of their wastes can be used as inputs to other businesses or to develop a scrap store that will allow schools etc. to use materials for educational purposes;
- Publish the Council's Best Value Green Procurement Policy and implement it across departments and services.

Soon:

- Produce a register of green professionals (e.g. architects, construction firms etc.) in Islington, in partnership with representatives of the business community and environmental business consultants;
- Develop supplementary planning guidance, under the UDP, on sustainable buildings to influence developers and builders in achieving more sustainable construction;
- Produce audits of community skills and knowledge that will identify and increase community capacity especially in regeneration areas;

- Work in partnership with colleges, communities and the voluntary sector to develop training programmes that provide people with skills related to the aims of the green economy.

Later:

- Tackle the quantity of waste produced by breaking the link between increased waste and economic growth and investigating ways in which Islington's economy can move from linear to circular flows of materials;
- Explore the feasibility of using fiscal incentives, such as the Uniform Business Rate, to encourage and reward good environmental performance and discourage poor performance;
- Monitor results from sustainable development indicators would be reported annually, alongside financial information contained within Council annual reports and performance reviews;
- Work towards an eco-budget that would detail our credits and debits of inputs and outputs and report it annually in the Council's annual reports and performance reviews.

5.0 Implementation processes

The following five implementation processes will be important in working towards a comprehensive and enduring sustainable development approach for Islington:

5.1 Information and awareness raising – this process will highlight examples of best practice, and manage and disseminate information in the Council and externally. Within the Council the process will link to the programme of cultural change, under the Modernising Islington initiative.

- We will raise awareness of environmental sustainability via involvement in campaigns (e.g. Are You Doing Your Bit?) and theme weeks, and the production of promotional materials.
- Promote environmental sustainability in regeneration areas e.g. New Finsbury New Deal by making the links between issues of local environmental quality that immediately affect people and broader issues of sustainability (4.8, p.10, Sustainable Local Communities for the 21st Century, DETR1997). For example: abandoned vehicles, street lighting, graffiti/ fly posting, tree planting and the amount of open space link to a number of wider socio-economic issues, such as crime.
- Use new types of media, such as e-mail and the internet, to disseminate information and consult people.
- Use the awareness raising part of the strategy as a foundation for *involving* communities in sustainable development processes and encouraging *participation*.

5.2 Consultation and involvement – the Council recognises the importance of democracy and participation for sustainability, and aims to:

- Involve of a wide range of people and interests in initiatives;
- Make environmental information more accessible and user-friendly;
- Involve people at every stage in policy development and review of programmes and projects;

- Set environmental standards for the smallest area for which it is sensible and effective to do so.

(Time for Change: Islington Council, March 2000).

We need to target the non-joiners of the process, as well as those who have already been involved. A summary of the draft strategy has been distributed to a wide range of associations and representative groups (ethnic, age, gender and social) across Islington.

Consultation will continue through the implementation stages of the Local Agenda 21 plan. The Council needs to consult and involve people in order to facilitate them towards action for their local environment. A number of community consultation, involvement and capacity building techniques and processes will be required to achieve this aim (see Appendix 1 for examples).

5.3 Working in partnership – due to the crosscutting nature of sustainable development, working in partnership is essential in achieving results. Businesses, voluntary sector groups, community groups, local institutions and academia are important partners in working towards strategic aims. A partnership approach will ensure joint outcomes are delivered, and duplication of effort and resources is avoided.

In terms of co-ordinating work across the Council, this strategy has used the results of consultation exercises from a number of other Council strategies such as the Unitary Development Plan, Housing Strategy Statement, Transport Strategy and Crime and Disorder strategy. Information and policies from this strategy also feed into the Council's Community Plan.

5.4 Integrating sustainability – how will the Council ensure that environmental sustainability is a part of the strategies, policies and services of all Council departments and units? A number of approaches, techniques and processes can assist us with this aim:

- **Incorporation of best-practice** – examples of best-practice can be identified from within Council, or from elsewhere, to encourage people to think about, develop and implement sustainable development initiatives in their own departments;
- **Appraisals** – application of environmental and sustainability appraisals at the strategic and policy level will ensure that sustainable development is considered at an important stage. Undertaking appraisals at this level will ensure that our actions and services are based on sustainable development principles;
- **Best Value Green Procurement Policy (BVGPP)** – Best Value is an opportunity for sustainable development to influence the services that the Council provides. The Council has developed a Green Procurement Policy outlining how green policy will apply to Council procurement of goods and services. Guidelines will be developed to assist Council services in thinking how they can become greener through their procurement. Information will be required on eco-labelling, environmental claims and

green marketing that will help procurement officers' decision making about goods and services. Once goods and services have been procured, we will need to keep up to date with information and scientific knowledge about their impacts on the environment - locally and globally.

