

Sustainable Development Strategy

***Mole Valley District
Council***

Version 6

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Message from the Chief Executive

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Action Today for a Better Tomorrow

It is now well accepted that globally we are using up natural resources more quickly than the earth can replenish them and generating waste products and pollution at a faster rate than the environment can absorb them.

Some scientists estimate that if all people in the world used resources at the same rate as we in the western world do, then we would already need the equivalent of three planets to sustain this. The immediate and obvious

problem with this is of course that we only have one planet and our demands on the environment are increasing with ever-higher levels of consumption.



Simplistic solutions around just stopping this do not work. For many years it has been accepted that environmental pressures need to be balanced or considered alongside aspirations for social and economic improvements and thus the concept of sustainable development was born.

The link between economy, social advancement and the environment is just as true in Mole Valley as it is globally. It is also true that our quality of life is affected by economic, social and environmental pressures that come from outside Mole Valley (traffic on the M25, downturn in manufacturing industries in the south of England coupled with growing house prices). Equally our activity in Mole Valley as individuals, organizations and businesses has an impact globally (contributions to global warming through transport and energy use).

This Council recognizes that it has a responsibility to not only do whatever it can to ensure that its activities support rather than harm environmental, economic and social sustainability, but also to seek to influence others in the area to do the same.

Sustainable development is, by its nature, a long-term business requiring changes by us all. This strategy sets out in detail what Mole Valley District Council is doing now and has planned for the future.

Darren Mepham

Chief Executive, Mole Valley District Council

Acknowledgements

The Sustainable Development Strategy has been produced by the Council's Sustainability Scrutiny & Policy Development Panel. The range of expertise within the Panel coupled with the local commitment from volunteers and partnership groups plus the hard work of many individuals has enabled a comprehensive overview and action plan to be developed.

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1 What is Sustainable Development?

1.1 Introduction

We are currently living beyond our means. From the loss of biodiversity with the felling of rainforests or over fishing to the negative effect our consumption patterns are having on the environment and the climate. Our way of life is placing an increasing burden on the planet.

The increasing stress we put on resources and environmental systems such as water, land and air cannot go on forever.

A widely-used and accepted international definition of sustainable development is:

'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

Unless we start to make real progress we face a future that is less certain and less secure. We need to make a decisive move toward more sustainable development. Not just because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is in our own long-term best interests. It offers the best hope for the future. Whether at school, in the home or at work, we all have a part to play. Our small everyday actions add up to make a big difference.

1.2 How is the Government in the UK approaching Sustainability?

The UK Government, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Administration have agreed upon a set of principles that provide a basis for sustainable development policy in the UK. For a policy to be sustainable, it must respect all five principles.

- 1 Living within environmental limits
- 2 Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- 3 Achieving a sustainable economy
- 4 Using sound science responsibly
- 5 Promoting good governance

See Fig 1 below

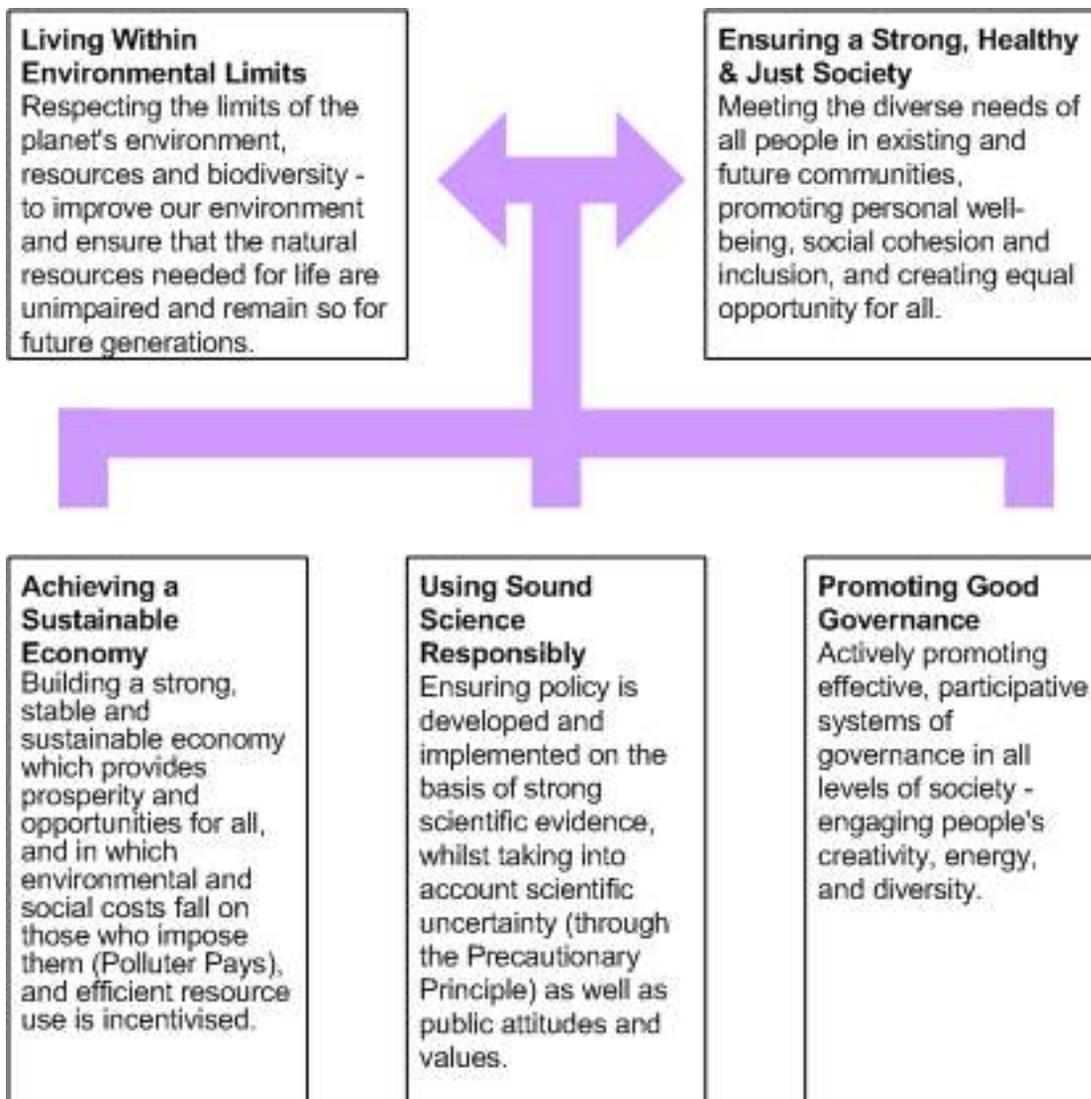


Fig 1

1.3 What Priorities have been set for the UK?

The Government has identified four priority areas for immediate action, shared across the UK, these are:

- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- **Climate Change and Energy**
- **Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement**
- **Sustainable Communities**

Each of these priorities is outlined below.

1.3.1 Priority 1 - Sustainable Consumption and Production

To live within our resources, we need to achieve more with less. This requires us to change the way we design, produce, use and dispose of the products and services we own and consume.

Areas being considered include -

- How to create better products and services

People need to be able to choose to live more sustainable lifestyles. However, in many instances, consumers are denied any real choice as many of the avoidable impacts of what we use and buy are already 'designed in' long before they reach consumers.

Some innovative producers are using eco-design tools to rethink products and services; creating goods that perform as well or better than conventional products, using resources more productively, reducing pollution and improving profitability.

- How to improve resource efficiency

With rising energy and waste costs, tougher environmental legislation and higher stakeholder expectations, organisations are increasingly focusing their attention on improving production practices to both enhance performance and demonstrate responsible behaviour.

Improved resource productivity has the potential to drive down costs by reducing raw material use, waste and pollution. The penalties for failing to manage environmental risks properly can now be substantial, whether in terms of lost reputation, loss of the licence to operate, build or market, or straight financial penalties.

- How to encourage sustainable consumption

Current consumption patterns similar to those of the UK could not be replicated worldwide. Some calculations suggest that this would require three planets' worth of resources. Instead we need to move towards 'one planet living'.

There is huge potential for better products and production practices to deliver improvements without the need for behaviour change on the part of consumers. However, a sustainable society will require that all sectors - businesses, public sector and households - consume differently and more efficiently.

- How to develop a responsible business

Many businesses have realised that acting in a socially and environmentally responsible manner is more than just an ethical duty for a company. It is something that affects the bottom-line.

Sustainable development is an area of risk that, when managed effectively, can create opportunities. Companies can make financial savings on energy costs, reduced inputs, waste disposal and compliance with regulations. They can enhance reputation and brand value, fostering customer loyalty and motivating staff. Companies can also use it as an opportunity to encourage innovation, increase investment and open up new markets.

1.3.2 Priority 2 - Climate Change and Energy

The effects of a changing climate can already be seen. Temperatures and sea levels are rising, ice and snow cover are declining, and the consequences could be catastrophic for the natural world and society. Scientific evidence points to the release of greenhouse gases - such as carbon dioxide and methane - into the atmosphere by human activity as the primary cause of climatic change.



We need to secure a profound change in the way we generate and use energy, and in other activities that release these gases. We must set a good example and encourage others to follow it.

1.3.3 Priority 3 - Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement

Natural resources are vital to our existence. Our health and well-being are closely linked to the quality of our air, water, soils and biological resources. Our landscapes, seascapes and wildlife are inseparable from our culture and inspire art and literature. Our economy and key industrial sectors are directly and indirectly reliant on functioning ecosystems. Many people believe that natural resources have their own intrinsic value, that is, they are important for their own sake regardless of their functional value.

Areas being considered include -

- Natural resources

Our natural environment, including biodiversity, is vital to human health and wellbeing. It provides:

- Clean air, water and food for our basic survival
- The resources we need for a strong economy
- A place for recreation and exercise

The sustainable use of our natural environment also plays a fundamental role in alleviating poverty in developing countries. Over 90% of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty depend on forests for some part of their livelihood and 75% of the world's population rely on traditional medicines derived from natural sources for their primary health care.

- Air quality

The quality of the air is essential to life and current pollutants already bring forward the death of between 12,000 – 24,000 vulnerable people each year in the UK. Air borne pollutants can cause cancer such as Leukaemia, tumours of the lung, skin and bladder. Clearly, ensuring the quality of air is a fundamental priority in ensuring others enjoy the same or an improved quality of life in the future.

- Biodiversity

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, but also their genetic variation, and the complex ecosystems of which they are part. It is not restricted to rare or threatened species but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered.

The world is losing biodiversity at an ever-increasing rate as a result of human activity. In the UK we have lost over 100 species during the last century, with many more species and habitats in danger of disappearing, especially at the local level. On a world scale the rate of loss is now recognised to be a cause for serious concern, requiring concerted international action to prevent continued loss of biodiversity.

- Fisheries

Fish stocks are national and international resources that have to be husbanded carefully. If we lose them from over-fishing, they may take many years to regenerate. We also have to protect all marine species from sea pollution which could wreck their ecology.



- Landscape protection

The safeguarding of a high quality natural and built environment to improve everyone's quality of life not only now but for the future is

a key aim.

In England and Wales, our finest landscapes have been conserved and enhanced through designation as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

National Parks and AONBs have a high level of protection against inappropriate development through the planning system and it is important that this is maintained.

- Land use planning

England is one of the most crowded countries in the world. Over 90 per cent of our population lives in urban areas covering just eight per cent of the land area. This makes how we plan for, and make decisions about, the future of our cities, towns and countryside extremely important.

- Marine environment

Seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans and seas and more than half the world's population lives within 60km of the coast.

We are reliant on our oceans and seas for many things, although most importantly for food, exploitable energy sources (wind power, oil and gas, etc) and tourism revenue.

It is easy to see, therefore, how our health and the health of our planet depends in no small part on the condition of our oceans and seas.

- Soil

Soil is a fundamental and irreplaceable natural resource, providing the essential link between the components that make up our environment.

- Water quality

Water is fundamental to our lives. Considerations under this sector are vast and include –

- Drinking water quality
- The quality of water in rivers, lakes
- Estuaries or coastal and marine waters
- How we manage sewage treatment or reservoir safety
- Marine issues
- Flood Management
- Water resources

- Water conservation.



- Forestry

Many existing forests comprise of a small number of species which are designed to maximize wood production. In the UK, as elsewhere, the increasing emphasis upon sustainability has led to the promotion of 'multiple-use' management which generally means developing varied forests containing different species, ages and structures.

The need to rethink existing forestry practices to meet changing objectives lies at the heart of research into sustainable forest management.

1.3.4 Priority 4 - Sustainable Communities

No community wants to be faced with the problems of a poorly kept neighbourhood with a consequent lack of community pride, poor environmental quality and health, perhaps high crime and unemployment levels. 'Sustainable communities' is about creating places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

Aims focus on improving the lives of people in deprived communities and socially excluded groups who experience poor quality of life, including poor local environmental quality and poor access to services such as education, healthcare and transport.

Sustainable communities should be:

- Active, inclusive and safe – fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities.
- Well run – with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.
- Environmentally sensitive – providing places for people to live that are considerate of the environment.
- Well designed and built – featuring a quality built and natural environment.
- Well connected – with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.
- Thriving – with a flourishing and diverse local economy.

- Well served – with public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people’s needs and accessible to all.
- Fair for everyone – including those in other communities, now and in the future

2 Why have a Sustainable Development Strategy?

2.1 Changing Behaviour

“Whilst 90 per cent of people know that drinks cans can be recycled, only 50 per cent say they’ve actually ever done it.” (NOP World research – WRAP, UK 2004)

We *all* need to make different choices if we are to achieve sustainable development. But what we choose to do and how we behave are determined by many factors.

Central Government, Local Authorities, the Police, Social Services, Lawyers, Doctors etc all have a part to play in encouraging behaviour change and finding ways of engaging the public in supporting the development of new social norms.

Responsible bodies need to make sure that all the factors, which are necessary to change behaviour are present. Then we all need to ask ourselves if this is enough and if not what more we need to do to bring about further change.

2.2 Commitment Statement

C A R E

‘Mole Valley District Council through its Commitment, Activities, Resources and Efforts will work to ensure a better quality of life for its community, now and for future generations’

2.3 Government Strategy

The UK Government Sustainability Development Strategy, '*Securing the Future*', was launched by the Prime Minister in March 2005. It sets out the goal of sustainable development as 'enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life for future generations'.

The Strategy outlines 68 indicators through which to review progress of the Strategy and benchmarks those indicators against figures in 1990 and 1999.

We all contribute to these figures during our daily life through the choices we make – what we consume, the way we travel, what we recycle or throw away etc. We can all therefore influence the success of this strategy and the way others will be able to live in the future.

2.4 Why is the Government placing such importance on this Strategy?

Some facts –

Since 1950 global water use has more than tripled; within 25 years half of the world's population could have trouble finding enough fresh water for drinking and irrigation.

By 2050 global energy demand could double as populations rise and developing countries expand their economies.

By 2080s the annual number of people at risk from coastal flooding due to surges could increase from about 10 million to as many as 80 million worldwide.

After adjusting for natural land movements the average sea level around the UK is now about 10cm higher than it was in 1900.