5.5 Monitoring, measuring and reporting – two methods can help us assess progress towards sustainable development in Islington:

- **Indicators** - adopting and implementing indicators will result in information about the changing state of Islington's environment. The working group on sustainable indicators, formed as part of the Local Agenda 21 process, has developed a set of indicators via consultation with local "hard to reach" groups (see Appendix 2). These will be married with DETR headline indicators and existing Council indicators to form a comprehensive and functional set of indicators to monitor progress. Baseline information will be collected from which to set targets.
- **Eco-budget** - we can use data from indicators, as well as other information, to develop an eco-budget for the Council or Islington as a whole. Like any other budget, an eco-budget will detail credits and debits of inputs (materials, processes etc.) and outputs (pollution, resource use) to show how (un) sustainable our patterns of development and consumption are. Results from these monitoring tools will be reported appropriately.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of community involvement techniques

Appendix 2 – Local Agenda 21 indicators of sustainable development

APPENDIX 1

Community-involvement toolkits

We need a toolkit of techniques, processes and projects that will engage and involve people in the sustainable management of their neighbourhood.

There is no blueprint of community consultation and involvement methods that can be applied to all projects, initiatives or situations. Community approaches need to acknowledge the circumstances of the subject area.

A number of community involvement toolkits and examples of best practice exist for application in urban regeneration areas characterised by low rates of participation in urban management and sustainable development processes (e.g. Participation Works, NEF 1998; Community Matters).

Consultation, involvement and capacity building activities

The following techniques might be included in a community involvement toolkit, or could be undertaken in regeneration areas such as New Finsbury New Deal (the list is by no means exhaustive and is merely a starting point):

- Undertaking outreach events where the public “are” – e.g. in shopping areas, health and leisure facilities, fun days, health centres, launderettes etc;
- Undertaking community skills audits - bespoke training can be provided in community audit techniques, information gathering, data interpretation etc. Training can be linked to NVQ (National Vocational Qualifications) or other recognised qualifications;
- Using community-based indicators to involve people in urban areas of multiple deprivation (see Evaluation of the LITMUS project LSE/ Southwark Council, 2000 and Communities Count, NEF 1999);
- Disseminating information about funding and undertaking joint bids;
- Targeting workshops and focus groups to particular sections of the community, and working with community groups and attending their meetings;
- Undertaking “Planning for Real” (developed by the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation) exercises that are particularly useful for local land-use planning issues;
- Video diaries – can be useful tools for documenting residents’ local quality of life etc., and can be linked to training and education programmes;
- Projects can be made more appealing to for example, young people, by use of technology e.g. digital cameras and interpretation of results via computer technology e.g. CAD. Again, this could be linked to training and education programmes;
- Working with schools and youth groups to involve young people (although of course schools do not represent all young people). Excluded pupils are unlikely to attend schools, or youth clubs, and special approaches will be required in partnership with those agencies with the relevant remit e.g. probation services, Youth Offending Teams etc., and linking in with ongoing initiatives (see Crime and Disorder strategy and action plans,

Islington Council 1999 – 2002). However, this is very difficult and time-consuming work (a list of agencies etc. working with youth can be found from the conference papers of “Involving young people in the community” LVSC, July 2000);

- Those members of ethnic minority communities that have already been involved in urban regeneration or sustainability processes could be the starting point to involving others from that community. They can involve community champions from within their communities. This might be undertaken within the framework of training programmes such as community developers, community champions etc;
- The Black Environment Network can be approached to advise and assist in reaching out to particular groups that community involvement processes may not reach. According to research (No preaching in the temple, Green Futures August 2000) projects such as food growing could lend themselves to involving ethnic minorities from Bangladesh, Bengal etc. (communities that exist in the New Finsbury regeneration area). Research in the west Midlands found that food and religion, and afforestation were ways in which these communities could be involved;
- Translation sign posting should be included in all written material. Translators should be used where appropriate e.g. at meetings, and workers should be sensitive to different cultural needs. Large print material (more than 14 point font) should be made available where necessary;

APPENDIX 2

Local Agenda 21 indicators

Background

Developed under the Local Agenda 21 steering group, the Islington Sustainability Indicators Working Group undertook a process of indicator development with local groups in 1996 and 1997.

This collaborative process and bottom-up approach to indicator selection resulted in the report *Indicators for Sustainability*. The report covers the need for, and nature of, sustainability indicators, methodology for its consultation approach to developing the indicator set, rights and responsibilities, a set of headline indicators and five recommendations for sustainability monitoring

The five monitoring recommendations are as follows:

1. Islington Council should be the lead body for information provision;
2. Sustainability monitoring should be directed by the Local Agenda 21 steering group because it is independent;
3. Sustainability monitoring should remain collaborative;
4. Sustainability monitoring (and reporting) should have an educational role;
5. Community-based environmental monitoring should be expanded via appropriate support and training.

National policy

Since the above report was produced, national policy has been produced that includes a set of 13 headline indicators (Quality of Life Counts, DETR July 2000). It is likely that local authorities will be asked to contribute to this indicator set by implementing those indicators that are of most relevance to our communities and local environmental conditions.

Aim

An approach was selected that married the invaluable work on indicators that has already been undertaken by the working group with national policy.

Clarifying the purpose of indicators

We recognise that indicators are multi-functional tools that can:

- Raise awareness and educate
- Involve people in sustainability processes and lead to local action
- Highlight changes in local sustainability
- Evaluate services
- Inform policy

We must decide what we want our indicators to do, and recognise that there will be trade-offs between their different functions. We want to ensure that the working group's headline indicators, suitably revised, are adopted and implemented by Islington Council and other actors, as described in the report. There are various factors that must therefore be considered.

Integrating bottom-up and national perspectives

This requires integration of the Islington Local Agenda 21 headline indicators, developed in a bottom-up way, with the national headline indicators. The benefits of this integration are:

- A link will be established between bottom-up perspectives on what is important in terms of local sustainability, and the national perspective. Locally selected indicators will have the potential to inform national indicators.
- Information will exist for local people and national policy makers, although it may need some re-interpretation to ensure that, for example, information is locally relevant and resonant.
- Information exists at Council and institutional level for many of the working group's headline indicators.

Disadvantages of this integration are:

- The inevitable compromise between the functions of community indicators and national headline indicators.
- Re-interpretation of information for different audiences will be time consuming.
- The different time-scales operating for national and local indicators – this is pertinent if indicators are to be “owned” by the community (Indicators for Sustainability, 2.2, p.3) and monitored and actions undertaken by them (see LITMUS report final evaluation, 2000 LSE for Southwark Council).

What makes a good set of sustainability indicators (SIs):

The working group report also states that sets of sustainability indicators must be:

- Significant
- Relate to local and global sustainability
- Reflect local circumstances for all parties
- Be based on information that is easy to collect
- Show trends over reasonable time-scales
- Have a relationship to other sets of indicators
- Be clear, easy to understand and educate as well as inform
- Lead to the setting of targets or thresholds
- Provoke changes in policies, services, lifestyles etc.

Next steps:

To ensure our headline indicators will be successful, we need to ensure that:

- The working group's headline indicators link to other indicators that are currently being monitored by Council officers e.g. Best Value, Audit Commission etc., especially as these are statutory (see table below).
- It will be the steering group's role, as the independent and objective body (see working group recommendation 2) to re-interpret this data in a user-friendly form or for a particular audience.
- The steering group can define roles for members with respect to the above, and decide upon baselines, monitoring, reviews of indicators and using indicators for other purposes e.g. expanding community-based indicators. This application of indicators as tools to raise awareness and

with the aim of increasing involvement and participation in urban sustainability could be particularly relevant in urban regeneration programmes. These programmes are usually focused in areas of low involvement in urban sustainability due to a range of socio-economic factors.

- Reporting of indicator monitoring will occur on several levels and for many purposes – the steering group will decide upon how this should operate.
- Integrating indicators – following on from reporting, the set of SIs should be reported alongside the more traditional indicator measures in Islington. NB - Best Value indicators will be reported on a financial year basis.

Table 1: Match between Working Group headline indicators and other sets of SIs

| Working group headline indicators | DETR indicators (Quality of life counts) | Best Value indicators | Audit Commission indicators |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| % of household material collected for recycling | ✓ | ✓ | |
| No. of homeless households in temporary accommodation | ✓ Homelessness Homes fit to live in | ✓ | |
| % of empty LA dwellings | X | ? | ? |
| Child asthma/ 1000 | X | ? | ? |
| Levels of air pollution – PMs | ✓ | X | ? |
| Ambient noise levels breaching (EC) standards | X | ? | ? |
| Km of dedicated cycle routes | X Nos. of school-children walking/ cycling to school | X | ? |
| % of popn. Feeling safe to go out at night | ✓ | ✓ | ? |
| Area of semi-natural greenspace available for community use per 1000 | ✓ Net change in semi-natural habitats | X | ? |