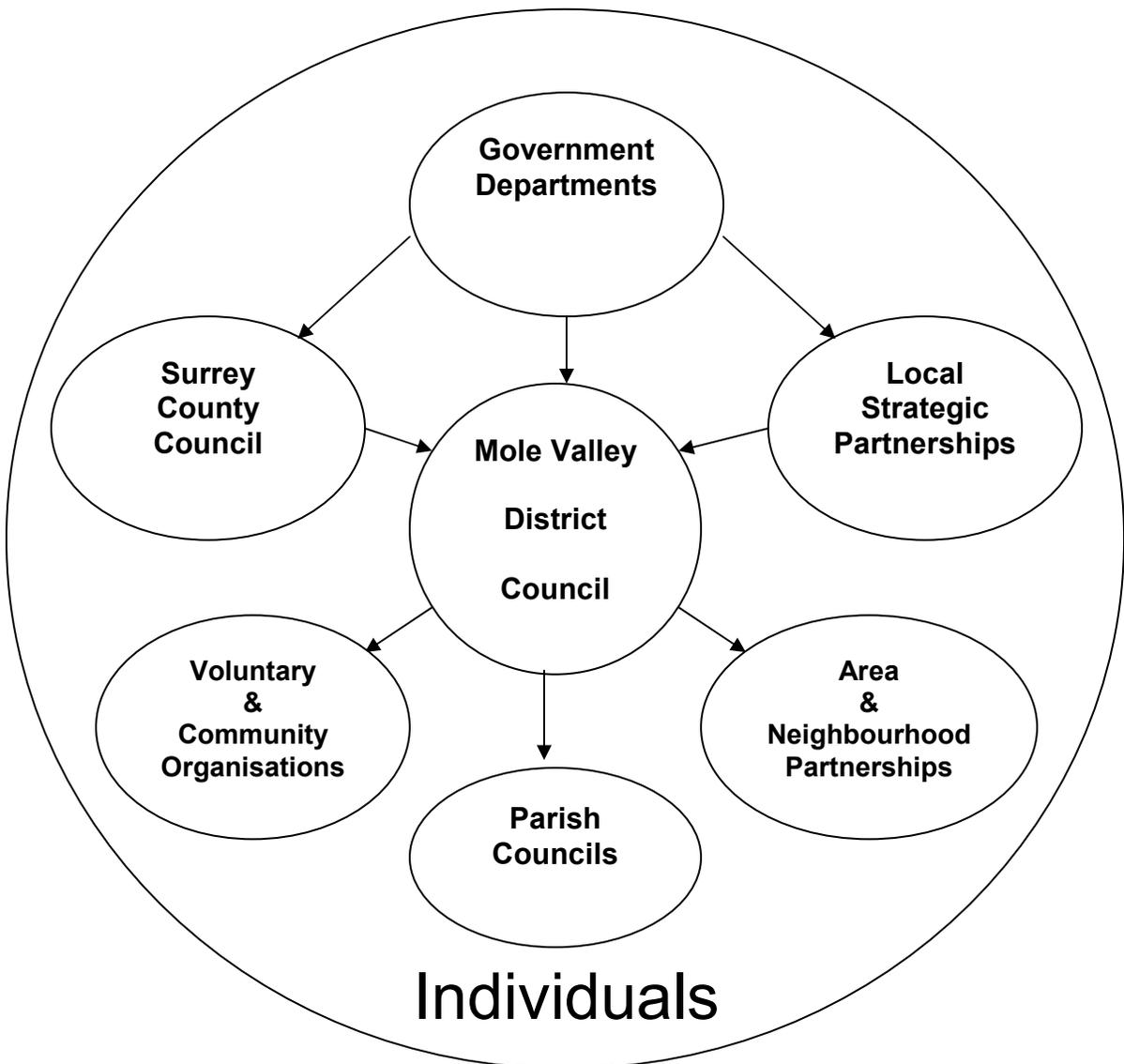
72% of the world's marine stocks are being harvested faster than they can reproduce.

Some experts assess the rate at which species are becoming extinct at 1,000 -10,000 times higher than the natural rate would be.

2.5 How does Mole Valley District Council's Sustainable Development Strategy contribute?

2.5.1 Strengthening National Delivery

The UK Government has to work closely and effectively with the devolved administrations to ensure delivery in all areas. Its Strategy cascades down through to the community. It takes the commitment of all individuals in the process to make an impact.



Mole Valley District Council's Sustainable Development Strategy has to reflect the objectives of the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy issued by the Government. It can only act in those areas it has the authority to do so. It cannot set specific objectives and actions in relation to traffic issues for example, as Surrey County Council is the Highway Authority. It can however try to influence matters which impact on the daily lives of those in the District. This it has successfully done many times.

Mole Valley District Council's Sustainable Development Strategy therefore has to link in with existing hierarchical strategies, its local strategies and have specific objectives that contribute to the Government's four key priority areas.

2.5.2 Links with Existing Strategies

The following existing Strategies link into this Sustainable Development Strategy and have been taken into account during the development of the Strategy:-

Ref	Strategies & associated Documents	Year Published	UK Priority Link (See table below)
Government Strategies			
GS1	The UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy – 'Securing The Future'	7 March 2005	ALL
GS2	Strategic Framework – 'One Future – Different Paths'	7 March 2005	ALL
GS3	Sustainable Development Indicators in your Pocket	2006	ALL
GS4	National Waste Strategy	TBC	Priority 1 section 4
GS5	South East England Regional Assemblies	TBC	Priority 1 section 4
GS6	Building a Greener Future – Towards Zero Carbon Development	Dec 2006	Priority 3 section 1 Priority 4 section 2
GS7	Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	2004	Priority 3 section 1
GS8	National Air Quality Strategy	2000	Priority 3 section 3
GS9	Sustainable Procurement Task Force	2006	Priority 1 section 2
Surrey County Council Strategies			
SCC1	Local Transport Plan	2006/7 – 2010/11	Priority 4 section 4
SCC2	The Common Agenda for a Sustainable Surrey	2000	ALL
Local Partnerships			
LP1	LA 21 Strategy	2001	ALL
LP2	Joint Municipal Waste Strategy	June 2006	Priority 1 section 4
LP3	Mole Valley Parking Strategy	November 2006	Priority 3 section 1 Priority 4 section 1 Priority 4 section 9

LP4	Forestry & Woodlands Framework Steering Group		Priority 3 Section 6
LP5	Community Plan	March 2006	Priority 4 All sections Priority 1 section 4
Mole Valley District Council Strategies			
MVDC1	Emerging Mole Valley Local Development Framework, including Mole Valley Local Plan 2000 and the 'Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment' of the Core Strategy	Ongoing	ALL
MVDC2	Procurement Strategy	May 2004	Priority 1 section 2
MVDC3	Race Equality Scheme	2005 - 2008	Priority 4 section 6
MVDC4	Disability Equality Scheme	2006	Priority 4 section 6 Priority 4 section 8 Priority 4 section 9
MVDC5	Community Safety Strategy	2005 - 2008	Priority 4 section 9
MVDC6	Corporate Plan	2006/07	ALL
MVDC7	Housing Strategy	June 2006	Priority 4 section 2
MVDC8	Homelessness Strategy	2003/04	Priority 4 section 6 Priority 4 section 8 Priority 4 section 9
MVDC9	Youth Strategy	June 2005	Priority 4 section 6 Priority 4 section 8 Priority 4 section 9
MVDC10	Local Waste Management Strategy 2002-2009	2002	Priority 1 section 4
MVDC 11	Asset Management Plan	April 2006	Priority 2 section 1 Priority 2 section 2
MVDC12	Interim IT Strategy	2007 - 2009	Priority 1 section 1
MVDC13	Council Transport Plan	2001	Priority 4 section 1

Chapters 3 and 4 outline the aims of these strategies and how they feed into Mole Valley District Council's Sustainable Development Strategy.

2.5.3 Links with the United Kingdom's four key Priority Areas.

As stated in 1.3 above the Government has identified four priority areas for immediate action these are:

- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**
- **Climate Change and Energy**
- **Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement**
- **Sustainable Communities**

The Council has considered each of these priorities and has decided to concentrate on the following specific areas under each priority –

UK PRIORITY 1 : Sustainable Consumption and Production	
1	Administration Processes
2	Procurement
3	Waste & Recycling
4	Business Sector
UK PRIORITY 2 : Climate Change and Energy	
1	Energy Consumption & CO₂ emissions
2	Flooding
3	Renewable Energy
UK PRIORITY 3 : Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement	
1	Development Control
2	Water Consumption & Quality
3	Air Quality
4	Biodiversity
5	Agriculture

6 Forestry

UK PRIORITY 4 : Sustainable Communities

1 Transport

2 Housing

3 Villages

4 Neighbourhood Regeneration

5 Schools

6 Social Cohesion/Diversity

7 Economic Growth

8 Health & Welfare

9 Community Safety

3 Established Hierarchical Strategic Objectives

3.1 GS1 - The UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy – 'Securing the Future'

3.1.1 Introduction & Objectives

This Strategy has already been discussed in detail in sections 1 & 2.

3.1.2 Some Key Targets

Below are examples of some of the UK's targets: -

Objective	Government Targets
Global Warming	
Carbon Dioxide Emissions	To reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30% by 2020, 60% by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels)
Transport	
Traffic growth	To limit growth to 1% per annum and 5.5% between 2004 and 2010
Public transport usage	To increase usage from 26.8 million in 2004 to 28 million in 2010
Cycling	To increase cycling by 20% between 2004 and 2010
Number of adults killed or seriously injured	To reduce from average of 932 individuals in 1994 to 1998 to 461 individuals by 2010 (50%) (the Government's minimum target is a 40% reduction)
Number of children killed or seriously injured	To reduce from average of 84 individuals in 1994 – 1998 to 461 individuals by 2010 (70%) (the Government's minimum target is a 50% reduction)
Condition of principal roads	To reduce the proportion of roads in need of maintenance from 39.4% in 2004/05 to 34% in 2010/11
Air Quality	
Benzene	5µg/m ³ (1.5ppb). Concentration measured as annual average to be achieved by 31.12.2010
Carbon Monoxide	10mg/m ³ (8.6ppm). Concentration measured as maximum daily running 8-hour mean to be achieved by 31.12.2003
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	0.25ng/m ³ B[a]P. Concentration measured as annual average to be achieved by 31.12.2010

Particles (PM ₁₀)	50µg/m ₃ not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year. Concentration measured as 24 hour mean to be achieved by 31.12.2010
Waste	
Recycling	50% of waste recycled by 2020
Water	
Reduced water consumption	25% reduction in water consumption by 2020
Public Buildings	
Office Carbon emissions	A carbon neutral office estate by 2020
Government Buildings	
Recycling	75% of waste recycled by 2020
Generated waste	25% reduction in waste generated by 2020

3.2 GS2 - The UK Government's Strategic Framework –‘One Future - Different Paths’

3.2.1 Introduction

The New Framework Goal for Sustainable Development is defined as -

‘The goal of sustainable development is 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.’

For the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

Government must promote a clear understanding of and commitment to sustainable development so that all people can contribute to the overall goal through their individual decisions.

Similar objectives will inform all our international endeavours, with the UK actively promoting multilateral and sustainable solutions to today's most pressing environmental, economic and social problems. There is a clear obligation on more prosperous nations both to put their own house in order and to support other countries in the transition towards a more equitable and sustainable world.’

3.2.2 UK Framework Indicators

The government led 'Strategic Framework' provides a set of high-level indicators – the 'UK Framework Indicators'. These are intended to cover key impacts and outcomes that reflect the priority areas across the UK.

The UK Framework Indicators form the basis of an annual government assessment together with other evidence of monitoring and evaluation.

The UK Framework Indicators, and in brief terms how they are measured, are as follows –

1. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Kyoto target and CO₂ emissions
2. **Resource Use:** Domestic Material Consumption and GDP
3. **Waste:** arisings by (a) sector (b) method of disposal
4. **Bird Populations:** Bird Population indices (a) Farmland birds (b) woodland birds (c) birds of coasts and estuaries
5. **Fish stocks:** fish stocks around the UK within sustainable limits
6. **Ecological impacts of air pollution:** area of UK habitat sensitive to acidification and eutrophication with critical load exceedences
7. **River Quality:** rivers of good (a) biological (b) chemical quality
8. **Economic output:** Gross Domestic Product
9. **Active Community Participation:** civic participation, informal and formal volunteering at least once a month
10. **Crime:** crime survey and recorded crime for (a) vehicles (b) domestic burglary (c) violence
11. **Employment:** people of working age in employment
12. **Workless households:** population living in workless households (a) children (b) working age
13. **Childhood poverty:** children in relative low-income households (a) before housing costs (b) after housing costs
14. **Pensioner poverty:** pensioners in relative low-income households (a) before housing costs (b) after housing costs
15. **Education:** 19 year olds with level 2 qualifications and above
16. **Health inequality:** (a) infant mortality (by socio-economic group) (b) life expectancy (by area) for men and women
17. **Mobility:** (a) number of trips per person by mode (b) distance travelled per person per year by broad trip purpose
18. **Social justice:** (social measures to be developed)
19. **Environmental equality:** (environmental measures to be developed)
20. **Well being:** (well being measures to be developed if supported by the evidence)

The effectiveness of the scheme is reviewed every 4 years. The next report is due in 2007.

3.3 GS3 - Sustainable Development Indicators in your Pocket

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy outlines 68 indicators through which to review progress in the 4 key UK priority areas. The 20 indicators highlighted by the Government in the Framework above are indicators already included within the 68 indicators, but have been specifically raised by the Government as key or 'higher level' objectives.

This document provides a useful reference for each of the 68 indicators as it details what they are and how the 68 indicators are being measured.

3.4 GS4 - National Waste Strategy 2000

3.4.1 Introduction

The Strategy is the Government's vision for waste management and sets out the changes required to achieve sustainable development. At its core is the desire to decouple waste growth from economic growth. It also states that better use must be made of waste where it is generated through recycling, composting and energy recovery. To achieve this it stipulates that the landfill tax will be escalated to reduce the use of landfill.

3.4.2 Objectives & Targets

The Strategy addresses all types of waste and has recognised that household waste in particular needs significant changes to ensure it is managed in a more sustainable way. The Strategy defines the following targets to do this:

- To recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005
- To recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010
- To recycle or compost at least 33% of household waste by 2015

It is also recognised that recycling markets need to be developed to ensure that national targets can be achieved. Under this commitment the Government has formed the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

3.5 GS5 - SEERA South East England Waste Strategy (2004) – No Time to Waste

3.5.1 Introduction

This strategy reflects the government's commitments under Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) and proposes a vision and planning framework up to 2026. The Strategy identifies that change in waste management must take place quickly and that the mix and provision of types of facilities has to be reversed so that the number of landfill sites diminishes. The Strategy provides illustrations of the

number and type of facilities required to assist individual planning authorities who have to consider the total impact of such facilities (for example incineration releases more CO₂ than other processes such as pyrolysis, which is chemical decomposition induced in organic materials by heat in the absence of oxygen).

3.5.2 Objectives

The Strategy's Vision is that by 2025:

- The amount of waste will be minimised
- The overwhelming majority of materials will be re-used, recycled or have value recovered from them
- And the environment will be protected and enhanced for future generations

There is a steer towards waste management being self-sufficient within a region. It also confirms that waste imports from London into the South East will continue in the short term but that these should be reduced quickly as the provision of landfill sites in the region is reduced.

3.6 GS6 – Building a Greener Future – Towards Zero Carbon development

3.6.1 Introduction

This is a challenging package of measures for planners and house builders, which will help to reduce carbon emissions and bring innovation to the building industry. The aim is to put tackling climate change at the heart of the planning system and the way new homes are built.

Energy efficient and insulated buildings, which draw their energy from zero or low carbon technologies and therefore produce no net carbon emissions from all energy use over the course of a year, will help reduce carbon emissions as well as lowering fuel bills for households.

3.6.2 Objectives

This document forms part of a package of wide-ranging measures, which includes:

- a framework for progressively tightening building regulations up to 2016 to increase the energy efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint of new homes;
- the publication of the Code for Sustainable Homes, which aims to increase the environmental sustainability of new homes and give homeowners better information about the sustainability of their home. It

sets out a star rating from one to six (with six being the most sustainable) which can be applied to all new homes; and

- a draft Planning Policy Statement on climate change, which expects planning strategies to be tested on their carbon ambition and, in providing for new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities, shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to climate change. The PPS expects new development to be located to optimise its carbon performance and make the most of existing and planned opportunities for de-centralised, renewable and low-carbon, energy supplies.

Taken together, the measures are an important part of meeting the Government's climate change targets by helping to reduce carbon emissions produced by homes as well as reducing waste and harmful transport emissions.

3.6.3 Targets

Currently, the energy used to heat, light and run our homes accounts for 27% of all of the UK's carbon emissions - around 40 million tonnes. To help tackle this, the Government is proposing that all new homes be zero carbon by 2016.

This will be achieved in three steps. The first, in 2010 would imply a 25% improvement in the energy/carbon performance set in building regulations; the second, in 2013, the intention is that new homes would show a 44% improvement. Finally, by 2016, new homes would achieve a zero carbon rating.

From April 2008, after learning from the voluntary phase of the Code for Sustainable Homes, the Government intends to propose that all new homes should be required to have a mandatory code rating, indicating whether they have been assessed and the performance of the home against the Code.

3.7 GS7 – Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

3.7.1 Introduction & Objectives

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out for the first time the duty of planning authorities towards sustainability. Section 39 requires that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities (LPAs) – *'have a statutory duty when preparing the regional spatial strategy and local development documents to exercise their functions with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development'*.

The role of LPAs is however not restricted to plan-making and development control but involves facilitating and promoting the implementation of good quality development.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 translates the Act into practical guidance and makes it a specific requirement for LPAs to pursue the aims of sustainable development it states – *‘Sustainable Development is the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and future generations’.*

Other sustainable development issues are included in –

PPS7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

PPS9 – Biodiversity

PPS10 – Waste

PPS22 – Renewable Energy

PPS23 - Pollution Control including SUDS

In March 2006 the Government decided to develop a new PPS on climate change to set out how those involved in planning processes should work towards a reduction of carbon emissions in their location, citing and design of new development.

PPS1 states that planning policies should not replicate or cut across other requirements such as those set out in building regulations. The recent updates to ‘Part L of the Building Regulations’ is a significant shift towards improved carbon performance. Recent announcements have been made about integrating water efficiency standards for new and existing homes too. It is anticipated that new regulations will be published in 2010, following on from the ‘Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act (2004).

3.8 GS8 – National Air Quality Strategy 2000

3.8.1 Introduction

The National Air Quality Strategy revised in 2000 sets out targets for seven pollutants which local authorities are obliged to meet. These pollutants are –

- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Fine Particles (PM₁₀)
- Carbon Monoxide
- Sulphur dioxide
- Benzene

- 1,3-butadiene
- Lead

The 2000 Air quality regulations set objectives for those seven pollutants which should be achieved by various dates from the end of 2003 to the end of 2008, depending on the pollutant. Further objectives have been set for the year 2010 through to 2015.

There are 1600 national air quality measuring sites across the UK. Should the air quality targets not be met in certain areas then those areas are required by statute to be declared an 'Air Quality Management Area'. The Authority for that area has to then produce a written action plan to work towards achieving the air quality standards.

3.8.2 Objectives

The Air Quality Strategy aims to –

- Map out as far as possible future ambient air quality policy in the UK in the medium term.
- Provide best practical protection to human health by setting health-based objectives for air pollutants.
- Contribute to the protection of the natural environment through objectives for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems.
- Describe current and future levels of air pollution.
- Provide a framework to help identify what we can all do to improve air quality.

3.8.3 Targets – See section 3.1.2

3.9 GS9 – Sustainable Procurement Task Force 2006

3.9.1 Introduction

Sustainable procurement is that which considers fully the impacts of procurement in environmental, social and economic terms. As such it is as broad as sustainability itself, and is dependent on knowledge of what can be done and potentially prioritisation by companies.

The UK Government has an intention to lead on the development of sustainable procurement. To this end the Sustainable Procurement Task Force, jointly funded by DEFRA and HM Treasury, was set up. The Task Force delivered its findings and recommendations in June 2006.

This area is considered important in moving towards a more sustainable society and economy. With government leadership the consumption patterns of business and consumers can be shifted onto a more sustainable path more quickly. The scale of public sector spending on goods, services, works and utilities (13% of GDP) means it can put pressure on stimulating the market for more sustainable goods and service provision.

The Task Force's remit is to focus on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of public procurement. It analysed evidence, drew on experience and best practice elsewhere and commissioned research to show how the UK could become a leader in sustainable procurement. The Task Force concluded that there would be significant benefits from doing this: better stewardship of taxpayers' money; environmental and social benefits; public sector support for innovation and encouragement for more environment-friendly technologies. Risk could be better managed; concerns about upfront costs could be mitigated through less waste and there could be better information about purchasing patterns and improved supplier relationships and management. All these elements of sustainable procurement are examples of good procurement practice.

3.9.2 Objectives

The first objective of the Task Force is for central government to 'Lead by Example' i.e. enable systems to develop that reward sustainable procurement and punish failure to comply with existing policies. Suppliers need the clarity of policy statements being translated into procurement decisions.

The second objective is for government to set clear priorities. Procurers complained of too much guidance, presented in an incoherent manner with no cross government ownership. The Task Force believes that government should develop a single integrated sustainable procurement framework, which meets the test of policy salience and suitability for being addressed through procurement.

The third objective is to 'Raise the Bar'. The Task Force believes that existing minimum standards for central government should be properly enforced, extended to the rest of the public sector and that further standards (both minimum and forward looking) should be developed in the priority areas of spend identified. This is to raise the performance of buying and selling organisations and of the products and services being procured and give clear signals to the marketplace on future requirements. The Task Force recommends working with suppliers to identify future needs and to phase out products and services that fall below minimum standards by 2009. Government needs to make clear what standards are mandatory and be prepared to apply sanctions for non-compliance.

The task group also identifies that the public sector must build capacity by developing its capabilities to deliver sustainable procurement. Procurers

complained of ambiguous information and training, confused messaging and lack of tools showing how to put sustainability into practice. As sustainable procurement cannot be undertaken effectively unless procurement activities in the round are carried out professionally and effectively, all procurement should be carried out by people whose procurement skills that have been developed appropriately. The Task Force has developed a new framework to allow public sector organisations to benchmark their own capability (the Flexible Framework - **see first bullet point below**). It recommends that all public sector organisations reach level 1 (or above) by end of April 2007 and level 3 (or above) across the board with level 5 in at least one category by 2009 (**see Appendix 5**).

The fifth objective is for government to remove barriers to sustainable procurement. Evidence suggests that whole life costing is not being implemented in practice. Life costing means taking into account the whole life cycle costs of work i.e. it takes into account future costs say for disposal. The Task Force called on HM Treasury to simplify and clarify existing guidance on whole life costing and to reinforce the requirement that it is applied in public spending. All public organisations are called upon to examine their budgeting arrangements to make sure they encourage and support sustainable procurement. Big capital spend programmes need to be reviewed to make sure they are meeting high sustainability standards.

Finally, the public sector needs to capture opportunities for innovation and social benefits and to manage risk better through smarter engagement with the market. Many suppliers find it difficult to penetrate the public sector with innovative solutions. Better engagement with would allow more benefits to be realised.

The Task Force believes that these objectives can be met by the public sector through it providing three essential building blocks:

- A Flexible Framework – this guides public sector leaders in the actions required to make sustainable procurement happen. It allows organisations to assess the quality of its procurement activity and gives a clear route map to better performance.
- Prioritisation of spend – the Task Force has developed a methodology for identifying in which areas of spend to focus attention. This has helped to identify ten priority areas of spend for action nationally. Public sector organisations can also use the prioritisation tool to identify local priorities (additional to the national priorities).
- Toolkits – assistance through government providing a ‘sustainable procurement delivery team’ which will develop specialist toolkits and provide expert advice and support to public sector procurers.

3.9.3 Targets

The Task Force set a number of key milestones, as well as recognising that progress should extend well beyond 2009:

- All public sector organisations to reach Level 1 (or above) of the Flexible Framework by end April 2007.
- All public sector organisations to reach Level 3 (or above) of the Flexible Framework with leadership (Level 5) in at least one area by December 2009.

4 Established Local Strategic Objectives

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGIES (SCC)

4.1 SCC1 – Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2006/7 – 2010/11

4.1.1 Introduction

The broad objectives of the LTP are

- Integration – ‘to improve co-ordination between all forms of transport and to integrate transport with other policies’
- Environment – ‘to protect and improve the environment of Surrey and health of its people by reducing the adverse effects of motorised transport’
- Safety – ‘to improve the safety and security of transport for all travellers’
- Economy – ‘to promote an efficient transport system which supports a sustainable economy’
- Accessibility – ‘to make it easier for everyone to travel to everyday facilities especially people without a car’

4.1.2 Objectives

In March 2006 the County Council issued its ‘Environmental report’ on the provisional LTP. This is a strategic environmental assessment of the provisional LTP which is required by European and UK law of Surrey County as the Highway Authority for the whole of Surrey. The assessment identifies risks, costs and benefits to the environment that might arise from the proposed LTP.

The assessment looked at 5 key objectives –

Objective 1 – Tackling congestion to limit delays

The County has identified Guildford, Woking and Redhill/Reigate as ‘congestion hotspots’ and these therefore will be the initial focus for tackling congestion.

Objective 2 – Increasing accessibility to key services and facilities.

The primary aim is improving access of specific disadvantaged groups to a range of services. The level of deprivation is comparatively low in Surrey, but pockets remain where minority groups are still disadvantaged. A key issue is cited as access to public transport.

Objective 3 – Improving Road safety and security

Over the last 10 years the number of people killed or seriously injured on Surrey's roads has dropped significantly. Numbers of people slightly hurt has also reduced. Casualty numbers are still too high though.

Objective 4 - Enhancing the environment and quality of life

The most significant concern relating to the environment is air quality. As a growing number of areas in Surrey will not meet national air quality standards, the need to reduce levels of pollutants is important. Spelthorne is highlighted as a priority, but it is emphasised that air quality needs to be monitored in other areas too. Reducing CO2 emissions is also recognised as important, as was the recycling of highway material.

Objective 5 – Improving management and maintenance of the transport network
The need for well-maintained roads and footways is a longstanding issue and the scale of maintenance requirements is identified as a key problem to be addressed.

4.1.3 Targets

Objective	Surrey Wide Target	Sustainable Development Impact
Objective 1 – Tackling congestion to limit delays	<u>Congestion</u> To limit traffic growth to less than 1% per year resulting in a net increase of only 5.5% between 2004 and 2010.	UK Priority 2 -Climate change and Energy UK Priority 3 – Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
Objective 2 – Increasing accessibility to key services and facilities.	<u>Accessibility</u> To increase the proportion of 16-19 year olds who can travel to schools or colleges by public transport in 20 – 30 mins. To increase the proportion of people who can travel to hospital by public transport in 20 – 30 mins.	UK Priority 4 - Sustainable Communities
Objective 3 – Improving Road safety and security	<u>Road Accidents</u> To reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 50% or 461 people per year by 2010. To reduce the number of children (0-15 yrs) killed or	UK Priority 4 - Sustainable Communities

	<p>seriously injured by 70% or to 211 by 2010.</p> <p>To reduce the number of people slightly injured by 15% or to 5,591 by 2010.</p>	
Objective 4 - Enhancing the environment and quality of life	<p><u>Air Quality</u> New targets have yet to be set for two key air pollutants - nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and particulates (PM10) although they are expected to be at least as those set previously.</p>	UK Priority 3 – Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
Objective 4 - Enhancing the environment and quality of life	<p><u>Carbon Emissions</u> A new target for growth in carbon emissions has not yet been set but it is anticipated to be at least equivalent to the target of 8% growth in 6 years.</p>	UK Priority 2 -Climate change and Energy
Objective 4 - Enhancing the environment and quality of life	<p><u>Recycled Highway Material</u> A target has been set for saving £600,000 per year on the annual maintenance budget by 2010/11 as a result of the substitution of recycled material.</p>	UK Priority 1 – Sustainable Consumption and Production
Objective 4 - Enhancing the environment and quality of life	<p><u>Road Noise</u> A target has been set for road noise of 18% of the Surrey population to benefit from noise reducing surfaces by 2010/11</p>	UK Priority 3 – Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
Objective 5 – Improving management and maintenance of the transport network	<p><u>Improved Transport Principal Roads</u> To reduce the proportion of roads in need of maintenance from 39.4% in 2004/5 to 34% in 2010/11</p> <p><u>Non-Principal Classified Roads</u> To reduce the proportion of roads in need of maintenance</p>	UK Priority 4 - Sustainable Communities

	<p>from 15.74% in 2004/5 to 11.6% in 2010/11</p> <p><u>Unclassified Roads</u> To have no net deterioration in condition between 2004/5 and 2010/11</p> <p><u>Improved Footways</u> To have no net deterioration in condition between 2004/5 and 2010/11</p>	
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It can be seen that the LTP has a key role to play in addressing sustainable development issues throughout Surrey although clearly it only address some environmental implications. Other forms of transport such as the impact due to the proximity to Gatwick Airport and the resultant air pollution, vehicle movements etc are major considerations. Having said this though, the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions across the UK from road vehicles rose from 17% to 21% between 1990 and 2000 and is forecast to rise again to 24% in 2010 and to over 26% by 2020. Consequently how we deal with traffic/transport issues and the steps taken to encourage changes in people’s travelling habits is a key issue.

4.2 SCC2 – The Common Agenda for a Sustainable Surrey 2000

The ‘Common Agenda for a Sustainable Surrey’ (CASS) is a set of guidelines for a more sustainable future for Surrey. It was used in 2000 to inform ‘LA21 Plans’ throughout the County (see 4.3 below). Development of the Common Agenda enabled a major focus in the County and encouraged Districts and the County to work together to make Surrey more sustainable. Surrey County Council formally adopted the Common Agenda in February 2000.

In summary CASS involves everyone in a sustained commitment to taking action to:

- Use natural resources wisely
- Promote more sustainable transport
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Encourage a successful local economy
- Care and protect people
- Encourage successful communities

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES (LP)

4.3 LP1 - LA 21 Strategy

4.3.1 Introduction

Sustainable Development has been addressed for some years through the Local Agenda 21 process. This was initiated in 1992 when the government played a key role at the United Nations Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, by agreeing with over 170 other nations a framework to arrest social economic and environmental decline into the 21st Century.

The process of Agenda 21 in Mole Valley began in 1993, when the Council founded an Annual Environmental Forum. In 1994 a Local Agenda 21 Group was formed and the first action plan was produced and subsequently updated annually.

4.3.2 Objectives

The overall aim of the LA 21 Strategy is to develop a sustainable local community where –

- Local people are consulted and involved on important local issues
- People live in good health, in safe, attractive, well kept towns and rural areas
- The beauty of the countryside and the diversity of local habitat and wildlife are conserved
- Good design and planning makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way with less pollution, better transport and effective management of waste and recycling
- There is a successful and sustainable local economy
- There are good quality services; health, leisure, education, housing, transport, finance, shopping and the crime prevention – which meet the needs of local people and businesses.

4.3.3 Targets

There are a series of quality of life indicators (e.g. annual number of new affordable dwellings provided, number of allotment holders) within the strategy but no targets or evidence of monitoring or reviewing the indicators.

4.4 LP2 - Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

4.4.1 Introduction

The Council has also adopted the Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) in October 2006. This Strategy covers municipal waste management in Surrey for the period 2006 to 2026. The Strategy was prepared by representatives from all 12 Local Authorities in Surrey and is intended to be the start of partnership working to achieve sustainable waste management.

4.4.2 Objectives

Its vision statement is:

‘To provide Surrey with a forward-looking strategy for a more sustainable future. The vision is for a County in which resources are used and managed efficiently so that by 2026:

- the amount of waste produced will be minimised;
- the overwhelming majority of materials will be re-used, recycled or have value recovered from them; and
- the environment will be protected and enhanced for future generations.’

4.4.3 Targets

The Strategy is built around 5 key policies and targets. These are that the Group will:

- Policy 1: work in partnership with each other and other stakeholders in order to promote sustainable waste and resources management in Surrey, and support regional policies for net self-sufficiency.
- Policy 2: work in partnership to develop and deliver a co-ordinated waste education and awareness programme, which focuses on all aspects of sustainable waste management, in line with the priorities of the waste hierarchy.
- Policy 3: vigorously pursue the minimisation of waste to achieve a growth rate below current levels, through common public messages, lobbying retailers and enforcement activities.
- Policy 4: commit significant efforts and resources to achieve and exceed household recycling and composting targets of 40% by the year 2010 and 50% by 2015, and aspire to reach a long term target of 60% recycling and composting by 2025.

Policy 5: adhere to the waste hierarchy, with residual waste treatment preferred to landfill. Recovery and disposal facilities will be delivered to ensure compliance with the Landfill Directive. We will restrict the use of landfill to less than 26% of arisings by the year 2015 and less than 16% by 2025.

Each authority has its own Action Plan for achieving the objectives for the JMWMS. Currently these Action Plans address the period up to 2010. At the moment the Council's Local Waste Strategy accords with the requirements under its Action Plan.

4.5 LP3 – Mole Valley Parking Strategy

4.5.1 Introduction

In 2005 Mole Valley District Council, in collaboration with Surrey County Council, commissioned a fundamental review of 'on' and 'off' street parking. This resulted in a District wide Parking Strategy for Mole Valley being adopted by both Councils in September 2006.

The strategy contains a number of high level parking objectives, which affect both 'on-street' and 'off-street' parking facilities. It will be necessary for both authorities to implement various actions to achieve the strategy's overall objectives.

Parking management is important for a variety of reasons:

- for the local economy, to encourage visitors and shoppers;
- for residents, who need to have access to parking near their homes and at the places they visit, and for those living in rural villages who need to use their cars to access goods and services in the main towns;
- for businesses, who need access to essential car parking and loading facilities;
- for special needs groups, such as people with mobility difficulties. Who need to access goods and services by car;
- for commuters, who travel to local jobs and for local residents who commute out of the district by rail;
- for raising revenue for the council to support other public services and help keep Council Tax down;
- for making sure there is a choice of practical and sustainable methods of transport while reducing car use;
- for aiding congestion and road safety; and
- for dealing with the ever growing demand for parking.

4.5.2 Objectives

The key objectives of the Strategy are -

- To support and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres
- To manage parking provision in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable travel choices
- To use charges to influence parking behaviour in support of the other objectives and to maximise revenue, whilst being sensitive to the local economy.
- To protect local residents' ability to park close to their homes
- To provide sufficient parking for people with special needs
- To ensure a high quality of parking provision
- To ensure enforcement is adequate to achieve other objectives
- To monitor parking activity
- To ensure new development provides appropriate parking

4.5.3 Key Targets

Key targets include –

- The introduction of Controlled Parking Zones in both Dorking and Leatherhead Town Centres.
- To make more efficient use of the Parking Stock through reviewing the requirements of all customers – Residents, Visitors, Commuters and Businesses.
- To improve the quality of the Parking Stock.
- To improve accessibility and reduce congestion through better directional signage.
- To review the security of the Councils Car Parks.
- The introduction of schemes geared at maintaining the viability of the District's Town Centres and Villages.
- The review of parking for disabled motorists, cyclists, and motorcyclists.
- To impose maximum parking standards for non-residential development.
- To ensure residential development provides a minimum parking standard.
- To ensure new developments contribute to the provision of alternatives to the car where appropriate.

The above targets will contribute to the reduction of traffic pollution as well as improving accessibility for people with special needs, security, safety and maintaining the viability of the District's Town and Village centres.

4.6 LP4 – Forestry & Woodlands Framework Steering Group

4.6.1 Introduction

In the South East of England as the 'Forestry and Woodlands Framework Steering Group' (comprising the Forestry Commission, GOSE, South East Protected Landscapes, Regional Advisory to Forestry Commission - S E England, Confederation of Forest Industries, Environment Agency, SEEDA, Natural England, SE England Regional Assembly and Woodland Trust) has produced a forestry and woodlands framework for South East England, 'Seeing the Woods for the Trees'.

This document sets out a framework for the future development of woodlands and forestry in the South East.

4.6.2 Objectives

There are four interrelated and interdependent themes of the framework, which have been developed into a number of outcomes as follows -

Better places for people to live

- Trees and woodlands supporting the development of sustainable communities.
- More people's health and well-being improved through visiting woodlands.
- Greater use being made of trees and woodlands for community projects and activities.

Enhanced environment and biodiversity

- Woodlands enhancing and protecting the region's environment, together with safeguards for the heritage features within them.
- Woodland habitats and species being brought into good ecological condition.

A stronger contribution to the economy

- The economic value of woodland products to the region being increased.
- Woodlands playing a greater role in attracting tourism, inward investment and other economic activity.

A secure future for our woodland resources

- Woodlands and trees, especially ancient woodlands and veteran trees, protected from loss.
- Integrated, strategic planning of woodland management.
- The skills base needed to manage our woodlands.
- Increasing public awareness about woodlands and their management.
- The financial viability of woodland management secured.

4.7 LP5 - Community Plan 2006 – 2016

4.7.1 Introduction

The Local Government Act 2000 requires all Local Authorities to prepare a Community Strategy or Plan to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area, and contribute to sustainable development in the United Kingdom.

The Community Planning Group (also known as the Local Strategic Partnership or LSP) has developed a 10 year vision for Mole Valley in its Community Plan which was launched on 5th April 2006.

The plan was compiled after holding a series of workshops throughout Mole Valley from the autumn of 2004. It comprises key priorities that residents and workers in the District have singled out as important. These are traffic and transport, affordable housing, young people, waste and recycling, health and social care and developing stronger communities.

The partnership draws together local businesses, the voluntary and community sector, local government, health, the police and emergency services.

4.7.2 Objectives

Transport	To provide locally responsive community transport and support alternatives to single-occupancy car use that benefit the environment and contribute to healthier living.
Affordable Housing	To improve the supply of affordable housing to rent or buy in the District.
Young People	To improve facilities and support for young people and increase opportunities for young people to have a healthy lifestyle.
Waste and Recycling	To improve waste management (including the minimisation of household waste) and increase recycling.
Health & Social Care	To improve the health of the Mole Valley population with a focus on areas of relative deprivation.
Developing Stronger Communities	To improve the well-being of communities with specific needs thereby enhancing 'sense of community' and community cohesion, and to address new issues brought to light by community-led consultations.

The Group's shared objectives include contributing to sustainable development.

4.7.3 Targets

Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just under 5,000 people drive to work each day in Dorking. Current initiatives have reduced this by just under 2%. The aim is to reach a 5% reduction. • To increase the number of people using Buses4U to 400 per month. • To obtain County Council funding for an 18 week pilot for evening Buses4U service in rural south Dorking.
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver 360 additional affordable housing units over 2006 – 2009. In relation to new build 55% of these to be social rent and 45% shared ownership or subsidised ownership tenures. • To ensure 80 households are helped to access the second hand housing market between 2006 -2009.
Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% of school age children countywide take part in 2 hours physical activity per week – aim to increase this to 85% • To open one skate park and youth shelter per year. • To increase the number of schools involved in 'Youth Voice' and 'Junior Youth Voice' by one in each category per year. • To increase the % of work experience placements the District Council takes by 5% from 2005/6 to 2006/7. • To increase the % of visits to schools by District Council Officers by 55% from 2005/6 to 2006/7. • To roll out a successful anti-bullying strategy to other schools across the District and to raise awareness of the problem by investing in confidential phone/text line. • 80% of schools to achieve 'healthy school' status by Dec 2006. 100% participation in programme by Dec 2009. • Mole Valley schools participate in the cycling to school public service agreement.
Waste & Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To exceed the government recycling and composting target of 30% - to 36% during 2006. • To reach 42% recycling rate by 2008.
Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling health inequalities • Reducing the number of people who smoke

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling obesity • Improving sexual health • Improving mental health & well-being • Reducing harm and encouraging sensible drinking • Helping children and young people to lead healthy lives. • Promoting a healthy and active life amongst older people.
Developing Stronger Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That north Leatherhead and other smaller areas move out of the 10% most deprived areas in Surrey as measured by the 'indices of deprivation'. North Leatherhead currently ranks 45th out of the most deprived 709 measurable areas and Holmwoods 49th.

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGIES

4.8 MVDC1 - Mole Valley Local Development Framework (LDF)

4.8.1 Introduction

Work has begun on the preparation of the Mole Valley Local Development Framework (LDF), which in time will replace the Mole Valley Local Plan which was adopted in October 2000.

Planning Policy Statement, PPS12, is the definitive guide to LDFs. LDFs are intended to streamline the local planning process and promote a proactive positive approach to managing development. In developing their LDFs, Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a duty to apply both national and regional policies to their area.

Various documents feed into the LDF some are shown below –

- The Development Plan, which includes various development plan documents e.g. the Core Strategy and Area Action Plans
- Local Development Orders
- Supplementary planning documents
- Statements of Community Involvement
- Local Development Schemes.

The Core Strategy draws on any strategies of the LPA and other organisations that have implications for the development and use of land.

The inclusion of sustainable building policies is within the Development Control Policies.

4.8.2 Objectives & Indicators

Areas of particular importance to the Mole Valley Local Development Framework include:

- creating sustainable communities that will meet the needs of future generations as well as our own;
- increasing provision for affordable housing;
- creating safer and more secure communities;
- promoting the economic vitality of local areas;
- maintaining the existing Green Belt boundaries; and
- encouraging alternative means of transport to the private car.

In July 2005 the scoping report for the ‘Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Core Strategy’ was produced. The aim of the appraisal is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the preparation of policies, plans and programmes. The scoping report sets out –

- the context for the Sustainability Appraisal;
- the baseline information on the quality of life in Mole Valley that has been collected so far;
- the key sustainability issues in the District;
- the sustainability objectives and indicators that have been developed; and
- how the appraisal of the LDF policies will be undertaken.

In preparing the ‘Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Core Strategy’ scoping report many policies, plans and programmes at international, national, regional, county and local level were reviewed. This resulted in the development of a series of sustainability objectives (21 in total, **see Appendix 3**) and indicators, which fall under the following themes –

- Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth
- Prudent use of natural resources

As the LDF develops its objectives will be tested for consistency with the 21 sustainability objectives to see how effective they will be in contributing to sustainable development.

The Council also has to produce an environmental report under the 'European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive', which will be produced as this testing process progresses.

4.9 MVDC2 - Procurement Strategy 2004

4.9.1 Introduction

The aim of the Procurement Strategy is to set a clear framework for efficient procurement throughout the authority. Procurement is defined as the whole process of acquiring goods, works and services from third parties. The process spans the whole life cycle from identification of needs, through to the end of a service contract or the end of the useful life of an asset.

4.9.2 Objectives & Targets

The aims of the Strategy include –

- Adopt the life cycle approach to assets or contracts through addressing affordability issues such as ongoing revenue implications
- Establish tender evaluation models based on selecting the bid that offers the optimum combination of whole life costs and benefits to meet the customer's requirements.
- Amend Contract Standing Orders to update the focus from lowest initial price and to reflect 'Best Value'.
- Ensure full compliance with European procurement regulations.
- Place safety of employees, contractors and the public as the highest priority in undertaking business for and with the Council.
- Encourage a partnering approach by identifying the right contractors or partners for a long term future. It will be normal practice to monitor and measure the performance of suppliers and contractors in terms of outcomes rather than inputs.
- Seek to put measures in place to make it easier for local businesses and small and medium enterprises to tender competitively for council business such as a 'Selling to Mole Valley Guide', ongoing engagement and consultation.
- Ensure that the Council fully complies with its duty under the Race Relations Amendment Act in all of its procurement activity.

4.10 MVDC3 - Race Equality Scheme

4.10.1 Introduction

The Council has its 'Comprehensive Equality Strategy', which covers all aspects of equality. However there are two equality schemes which sit under the strategy

and these are highlighted here and below to demonstrate the Council’s approach to social cohesion.

The Race Regulations Act 1976, as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 gives the District Council a general duty to promote race equality. The Race Equality Scheme puts the issue of race equality to the centre of policy-making, service delivery, regulation and enforcement and employment practice.

4.10.2 Objectives

The corporate equalities objectives for Mole Valley are –

- To create a cohesive community via the Community Strategy
- To ensure that all residents benefit from Council Services
- To ensure that all residents have the opportunity to get involved in decision making
- To be a fair employer

4.10.3 Targets

Race Equality Performance Indicators	Targets 06/07
Does the authority have a Community Strategy?	Yes
The Authority’s level of the Equality Standard for Local Government	2
The duty to promote Race Equality	100%
Percentage of top 5% of earners that are women	35%
Percentage of top 5% of earners from the black and ethnic minority communities	5%
Percentage of staff with disabilities	3%
Percentage staff from ethnic minorities	2.6%
Percentage of authority buildings open to the public in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people	75%
Tenant satisfaction – overall satisfaction with Landlord	88%
Tenant satisfaction: Black and minority ethnic tenants	88%
Tenant satisfaction: Non – black and ethnic minority tenants	88%
Tenant satisfaction with opportunities for participation in the management and decision making	66%

BME tenants	66%
Non-BME tenants	64%
Does authority follow CRE's code of practice in rented housing	Yes
Number of racial incidents recorded by the authority per 100,000 population	2.5
Percentage of racial incidents that resulted in further action	100%
Number of domestic violence refuge places per 10,000 population which are provided or supported by the authority	1

4.11 MVDC4 - Disability Equality Scheme

4.11.1 Introduction

The purpose of Mole Valley District Council's Disability Equality Scheme (DES) is to make sure that the Council takes the needs of disabled people into account in everything that it does – whether that is providing services, employing people, developing policies or communicating with residents and businesses.

The scheme was developed in partnership with disabled people who live and work in the District. They will continue to be engaged in the ongoing monitoring of the scheme, the services the Council provides and the functions it delivers.

4.11.2 Objectives

The objective is for the Council to promote equality for disabled people, highlight any forms of discrimination against them and place equality for disabled people at the centre of its work.

The corporate equalities objectives for Mole Valley are –

- To create a cohesive community via the Community Strategy
- To ensure that all residents benefit from Council Services
- To ensure that all residents have the opportunity to get involved in decision making
- To be a fair employer

4.11.3 Targets

The Council has established actions under each of the following categories –

- 1 Promoting equality for disabled people by -
 - Removing barriers to accessibility, particularly in relation employment and access to services, information and buildings

- Encouraging good practice in the private sector through the Council's advisory capacity and enforcement powers
 - Upholding the Social Model and the Council's guiding principles in its role in procurement and partnership duties
- 2 Tackling discrimination against disabled people by -
- Promoting positive images of disabled people
 - Challenging patronising or discriminating attitudes
 - Making the environment as safe as possible for disabled people
 - Challenging anti-social behaviour against, or harassment of, disabled people
- 3 Supporting disabled people to achieve their full potential by -
- Providing necessary support, and assistance to disabled people to enable them to lead independent lives
 - Supporting the formation of groups, networks and services for disabled people as employees of the Council and as residents
 - Supporting disabled people according to their individual need
- 4 Working in partnership with disabled people by -
- Enabling disabled people's active participation
 - Involving disabled people in the changes and improvements we make
 - Consulting with disabled people on issues affecting them rather than with people acting on their behalf

4.12 MVDC5 - Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 08

4.12.1 Introduction

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act placed a duty on Local Authorities and the Police to tackle key community safety issues jointly at district level. The Mole Valley partnership comprises the Police and Police Authority, District and County Councils, Fire Service and Primary Care Trust.

In 2002 the partnership produced a 3 year strategy this has been updated since and currently runs to March 2008. The strategy focuses on ways in which the partnerships activities can jointly tackle crime and disorder over and above the routine responsibilities of the statutory authorities.

4.12.2 Objectives

Following a crime audit in November 2004 the partnership identified 3 key priorities –

- Tackling Crime
- Reassuring Communities

- Making Roads safer

In each priority a range of measures have been set which are headed under 'education', 'environment' and 'enforcement'.

4.12.3 Targets

Key Priority	Target
Tackling Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce overall recorded crime by 10.5% • To reduce domestic burglary by 10% by 2008 • To reduce vehicle crime by 10% by 2008 • To reduce violent crime by 10% by 2008
Reassuring Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reach a target of 75% of people feeling safe or very safe after dark (measured through consultation) • To reduce the incidents of alcohol related crime by 10% • To reduce the incidence of young people using drugs solvents and drinking alcohol to excess • To reduce the incidents of criminal damage by 15% • To increase the number of closed circuit television (CCTV) locations in line with the CCTV strategy and hotspot data • To implement locally where appropriate the recommendations of Surrey DAT 'Drug Related Litter' report
Making Roads safer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured by 40% by 2007 • To reduce the numbers of children under 16 years of age killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2007 • To reduce by 10% the number of 'slight casualties' by 2010

4.13 MVDC6 - Corporate Plan 2006/07

4.13.1 Introduction

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's long term vision for the future of Mole Valley as well as the goals and values of the Council. It promotes the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Mole Valley for the next 10 years.

The document is 'informed' by the community. It is developed by a partnership of key public, private and voluntary organisations called the Mole Valley Community Planning Group (Mole Valley's Local Strategic Partnership). It is aimed at joint working to deliver services to the community.

4.13.2 Objectives

The vision of the Community Plan is –

'The needs of those who live and work in the District are met, the environment, prosperity and distinctive character of Mole Valley are sustained, these benefits are shared more widely and problems which reduce the quality of life are tackled.'

The Goals address -

- The Place – by improving the District's feeling of safety, economy and maintaining the distinct character
- The Services – by ensuring our services are delivered to all parts of the community of Mole Valley and addressing those most in need
- The People - by making certain the Council is aware of what the community needs and ensuring they know what the Council can deliver
- The Council – by ensuring that the Council develop its Councillors and employees and are prudent in the stewardship of public money.

The Council also has a set of values –

- Integrity
- Communication
- Good Value
- Equality of Opportunity
- Courtesy & Fairness
- Joint Working Responsiveness
- Practising Sustainability
- Reliability

The priorities for 2006 – 2009 are -

- Safer & Stronger Neighbourhoods
- Affordable Housing

- Waste Management
- Young People
- Value for Money and Efficiency

4.13.3 Targets

The targets set out in the Corporate Plan are as follows –

Goal	Indicator	2005/06	Target
Safe and Healthy Place	% surveyed population who feel safe or very safe after dark	73%	By 2007 20% increase over baseline of 68%
Safe and Healthy Place	Household recycling and composting	32%	30% by 2006
Character & Distinctiveness	% surveyed population who consider the character of their local areas is attractive	78%	By 2007 90%
Local Economy & Town Centres	% vacant shops in Dorking Town Centre	4.7%	By 2007 less than 10%
Local Economy & Town Centres	% vacant shops in Leatherhead Town Centre	5.1%	By 2007 less than 10%
Affordable Housing Across the District is Increased	Total number of affordable housing units funded and enabled (new and second hand)	86	Between 2005/06 and 2008/09 360
Access to Services	% residents satisfied with access	56%	By 2007 90%
Extra Help to Individuals & Communities	% Council buildings compliant with Disability Discrimination Act	96%	By 2007 100%
Finding out what People want & Prepared to Pay For	Consultation on the Community's priorities & Council Tax will be undertaken	2 Phase Consultation Taken Place	Achieved
Local People Aware of Part the Council Plays in their Daily Lives	% surveyed population aware of the key services delivered by the Council	General Services – 99% Leisure – 96% Planning – 86% Revs & Bens – 91% Housing – 76%	By 2007 70% for each service

		Comm Serv – 84% Env Health – 87%	
Best use of Human Resources & a Good Employer	Maintain low level of staff short term sickness	3.37 days	2.75 days
Best use of Property & Finance	To make efficiency savings		By 2008 2.5% of efficiency gains per year of which half to be cashable
Statutory Obligations are Met	Number of Ombudsman complaints/legal challenges against the Council upheld.	0	0

4.14 MVDC7 - Housing Strategy 2006

4.14.1 Introduction

The Council's strategic housing function is concerned with broad housing issues, such as development of and access to affordable housing, the condition of the housing stock (public and private sector), housing and support / care needs within the District and the homelessness and housing advice service, in other words the delivery of the Housing Strategy. The Council still owns and manages its housing stock (although transfer to a housing association is planned) and, as such, maintains both an operational and strategic housing function. The operational function is concerned with the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The aims and priorities of this service are set out within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, which although predominantly concerned with operational aspects, also emphasises how the management of the Council's housing stock contributes towards the wider strategic priorities contained within the Housing Strategy. A conclusion of the Business Plan is that the Council cannot afford to retain its housing stock and, as such, is planning to transfer it to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL), Mole Valley Housing Association (MVHA) in October/November 2007.

Purpose of the Housing Strategy

The Housing Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners intend to balance the housing market within the District to ensure fair access to decent affordable housing and continuing economic stability. A decent affordable home is central to the health and well-being of individuals and communities. The Housing Strategy outlines the Council's contribution in influencing the housing market to achieve healthy, balanced communities.

As such, the Strategy will cover and seek solutions with reference to the following:

- Balancing the local housing market
- Affordability of the housing stock
- Retention of the key workforce and new forming households
- Quality of housing stock
- Sustainable communities

Housing Stock Transfer

The stock transfer process is a major corporate project, which will have significant impact on the future of the Council and, potentially, the delivery of the Housing Strategy. The process will be referred to throughout this Strategy. The Council has already carried out a Stock Options appraisal finalised in April 2005, the result of which led to the decision that transfer of the Council's housing stock to a RSL provided the best long-term outcome for tenants. The main driver behind stock transfer is the Council's inability as the landlord to finance the capital investment required in order to meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard. A RSL is able to make the necessary investment because it is able to reinvest all rental income back into its service locally, whereas Councils are required to release around a third of income for the government to redistribute elsewhere.

The creation of MVHA was subject to a ballot of tenants, which took place in March 2007 with 86% of tenants voting in favour of its creation. It is expected that the Council's housing stock will transfer to MVHA around October/November 2007. MVHA will be a locally based RSL but will become a partner in the Circle Anglia group (this is explained further in **Section 6.1.2**).

4.14.2 Objectives

The Council's strategic housing vision is that: *'The Council seeks to achieve innovative and progressive housing solutions that meet the needs and aspirations of the whole community.'*

By combining housing agendas nationally, regionally and locally with the views of stakeholders and local residents, the Council's Housing Strategy for 2006 - 2009 identified four key housing priorities for the District. These are:

- Providing more Affordable Housing
- Preventing Homelessness
- Access to Housing and Support for the whole Community
- Ensuring the Quality of the Housing Stock

4.14.3 Targets

The key delivery mechanism for the Strategy is the Action Plan. This sets out the future objectives for each priority, which have also been identified in **Section 8**. It assigns targets and responsibilities to these objectives. The Action Plan draws on existing or draft plans and policies to ensure a consistency of targets and delivery.

Action	Target	
	2007/08	2008/09
Mole Valley Housing market		
2) East Surrey Housing Needs survey / Housing mkt analysis	To be completed December 2007	
Priority A: Delivering more Affordable Housing		
2) Make effective use of Affordable Housing budget	>£50,000 subsidy per unit	>£50,000 subsidy per unit
3) Maximise delivery of affordable housing	120 units built or accessed per annum	120 units built or accessed per annum
4) Ensure appropriate tenure mix on new build	55:45 rent to shared ownership split	55:45 rent to shared ownership split
5) Continue to fund and deliver local Homebuy scheme	8 households to access market through scheme	8 households to access market through scheme
6) Delivery of four Council owned sites	Disposal Dodds Park, Willow Corner Units completed Middlemead Close, Goodwyns	Units completed Middlemead Close, Goodwyns
Priority B: Preventing Homelessness		
1) Provide self contained temporary accommodation for statutory homeless households	Disposal or leasing of Barrington House, Crawley	Disposal or conversion of Vincent Drive
2) Remodel and improve the direct access shelter in Leatherhead	Remodelling completed Oct 2007	
3) Remodel the private sector leasing scheme to enable more properties to be leased at a reduced expense to the Council	Reduce new leases to 1 year	All leases on 1 year only by this year
5) Maintain the reduced number of families placed in non-self contained temporary accommodation to meet the 2010 target	Maintained at 8 max at any one time	Maintained at 8 max at any one time. Reduced to zero at end of year, following completion of Vincent Drive

6) Reduce the time spent by families in non-self contained temporary accommodation BVPI 183b	35 weeks	26 weeks
7) Review the Homelessness Strategy in light of recent government initiatives	Begin review latter part of 07/08	Complete and adopt new Strategy early 08/09
8) Reduce rough sleeping to zero	> 10	0
9) Facilitate more non-statutory households to access the private rented sector	£5K specific allocation- rent deposit/ advice	£10K specific allocation-rent deposit/ advice
Priority C: Access to Housing for the whole Community		
4) Set up special housing needs panel	To be set up, resourced and functioning by April 2007	
5) Extend Gypsy/Traveller provision to meet the needs identified through a specialist housing needs survey	Deliver additional pitches (including possible extension of existing sites) as interim measure	Identify potential sites in LDF Development Plan document
7) Ensure 5% of social housing allocation is to households with a special need	5% allocation to households with special need	5% allocation to households with special need
8) Deliver up to 10 new build units for people with a disability	Deliver 5 units by March 2008	Deliver 5 units by March 2009
9) Contribute to the delivery of an extra-care scheme for the elderly within the region	Secure site and Start on site	Completion by March 2009
Priority D: Ensuring the Quality of the Housing Stock		
1) Delivery a reduction in non-decency within the Council's stock of 15% by March 2007	26% change in level of non-decency	46% change in level of non-decency
3) To meet the Mole Valley standard (MSS) by 2010, pending the successful outcome of the stock transfer ballot	Timetabling and programme of MSS adhere to line with tenant promises contract	Timetabling and programme of MSS adhere to line with tenant promises contract
5) To meet the Decent Homes standard within vulnerable private sector households by 2010	Programme devised, resourced & initiated March 2007. 2007/08 delivered	2008/09 programme delivered
6) To inspect and licence all HMOs in the District by 2006	Licensing and inspection regime implemented.	Intervention and enforcement initiated where appropriate

4.14.4 Affordable Housing

In addition to the overarching Housing Strategy, Mole Valley District Council has developed a 'Priority Delivery Action Plan' for Affordable Housing, in order to reflect the importance the Council attaches to this issue.

	Projects	Targets	Resources	
			07/08	08/09
Strategic framework				
2	Roll out RSL/ Developer Forum across East Surrey	Host inaugural East Surrey RSL/developer forum in autumn 2006	£1,000 Hsg Strategy revenue	£1,000 Hsg Strategy revenue
3	Adopt new affordable housing planning policy through the LDF	New affordable planning policy adopted by 2008	Planning Policy-existing LDF budget	Planning Policy-existing LDF budget
4	Explore regeneration and intensification of housing estates following proposed transfer of the housing stock	Pilot project on Middlemead Close to form estate plan within transfer offer document	Independent Tenant advisor budget- stock transfer	None required
5	The Council makes effective use of its capital budget	Affordable Housing allocation fully committed Affordable Housing unit subsidy less than £50,000	£500,000	£500,000
Headline 3 year outcomes				
8	Maximising the delivery of Affordable Housing	Average of 120 units per year. 360 total over the period	Capital budget as above	Capital budget as above
10	Continue to fund and deliver local Homebuy scheme	20 households helped to access the housing market	£400,000	£400,000
11	Makes the best use of the existing housing stock	10 Cash incentive grants (CIG) over 3 years	£40,000	£40,000
Project based outcomes				
12	Piloting of equity rent tenure	Successful pilot resulting in 10/12 affordable dwellings sourced through this tenure	£100,000	£100,000

4.15 MVDC8 - Homelessness Strategy 2003/4

4.15.1 Introduction

The level of homelessness in the District is not high, but there is a lack of affordable housing for local people. Local Housing Authorities have a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 to review the extent of local homelessness and produce a strategy for dealing with it.

4.15.2 Objectives

Mole Valley District Council's strategic homelessness objectives are –

- To prevent homelessness from occurring by identifying and tackling the root causes.
- To provide a high quality advice and information to homeless people based on a range of housing options.
- To ensure that the Council has an adequate supply of temporary accommodation to avoid the need to use Bed & Breakfast accommodation.
- To give homeless people reasonable preference within the housing allocations scheme.
- To carry out user surveys in conjunction with stakeholders & partners to inform and influence future service development.
- To deliver services in partnership with all other agencies involved in working with homeless people.

4.15.3 Targets

Performance Indicator	Target 2006/07
The average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation	1 week
The average length of stay in hostel accommodation	26 weeks
To put in place with other statutory and voluntary agencies a homeless applicant tracking system	2010
To put in place a monitoring system for repeat homeless applications and a target for reduction based on 2003/04 data	In place

4.16 MVDC9 – Youth Strategy 2005

4.16.1 Introduction

The County Council is responsible for delivering a Youth Service for the 13 to 25 year olds, but the District Council has the power under the Local Government Act 1972 to provide services for young people.

The District is perceived as having a high number of residents over the age of 65 (17,000 – 21%) and a relatively low number of young people. Out of a population of just over 80,000 there are in fact just over 20,000 (25%) 0-24 year olds. The 2001 census reveals 19% of the District's population as being 15 years old or younger. The Council therefore has to balance the needs of young people against the needs of its other residents who may require different services but which are all competing for the same resources.

In response to the Children's Act, Surrey County Council has established three Children's Services Partnerships. Mole Valley is part of the South East Surrey Children's Services Area Partnership. The Partnership is made up of representatives from all the child care agencies of the County Council, youth service, children's service (education and social care); health service providers in East Surrey PCT and East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT, Surrey and Sussex Health Authority, Surrey Police, Connexions, Surrey CVS, Local County Directors and a representative from the three District/Borough Councils.

4.16.2 Objectives

The South East Area Partnership has produced a plan in line with the outcomes required by the Children's Act and has identified a number of local priorities which will make a positive difference to children and young people. These priorities are captured under three broad themes – Prevention, Integration and Engagement. The key objectives for each are shown below -

Prevention

- Developing services for under 5s that provides parenting support, family support and child care.
- Developing a new family support service for children aged 5-11 years where there is risk of family breakdown.
- Developing joined up services for children with disabilities.

Integration and Inclusion

- Developing Integrated Locality Teams of health, education and social care professionals.

- Ensuring effective and co-ordinated support for children and emotional and behaviour difficulties.
- A unified approach to crime prevention to enhance community safety and support young people in making a positive contribution.
- Supporting children and young people who are 'looked after' to experience improved outcomes and have better life chances.

Engagement

- The Partnership is keen to improve the way we listen to the public, children and young people, parents, service users, community and faith groups and voluntary services. They will engage with the local committee members and youth forums.

Additionally Mole Valley through discussions with Youth Voice has established the following objectives, which form part of its Youth Strategy

- Young People are Healthy
- Young People are Safe
- Young People Enjoy and Achieve
- Young People Make a Positive Contribution
- Young People are Engaged with the Council and Community.

4.16.3 Targets

The Youth Strategy specifies the following targets –

Objective	Target
Young people are Healthy	1. All council owned housing will meet the decent homes standard by 2010. 2. To increase the number of children and young people aged 11-19 years and 20 – 25 years accessing our sports centres to at least equal their representation in the population of the District by 2008.
Young People are Safe	3 To reduce the number of young car driver accidents by 10% by 2008 over the 2005 figure.
Young People Enjoy and Achieve	4 To increase the number of events and activities for young people organised by Mole Valley Leisure by 20% by 2008. 5 To provide a drop in youth café in Dorking by 2008.

	6 To increase the number of young people nominated for the Youth Voice Showcase awards by 20% by 2008.
Young People Make a Positive Contribution	7 To secure representation on youth voice from one new school per annum catering for pupils of secondary school age whilst maintaining the current membership. 8 To secure representation on Junior Youth Voice by one new school per annum catering for pupils aged 10 and 11 whilst maintaining the current membership.
Young People are Engaged with the Council	9 To increase the number of visits to schools by Council officers by 5% from 2005/06 to 2006/07. 10 To increase the number of work experience placements the Council takes by 25% from 2005/06 to 2006/07. 11 To include young people in relevant consultations undertaken by the council and to ensure that by 2008 the percentage response from young people is at least equal to the percentage number of young people in the population.

4.17 MVDC10 – Local Waste Management Strategy 2002 -2009

4.17.1 Introduction

In 2003 the Council adopted its own Local Waste Strategy for the period 2002 to 2009. The vision of the Strategy was to:

‘Work in partnership with all stakeholders and the community to reduce the amount of waste produced, and to manage the remaining waste in a sustainable manner’.

4.17.2 Objectives

The objectives set out in the strategy are as follows –

- To reduce at source the amount of waste that is produced in Mole Valley.
- To increase the proportion of waste that is re-used and recycled, and limit the amount of waste for final disposal.
- To work with Surrey County Council to ensure that residual waste that cannot be reused or recycled is disposed of in a sustainable manner.
- Where appropriate, to work with partners to achieve economies of scale.

4.17.3 Targets

The targets set out in the strategy are as follows –

- As a minimum achieve the Government’s recycling targets for recycling and composting as follows:
 - 24% of household waste to be recycled / composted by the end of the financial year 2003/04
 - 36% of household waste to be recycled / composted by the end of the financial year 2005/06
- As a minimum achieve further improvements in recycling and composting beyond 2006 as follows:
 - 42% of household waste to be recycled/composted by the end of the financial year 2008/09
- To encourage householders and producers to constrain the growth in total household waste generated in Mole Valley compared with 2001/02 levels to:
 - 4% per household by 2005/06
 - 7% per household by 2008/09

4.18 MVDC11 – Asset Management Plan 2006 – 2009

4.18.1 Introduction

The Council’s Asset Management Plan (AMP) was revised in April 2006. The plan includes individual service departments’ property strategies. The strategies provide a review of current property performance and look forward, in conjunction with individual Service Plans, to the property needs and proposals of the future. There is also a dedicated non-operational property strategy within the plan looking at all property held for non-operational reasons.

Property strategies included within the plan are as follows:

- Leisure Services property strategy
- Community Services property strategy
- General Services property strategy

- Facilities Management property strategy
- Non-operational property strategy

The Council's terrier and asset register comprises a computerised text based record of all property assets.

There is uncertainty over the future requirements for some of the Council's key assets because of issues relating to the possible transfer of Mole Valley District Council's housing stock.

Over the last 3 years (including 2006/7) the Council has invested over £400,000 in upgrading access to operational buildings. The programme of improvement works will be completed by March 2007.

The 2003 plan included a major review of the Council's land ownership. A recommendation emerging from the review proposed that the Council look at their countryside landholding and seek a partnership with the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) with the view that there may be operational cost savings available to the Council and service quality improvements achievable from SWT. Negotiations were conducted between 2004/5 and as a result six parcels of land were transferred to the SWT in 2006/07.

4.18.2 Objectives & Targets

The plan includes a series of performance indicators which look at issues such as maintenance backlogs as well as average Internal Rates of Return.

Energy costs and CO₂ emissions are recorded within the plan for key properties, but there are no targets for reducing these figures.

4.19 MVDC12 – Interim IT Strategy 2006 – 2009

4.19.1 Introduction & Objectives

The Interim IT strategy is being driven in the main by the goals and aspirations from the forming of the East Surrey Improvement Partnership (ESIP). The partnership includes Mole Valley District Council, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and Tandridge District Council and seeks to find ways that these Councils can work together and share best practice.

At the East Surrey Managers' Conference in June 2006 three main objectives were discussed: -

- The launch of the Collaboration Strategy
- Establish how the Collaboration Strategy will be taken forward by managers
- Building a culture of collaboration and trust

Initial joint working projects involved linking the three Councils together electronically and this has now been achieved.

The Interim IT Strategy covers the lead up to converge of service delivery from 2008 onwards. It will grow and develop depending on the outcome of individual service reviews, but the whole aspiration is to reduce costs and improve efficiency, which complements the aspirations of this Strategy.

4.20 MVDC13 – Council Transport Plan 2001 - 2005

4.20.1 Introduction

In 2001 the Council adopted a Transport Plan for the period 2001 to 2005. The aim of the plan was:

- 1 To secure a reduction in air pollution generated by motor vehicles used by the Council, its staff and its contractors.
- 2 To reduce the quantities of fuel being used without detriment to the levels of service provided to the public.
- 3 To set an example to other businesses and organisations in the District.
- 4 To help reduce congestion, ease parking pressures and encourage use of public transport in accordance with Government policy.

4.20.2 Objectives

- 1 To manage the Council's fleet of vehicles efficiently and to use alternative environmentally friendly fuels wherever practicable.
- 2 To encourage the Council's contractors to adopt the same principles.
- 3 To manage the demand for private motorised transport used by staff and volunteers helping to provide Council services.
- 4 To encourage employees to use more fuel-efficient cars.
- 5 To encourage all staff to have their vehicles regularly checked for emission levels.
- 6 To increase the number of staff who regularly walk, cycle, car share and use public transport for journeys to and from their workplace.

4.20.3 Targets

There are no specified targets within the plan.

5 MVDC Strategic Objectives for UK Priority 1 - Sustainable Consumption and Production

Chapters 5 to 8 detail what work Mole Valley District Council, together with its partners, is doing and identifies what it needs to do as part of its considered approach to sustainable development issues throughout the District.

Where a deficiency in action has been identified an accompanying commitment to action statement is made. These statements have been carried forward into Appendix 1 to form this Strategy's 'Action Plan 2007 – 2010'.

5.1 UK Priority 1 Section 1 – ADMINISTRATION

5.1.1 Introduction

The Council has already carried out a number of initiatives to reduce the use of consumption of materials in its administration processes -

- The Council's stationery is ordered individually by each Department. Approximately 6-7 years ago this was all dealt with centrally, which involved ensuring a fairly sizeable stock.
- The Council is part of a consortium of 28 Councils, which enables favourable rates to be negotiated and obtained for purchasing stationery etc.
- The Council uses networked printers rather than many staff having individual 'Desk Top' printers.
- The Council uses recycled paper. It would only use non-recycled paper if recycled paper could not be obtained for a specific reason.
- Ordering for stationery etc is electronic.
- All toners and ink cartridges are recycled.
- Recycling bins are provided at each desk with communal waste bins for waste which can not be recycled.
- Franking letters has stopped and pre-printed envelopes provided – this has saved on electricity.
- Old computers have been given to Computer Aid a registered charity.

5.1.2 Customer Surveys

The Council will send out a number of 'paper based' questionnaires during a year. It needs to review the use of its website and maximise the use of it to obtain customer feedback. The Council's current 'Comments and Suggestions' card for example could be provided on the website.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will review the way it obtains data and information from the public and other bodies with a view to maximising the use of the Council's website and IT based facilities. **(UK1:1ADMIN1)**

5.1.3 Internal Communication

There is wide use of email internally as well as into and out of the authority; this significantly reduces paper usage, storage of and postal cost. Members are sent a wide range of appropriate documents through this medium, however care is taken to ensure that "printing" of such documents is not transferred from relatively low cost/power usage within Pippbrook to high cost/power options on Councillors' home printers. Reducing the number of paper copies that are distributed to Councillors, also reduces the courier's fuel consumption considerably.

5.1.4 External Communication

The Council enables a wide range of information to be accessed electronically and in other languages, and webcasts Council and Committee meetings to improve accessibility. It is developing its intranet and an extranet for Councillors.

5.1.5 Electronic Document Management or Scanning

Where EDM (electronic document management or scanning) has been deployed within the Council it has clearly saved both space and the cost of acquiring storage systems. It has been shown to reduce the need to copy documents as the images are available to many users at once and on line. Additionally when "information" is presented at reception counters it can be immediately scanned to file rather than photocopied.

5.1.6 Remote Working

Limited use of home and mobile working has taken place within the Council so far but it is recognised that technology has enabled those that do to operate effectively, save on resources, improve responsiveness, remove unnecessary trips back to the office and deliver greater value.

The Council's Community Alarm Field Engineers are being provided with wireless broadband laptops to enable remote working and a project for the Revenues & Benefits Department for site visits and Court appearances is being progressed.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will look to increase the extent of home and mobile working with a view to reducing the consumption of resources and thus providing greater value to the public. **(UK1:1ADMIN2)**

5.2 UK Priority 1 Section 2 – PROCUREMENT

5.2.1 Introduction

The Council has a comprehensive set of procurement policies and procedures, which includes a Procurement Strategy, a Procurement Code of Practice, and Contract Standing Orders.

The 'Corporate Procurement Strategy' was adopted in 2004 (see MVDC2). The Council's commitment to sustainable procurement is highlighted in the strategy, which recognises and notes that the Council must realise environmental benefits through procurement activities and sustainable partnerships.

The Council's approach to procurement provides some flexibility that allows consideration to be given to sustainability issues. The evaluation of tenders and quotations as set out in the Contract Standing Orders, for example, specifies a 'price:quality' split of -

- 100:0 for routine services, supplies or works specified in detail
- 70:30 where a service requires innovation/added value
- 70:30 for supplies requiring continuing technical support/maintenance
- 20:80 for the services of professional consultants

The Procurement Code of Practice sets out that the Council will consider environmental and social sustainability as an important criterion in any procurement, it also states however that for works contracts over £100,000 it is advised that an evaluation procedure based on the identification of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender ('MEAT') must be used.

Evidence that the Strategy has been put into practice is provided below –

- No CFCs are allowed in cleaning materials in the Council's cleaning contract
- Only recycled paper is allowed as part of the Council's stationery contract
- Some building contracts have required the use of sustainable timber.

The Council rolled out an e-procurement system in 2006. It is understood this will lead to savings of c. £20,000 per annum through postage, printing, stationery

and staff time. This will also reduce paper usage. The first analysis of savings will take place in 2007.

5.2.2 Procuring and Purchasing Services

MVDC has a comprehensive procurement system that ensures clear accountabilities and fair methods of assessing tenders and ensures the Council receives value for money.

When tendering for work Contractors are asked by the Council to comply with all relevant legislation that relates to their contract, which includes environmental legislation. However there are no standard clauses in our tender documentation geared at establishing the extent of 'environmentally friendly' practice taking place within a business or in the goods being supplied through the proposed contract.

Environmental policies or equivalent are asked for, but not always. If contractors do not have a statement of commitment they would not necessarily be excluded from the procurement process particularly if in practice they meet some requirements.

The Council's commitment to sustainable purchasing is highlighted in its "Selling to the Council" policy document, which states -

'Mole Valley District Council is committed to improving its own environmental performance through use of best available materials, practices and technologies. In order to achieve this aim, the Council expects companies, from whom it purchases goods and services, to demonstrate similar levels of environmental care and commitment.'

There is however no policy of purchasing only A-rated appliances, the policy on procurement of vehicles needs reviewing to cover consideration of alternative fuel supplies etc. The Council also needs to give consideration to requiring companies to have ISO 14001 certification. This is a universal standard for environment management operated by the 'International Standards Organisation'.

The Council therefore needs to build on the work it currently undertakes. One way of doing this is to commence a review under the guidance laid down in the 'Flexible Framework' documentation produced by the government's procurement task force. **Section 3.9** details the task force objectives. The Council should look to reach the recommended objective of attaining environmental procurement standard level 1 with a view to attaining level 3 (and 5 in at least one area) by December 2009.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - In order to reflect the higher priority the Council is placing on Sustainability the Council will produce an 'Environmental Procurement Plan'. This will address key areas and include:

- A review of its tender documentation to ensure that tenderers have to evidence the extent of their commitment to operating in an environmentally friendly manner. **(UK1:2PROC1)**
- A review of its policy on purchasing goods and the literature sent to its suppliers to ensure it improves its environmental requirements for goods purchased. **(UK1:2PROC2)**
- A plan to reach the government procurement 'Task Force' recommended objective of attaining environmental procurement standard level 1 as defined in its guidance (**see section 3.9**) with a view to attaining level 3 (and 5 in at least one area) by December 2009. **(UK1:2PROC3)**

5.3 UK Priority 1 Section 3 – WASTE & RECYCLING

5.3.1 Introduction

Waste is produced by all parts of society including householders, commerce, agriculture and industry. The District and County Councils have specific responsibility for the management of waste produced by householders.

Policies set out in European and national waste legislation has a direct impact on the approach to waste management taken by Local Authorities in the UK. These include:

Landfill Directive: This requires an increasing amount of biodegradable municipal waste to be either pre-treated (to reduce its biodegradability) or managed by methods other than landfill. There are likely to be heavy penalties for councils failing to meet Government targets.

National and Regional Waste Strategies: This requires decisions on waste management systems to be based around issues such as sustainability and proximity as well as encouraging re-use, composting and recycling.

Recycling and composting targets: The Council has to produce annual 'Best Value' performance indicators, which are set by government. The standard for its recycling and composting indicator was set at 30% of all waste collected for 2005/6. In the longer term municipal recycling and composting targets for the whole region have been set as follows:

2010	40%
2015	50%
2020	55%
2025	60%

Recovery Targets: The municipal 'recovery target', which is the percentage of disposable waste which has been diverted from filling landfill sites has been set for the region as follows:

2010	52% recovered
2015	74% recovered
2029	83% recovered
2025	84% recovered

Producer responsibility: This requires more recycling and recovery of waste materials from specific types of goods (such as packaging), with the responsibility placed on the producer to achieve the improvements.

Landfill Tax: The tax on waste taken to landfill will rise by at least £3 per tonne each year to a level of £35 per tonne by about 2011/2012, giving a large incentive to use alternative waste management methods.

There are many reasons for continuing to improve the way that waste is managed. Continuing to send over half to the waste to landfill sites is not a sustainable position, either in terms of environmental impact or cost. The reliance on landfill sites represents a huge waste of natural resources that could be re-used, recycled or composted or used to produce energy. The rapid filling of landfill sites also means that we need new facilities to deal with the waste.

The District Council has legal obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect waste from residential properties, which it does as the Waste Collection Authority (WCA). It must then pass on the collected waste to Surrey County Council for disposal in its role as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).

The District Council has legal powers to retain some of the waste it collects and deal with it itself so long as this is for the purposes of recycling. All of the District Council's activities on refuse and recycling are conducted under these powers.

The Council's collection vehicles are used to collect both refuse and mixed recycling from outside residents' properties. In addition it has developed a network of 'bring sites' that people can bring glass to for recycling. The Council has provided a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Leatherhead through a partnership with Grundon Waste Management to provide a secure outlet for the materials it collects.

Surrey County Council arranges for the disposal of the waste delivered to it by the District Councils. Disposal is primarily to landfill sites. The County Council also provides a network of civic amenity sites where residents can take bulky waste for disposal or recycling that cannot be dealt with through normal collections.

Household waste management is undergoing significant change with several powerful drivers moving it towards more sustainable practice methods.

5.3.2 Review of Household Waste 2003

It is important to understand what household waste is composed of as the materials present will have a direct influence on how it needs to be managed and what can be recycled.

In 2003 a comprehensive review of household waste generated in Surrey was undertaken. This examined all the different methods of collection, the different types of household waste being produced and provided a statistically robust picture of the situation at the time. The table below gives an outline of the percentage composition of the waste produced.

The review identified that the composition of waste significantly varies between, that from spot testing wheelie bins, that collected by the Council from the kerb side and that collected at the County Council's Civic Amenity (CA) sites. This understanding has helped inform the basis of new collection schemes, particularly those intended to collect recycling.

		TOTAL WASTE COMPOSITION		Total collected waste		Total CA site waste	
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Newspaper and magazines	Paper and card	11.7	22.0	15.4	27.8	1.6	5.9
Directories/catalogues and other recyclables		2.5		2.9		1.5	
Paper packaging		0.3		0.3		0.2	
Card packaging		3.6		4.1		2.3	
Non packaging card		0.1		0.1		0.0	
Books		0.4		0.5		0.2	
Wallpaper and other non-recyclable		3.1		4.2		0.1	
Liquid cartons		0.3		0.4		0.0	
Plastic bags	Plastic Film	0.8	2.8	1.2	3.8	0.0	0.2
Other plastic film		1.3		1.7		0.1	
Non-packaging plastic film		0.7		0.9		0.1	
Dense plastic packaging	Dense Plastic	1.6	4.7	2.0	5.9	0.4	1.5
Other dense plastic		3.1		3.9		1.1	
Mand made fibres	Textiles	1.6	2.6	1.6	2.8	1.8	2.0
Natural fibres		1.0		1.2		0.2	
Shoes	Misc. Combustibles	0.4	7.5	0.5	5.0	0.1	14.5
Wood packaging		0.1		0.1		0.1	
Wood		2.3		0.6		6.8	
Furniture		1.1		0.0		4.2	
Carpets/flooring		0.8		0.2		2.4	
Nappies/sanitary		2.2		3.0		0.0	
Other		0.7		0.6		0.8	
Rubble		Misc. Non-Combustibles		3.0		4.1	
Other DIY	0.6		0.6	0.5			
Unclassified	0.5		0.3	1.1			
Glass packaging	Glass	7.1	7.7	9.2	9.7	1.5	2.3
Non-packaging glass		0.6		0.5		0.9	
Ferrous packaging	Ferrous Metal	1.3	2.7	1.7	2.3	0.1	3.8
DIY ferrous		0.0		0.0		0.0	
Other		1.4		0.6		3.7	
Non-ferrous packaging	Non-Ferrous Metal	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	0.5
DIY non-ferrous		-		0.0		0.0	
Other		0.2		0.1		0.5	
Garden waste	Putrescibles	22.1	39.0	13.3	34.9	46.2	50.3
Other compostable		8.0		10.8		0.2	
Soil		0.7		0.0		2.8	
Non-compostable		8.2		10.8		1.2	
WEEE	WEEE	1.7	1.7	0.5	0.5	5.2	5.2
Hazardous	Hazardous	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.4
Fines	Fines	3.6	3.6	4.9	4.9	0.3	0.3
Other	Other	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	0.6	0.6
TOTAL		100.0	100.0			100	100

5.3.3 Waste collection in Mole Valley

Household waste is collected by a number of refuse and recycling systems in Mole Valley that have changed dramatically in recent years. Collections from street litterbins and street sweepings are accounted for as 'household waste' within the Council's collection rate figures.

Refuse is collected fortnightly from the kerbside of properties using wheeled bins. The amount of refuse collected is limited to that contained in a wheelie bin. A fortnightly recycling collection from the kerb side is also provided on alternate

weeks to the refuse. Again wheeled bins are used and a mixture of paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and cans are collected.

Glass can be recycled at the Council's 'bring sites' where it is sorted by material.

An 'opt in' garden waste collection service was introduced in June 2006 using wheeled bins at a charge to residents. The materials collected using this service are sent for composting.

The table below gives a summary of the quantities of waste collected by the respective collection systems. The table shows how the quantities have varied over time with increased emphasis placed on improving the amount of recycling and composting.

It can also be seen that there has been an underlying fall in the total amounts collected indicating that residents are producing less waste. This is a key objective of the Council together with increasing recycling.

	2004/5 Tonnes	2005/6 Tonnes	Predicted 06/07 Tonnes
Refuse (landfill)	24,377	19,234	16,200
Recycling	5,783	9,033	9,500
Composting	925	938	2,600
Street Cleaning	1,387	1,462	1,500
Total	32,488	30,694	29,800
Recycling rate	21%	33%	40%

5.3.4 Achievements in Mole Valley 2002 - 2006

The Council has improved its performance year on year through a phased approach. It will continue to review and improve its performance as demands change.

The table below gives a summary of what has been achieved under phases 1 & 2:

Action/Target	Comments
Phase 1 – 2002/03 to 2003/04 1. Increase public awareness of waste issues, the need for waste minimisation and the knowledge of re-use and recycling schemes that are currently	

<p>available.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Extend the current source separated doorstep collection scheme to include all households and a greater range of materials than at present. 3. Increase the number and quality of 'bring' sites in the District, and the range of materials collected at existing sites. 4. Make significant progress towards securing a Materials Recovery Facility for the District. 5. Inform and consult the public on the possible introduction of wheelie bins. 6. Carry out research to identify challenges and opportunities for future action. 7. Promote partnership working where it will assist to achieve the Vision contained in the strategy. 8. Review the clinical waste collection service. 9. Lobby Central Government to resist the moves by the paper industry on accepting material from recovery facilities. 10. Replace the existing green sacks scheme with a new interim on-demand waste collection scheme and continue to promote home composting. 	<p>Contract awarded to Grundon for the design, build and operate in 2004 Trial initiated on 2/2004</p> <p>Council provided subsidised home composter scheme with Straight plc</p>
<p>24% of household waste to be recycled/composted by the end of the financial year 2003/04</p>	<p>19% achieved</p>
<p>Phase 2 – 2004/05 to 2005/06</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure access to a Materials Recovery Facility for the District. 2. Introduce a mixed dry recyclables scheme and new customer care arrangements. 3. Establish access to facilities for the composting of green waste. 4. Introduce a regular green waste collection scheme. 5. Support community waste management projects. 6. Develop existing education work to 	<p>Facility opened 4/2005</p> <p>New scheme rolled out to all residents by 5/2005 SWM facility at Randalls Rd, Leatherhead used.</p> <p>New service introduced 6/2006 using wheeled bins. £24 charge per bin.</p>

introduce new schemes and initiatives.	
36% of household waste to be recycled/composted by the end of the financial year 2005/06	32.4% achieved

5.3.5 Current Initiatives – Phase 3 2006 – 2009

Action/Target	Comments
Consider doorstep collection scheme for glass	2007/09
Encourage innovative community and business led recycling and reuse scheme	2007/09
The Council will prepare a Waste Strategy for 2009 onwards, including the arrangements for a fully integrated collection system (dry recyclables, food waste, garden waste and residual waste)	2008/09
The Council will endeavour to separate recycled waste from street cleaning waste	2007/08
The Council will provide mixed recycling bins to schools	2007/08
The Council will promote the sale of subsidized digesters (green cones)	2007/08
The Council will trail a system for collecting food waste from 1000 properties	2007/08
The Council will continue to promote use of real nappies Provide an annual waste minimisation campaign	2007/08
The Council will progress the development of a small scale composting site(s) in partnership with the farming community	2007/08
The Council will provide assistance to schools using the Council's recycling service to pursue additional sustainable schemes	2007/08

The initiatives being carried out by the Council's Waste & Recycling department all have sustainable development implications. These initiatives have therefore been carried forward directly into the Action Plan.

5.4 UK Priority 1 Section 4 – BUSINESS SECTOR

5.4.1 Introduction

Surrey has around 56,000 businesses out of which 87% have less than 10 employees. Mole Valley has over 2,800 businesses split approximately as follows – 28% retail, 24% office, 15% factory/workshop, 10% warehouse and 23% other. These businesses generate approximately £30million of business rates annually.

Key major businesses in the District include – Exxon Mobil, Kellog Brown & Root, Wates Group, Logica, Toshiba, Puma, Friends Provident, Biwater, Kuoni Travel and Unum Provident.

5.4.2 Surrey Sustainable Business Partnership

The Surrey Sustainable Business Partnership (SSBP) is comprised of organisations in Surrey concerned with raising awareness and activity in the business community with respect to sustainable development. Its members include Surrey County Council, the eleven Borough and District authorities in Surrey, Business Link Surrey, Surrey Chambers of Commerce, Confederation of British Industry, Kingston University and the University of Surrey, WWF, Government Office for the South East and the Environment Agency.

The Partnership has helped develop the Surrey Programme for Environmentally Responsible Business (SuPERB), the Simple Utility Management Seminars (SUMS), Surrey Sustainable Business Awards and Egeneration.

The seminars on offer highlight overhead savings from effectively ‘greening’ organisations.

The ‘Sustainable Business Award’ rewards local businesses that are able to demonstrate annual improvements in 3 different categories – Environmentally, Socially and Economically. There are also 3 categories for small, medium and large businesses.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will assist in promoting Surrey Sustainable Business Partnership’s annual ‘Sustainability Business Award’ and the programme of workshops which relate to ‘greening’ organisations.
(UK1:4BUSN1)

5.4.3 Egeneration

Egeneration is a website set up by the County Council and is designed to provide a one stop shop of environmental information and advice to businesses in

Surrey. The information contained is practical and includes advice on saving money and reducing environmental impacts.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will raise awareness of 'Egeneration' the Surrey Sustainable Business Partnership's website which is a one stop shop of environmental information and advice for businesses in Surrey and set up a procedure for alerting new businesses to its existence.
(UK1:4BUSN2)

5.4.4 Mole Valley District Council's Economic Development Unit (EDU)

Part of the function of the Economic Development Unit of the Council is the retention of Businesses and the EDU tends to concentrate on the large businesses as they are key employers.

The EDU has produced a comprehensive business directory for both town centres. This highlights the range and diversity of businesses and is valued by advertisers and recipients alike, who are able to access it on-line.

The EDU has also set up the www.visitdorking.com and www.visitleatherhead.com sites to assist in promoting the two towns and attracting new business interest.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to support its Economic Development Unit to ensure that the link with Businesses is maintained, that they are supported and encouraged to remain in the District.
(UK1:4BUSN3)

6 MVDC Strategic Objectives for UK Priority 2 – Climate Change and Energy

6.1 UK Priority 2 Section 1 – ENERGY CONSUMPTION & CO₂ EMISSIONS

6.1.1 Introduction

Over the last five years the issue of climate change and what the UK needs to do in order to reduce our climate change impact has risen in priority significantly in the public and political arenas. The recent report by Sir Nick Stern outlined the very high costs to society and the economy of not tackling climate change as an immediate priority.

It is now recognised that the actions of mankind have resulted in the build-up of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. The six gases which cause this effect are –

- Carbon Dioxide
- Methane
- Nitrous Oxide
- HydroFluorocarbons
- Perfluorocarbons
- Sulphur Hexafluoride

The UK's Kyoto target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-12. The Climate Change Programme (March 2006) states that the UK is on target to achieve this with projected greenhouse gas emissions expected to be 23-25 per cent below 1990 levels. However, in addition the Government set a further target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010. At present the projections are that we will only achieve 15-18 per cent by 2010.

The Energy Review proposed long-term targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60 per cent by 2050, with significant progress by 2020. These are challenging but achievable targets. All parts of society will need to contribute to these and the recent Local Government White Paper proposed that local authorities will have a climate change obligation, and target, from 2008.

Local government has historically carried out activities and projects to invest in their own estate and encourage action by their citizens. However this will need

to gear up very significantly if local government is to take a lead in reducing our climate change impact, as all the recent policies and papers propose.

In 2004, according to government estimates, domestic energy use in Mole Valley resulted in more than 250,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted each year, or 3.1 tonnes for every person. This compares to a UK average of 2.6 tonnes, putting Mole Valley approximately twenty per cent above the UK average. This is probably largely a result of Mole Valley residents having larger than average houses and higher than average ownership of appliances.

6.1.2 The Council's Housing Stock

The Council has a good knowledge of its housing stock as a stock condition survey was completed in March 2006 that included a 26% sample of housing. Energy efficiency was measured against two indices:

- National Home Energy Rating (NHER), and
- Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).

The NHER is a score of a home's energy efficiency on a scale of 0 to 10. The rating is based on total running costs per square metre of floor area under standard occupancy conditions. A home scoring 0 would be very energy inefficient and consequently very expensive to run. A home scoring 10 is very efficient and cheap to run. Most homes in the UK score about 5.0, while a house built to current building regulations would score between 8 and 9 on the scale. The average of Mole Valley District Council's properties is 7.6.

The SAP is the Government's preferred energy rating initially introduced as a way to compare different energy labels being delivered within the UK. The SAP is a subset of the NHER and uses simplified versions of the same algorithms. The simplifications have been made so it conforms to the requirements of the Building Regulations. The main differences between the SAP and the NHER are that the SAP is independent of location and does not take into account energy used by lights and appliances. The average SAP for the housing stock is 68.0 which is higher than the national average of 51.

The Council is required by Government to ensure that its housing stock meets the 'Decent Homes Standard' by 2010. The key requirements of the Decent Homes Standard includes that dwellings -

- Meet the current minimum standard for housing
- Are in a reasonable state of repair
- Have reasonably modern kitchens and bathrooms (20 and 30 years respectively)
- Have adequate noise insulation
- Have a reasonable degree of thermal comfort (effective insulation and efficient heating)

The Council currently has a programme to insulate lofts: most of the properties with cavity walls have been insulated. When maintaining properties, 'A' rated condensing boilers have been installed and windows have been replaced with double-glazing. However there has been little provision made for improving hard to treat properties, such as those with solid walls.

Although this work is taking place there is little mention of energy efficiency in Mole Valley's existing Housing Strategy and there are no specific actions in the Housing Strategy action plan, apart from those related to achieving the 'Decent Homes Standard'. Clearly, an energy strategy needs to be developed with clear objectives and targets that are in line with national targets.

As mentioned in **section 4.14.1** the Council will transfer its housing stock to a new Registered Social Landlord (RSL), Mole Valley Housing Association (MVHA), during 2007. The MVHA will become part of the Circle Anglia Group and will adopt group policies where appropriate. The Council will therefore need to work closely with the Mole Valley Housing Association and other landlords/developers in order to promote best practice in terms of energy usage.

With this in mind the Circle Anglia Group has already produced a draft Environmental and Sustainability Policy which is an integral part of the Group's corporate business strategy. It should ensure that activities at every level are designed to promote and achieve environmental sustainability. It covers:

- Building new homes
- Energy efficiency (new and existing homes) Energy from renewable sources
- Energy supply companies
- Water
- Waste
- Decent Homes Standard
- Resident involvement
- Promotion
- The Group's own estate and equipment.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is legally bound to deliver the 'Decent Homes Standard' set by Government and will enter into a contract with Mole Valley Housing Association to ensure that the requirements set are achieved. **(UK2:1ENER1)**

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will create an energy strategy and action plan for social and private housing and work closely with Mole Valley Housing Association and other agencies to promote best practice. **(UK2:1ENER2)**

Communication with Tenants

It is vital to provide energy advice to tenants to ensure that they use equipment as efficiently as possible and to educate them about behavioural changes they can make. For example, evidence has shown that even when a boiler is replaced with a more efficient boiler without good supportive information about how to use them, tenants will not necessarily use them as efficiently as possible.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will work with Mole Valley Housing Association to ensure that standard energy efficiency information reaches tenants (e.g. through tenant newsletters, tenant groups, including energy efficiency information in new tenant packs, ensuring that when tenants are provided with a new heating system tenants receive a home energy advice visit).
(UK2:1ENER3)

6.1.3 The Council's Property

The Council has 70 properties of which 28 buildings are of particular importance and consist of administration offices, community buildings, sports centres and entertainment venues. The Council has an Asset Management Plan (AMP), which is regularly reviewed. The Plan details maintenance costs, energy and water costs as well as the CO₂ emissions for key properties such as its leisure centres and the Council's main office, Pippbrook.

Property	Costs/Emission per Square Metre
DORKING HALLS	Annual Management Cost £1.75 Repair and Maintenance cost: £27.19 Energy Cost: Electricity: £12.25 Gas: £6.91 Water Cost: £1.26 CO ² Emission: Tonnes 0.285
LEATHERHEAD LEISURE CENTRE	Annual Management Cost: £0.64 Repair and Maintenance cost: £13 Energy Cost Electricity: £7.48 Gas: £6.97 Water Cost: £2.09 CO ² Emission: Tonnes 0.00 (Supplied by Green Energy)
DORKING LEISURE CENTRE	Annual Management Cost: £0.42 Repair and Maintenance cost: £0.17 (MVDC contribution) Energy Cost Electricity: £18.00 Gas: £8.99 Water Cost: £3.69
BIG FIELD PAVILION	Annual Management Cost: £6.07 Repair and Maintenance cost: £1.42 Energy Cost: Electricity: £0.70 Gas: £0.00

	Water Cost: contribution	In with management
	CO ² Emission:	Tonnes 0.0048
MEADOWBANK PAVILION	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	£1.09 £4.27 £4.10 £0.00 £0.54 Tonnes 0.0290
MAYFLOWER DAY CENTRE (DORKING)	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	£2.21 £13.37 £1.54 £1.03 £1.09 Tonnes 0.0260
FAIRFIELD DAY CENTRE (LEATHERHEAD)	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	£3.92 £14.68 £6.95 £6.63 £5.55 Tonnes 0.1158
PARK HOUSE (LEATHERHEAD) COMMUNITY ALARM	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	£0.62 £26.24 £1.55 £4.89 £1.10 Tonnes 0.0547
STATION ROAD DEPOT (DORKING)	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	£2.13 £28.00 £2.99 £7.20 £1.88 Tonnes 0.0884
PIXHAM LANE DEPOT	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	£0.04 £0.21 £10.84 £0.00 £1.58 Tonnes 0.0728
CAR PARKS:	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost:	£0.02 £0.10
PUBLIC TOILETS	Annual Management Cost: Repair and Maintenance cost: Energy Cost: Electricity: Gas: Water Cost: CO ² Emission:	Not available £74.56 £43.63 £0.00 £26.26 Tonnes 0.269

PIPPBROOK (including PIPPBROOK HOUSE basement)	Annual Management Cost:	£2.41
	Repair and Maintenance cost:	£27.60
	Energy Cost	
	Electricity:	£9.88
	Gas:	£4.47
	Water Cost:	£0.64
	CO ² Emission:	Tonnes 0.00 (supplied by Green Energy)

It can be seen from the above that Leatherhead Leisure Centre and Pippbrook are both supplied with 'Green Energy'.

The AMP does not include SAP ratings for its housing properties, or ratings for its offices using the 'Simplified Building Energy Model' (SBEM) as recommended by the Building Research Establishment. Neither does it specify targets for reducing energy and CO₂ emissions. The Council therefore needs to link the proposed Energy Strategy to its Asset Management Plan.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will as part of its proposed Energy Strategy include SAP ratings for its housing properties, use the 'Simplified Building Energy Model' (SBEM) for its offices (where applicable), specify targets for reducing energy and CO₂ emissions and link this work to its Asset Management Plan. **(UK2:1ENER4)**

6.1.4 Private Property

The last stock condition survey of private sector housing was completed in 2002 as part of the housing needs survey. More recently, the Council completed a risk assessment of stock condition using Building Research Establishment (BRE) survey methodology, in conjunction with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. This approach uses various sources of information to predict dwellings that are likely to have low levels of energy efficiency. This will be followed up by a newly commissioned Housing Needs survey.

The energy efficiency data recorded in the assessment of stock condition will assist with the formation of the HECA action plan (see 6.1.7 below) and ensure that information and resources are targeted appropriately.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to develop a database of private sector stock to ensure that it effectively targets energy efficiency improvements in the private sector and thus ensures that 'Home Energy Conservation Act' (HECA) targets are met. **(UK2:1ENER5)**

6.1.5 Overarching Energy Strategy

The Council needs to produce an overarching Energy Strategy that encompasses the energy performance of a variety of categories of properties in

the District, including Schools, Businesses, Community Halls and retail properties.

The Strategy should include commitment statements e.g. The Council will –

- Purchase Brown energy at the most cost-effective price
- Increase energy efficiency in terms of energy consumed per unit of production or service delivered per employee and energy per space used
- Reduce its emissions of green house gases
- Reduce its consumption of fossil fuels
- Increase its use of renewable energy
- Invest in clean, energy efficient technologies where this meets investment criteria
- Consider life cycle energy cost when procuring new projects
- Reduce its environmental impact arising from our consumption of energy

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will produce an overarching Energy Strategy that encompasses the energy performance of a variety of categories of properties in the District, including Schools, Businesses, Community Halls and retail properties. **(UK2:1ENER6)**

6.1.6 The Community Strategy

The work of the Community Planning Group (or Local Strategic Partnership) does not currently include conserving energy and yet this is an excellent forum from which to raise awareness and inform the community of the potential benefits they may get by reducing resource consumption.

With such a high proportion of owner-occupiers in the district, and with average income well above the national average, Mole Valley could make a big impact on reducing carbon emissions by targeting this sector.

This could be as simple as a leaflet that outlines what householders can do to reduce their carbon emissions with information on where to go for funding and advice. This could be done in partnership with the Local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre and energy suppliers, who may be able to provide funding through the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC).

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will raise energy efficiency as an issue to the Community Planning Group with a view to increasing the profile and awareness of sustainable energy issues within the community. **(UK2:1ENER7)**

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will conduct an 'Energy Efficiency' awareness campaign targeting private home owners. **(UK2:1ENER8)**

6.1.7 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)

Mole Valley reports an annual home energy efficiency improvement of 11.6 per cent since 1996 (up until March 2005) against the 30 per cent target as set by the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA). This compares to an average improvement in the South East region of 15.8 per cent. Therefore it would appear that there is scope for Mole Valley to further improve domestic energy efficiency in their area and reducing carbon emissions.

The Council is not on track to meet its HECA target of a 30% improvement in home energy efficiency across the district by 2011. It is currently reporting an 11.6% improvement since 1996 and up until March 2005. The Council therefore needs to produce an action plan showing how the HECA target will be met.

The Council did not complete its tenth HECA progress report which reports on improvements between April 2005 and March 2006.

The Council is not currently represented on the South East HECA forum. The forum is designed to share good practice and provide an environment for networking with other local authorities in the South East.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will produce an action plan showing how the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) target will be met and ensure that HECA reports are updated and submitted as required under the Act. **(UK2:1ENER9)**

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will be represented at the South East HECA forum. **(UK2:1ENER10)**

6.1.8 The Council's Staff

A significant amount of the energy consumed throughout the Council is controlled by its staff. Energy efficiency is mentioned in the Council's 'Induction Programme' for all staff, however there is no ongoing reminder or refresher course to ensure staff are careful with the energy they use.

It would therefore be beneficial to set up a programme of initiatives aimed to keep staff alerted to their energy consumption. The programme could include in-house training or partnership work with the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC). The Energy Saving Trust will also give free presentations regarding sustainable energy and sustainable road transport

This approach works well particularly if staff are nominated to assist in monitoring that there is a change in behaviour.

Opportunities for savings by adopting energy efficient working practices include:

- Turning off lighting when not required
- Reducing heating temperatures
- Ensuring time switches are set to occupancy times
- Turning off computers and associated office equipment when not required
- Use of thermostatic radiator valves
- Keeping windows closed during the heating season
- Use of comfort cooling
- Water management

It has been demonstrated in many organisations that staff awareness and good housekeeping can reduce energy consumption by up to 15%.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will develop and implement a programme of initiatives aimed at changing staff behaviour to ensure a reduction in energy consumption throughout the Council. **(UK2:1ENER11)**

6.1.9 Securing Grant Funding Opportunities

Historically the Council has invested its own funds into energy efficiency measures for its housing stock. The Council has not readily accessed external funding such as that from utility companies through the Energy Efficiency Commitment scheme.

Similarly no funding has been obtained for improving energy efficiency in the private sector in Mole Valley. Obtaining funding for the private sector will help improve energy efficiency and will therefore assist the Council in meeting its HECA targets.

The Council needs to explore funding opportunities. Some examples of what it could do are provided below –

- Certain energy suppliers will pay a commission to the Council for every void property that is signed over to them for gas/electricity supply. Funding through this mechanism can then be ring fenced for other energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements.
- The Council should apply to obtain DTI's 'Low Carbon Buildings Programme' funding for renewable technologies for the Council's housing stock.
- It should use the Energy Saving Trust's funding database to keep up to date on all available funding.
- Work in partnership with energy suppliers to obtain EEC funding for the private sector. Other schemes have demonstrated that take up of EEC funded energy efficiency schemes increases significantly with Council endorsement.

- Work in partnership with EAGA and the local EEAC to refer eligible householders to Warm Front funding.
- Be aware of funding available through the South East Regional Housing Board that can be used for energy efficiency improvements in the Private Sector.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will commit resources to exploring external funding opportunities to ensure that energy efficiency is improved throughout the District. **(UK2:1ENER12)**

6.1.10 The Carbon Trust Review

MVDC spends in the order £320,000 and consumes approximately 16,000,000 kWh of energy per annum (including Social Housing). This comprises:

Utility	Energy Consumption		Cost	
	kWh/year	%	£/year	%
Electricity	4,914,471	30.5	174,598	55.1
Gas	11,176,402	69.5	142,200	44.9
Total Energy	16,090,873	100.0	316,798	100.0
Water & Effluent	39,411m³		38,403	

The unit costs for electricity and gas used in calculating savings are 3.6 and 1.3 p/kWh respectively including Climate Change Levy (CCL), but excluding VAT and standing charges (where the data provided allows for this). These values are average costs.

The council processes and monitors its energy bills through specialised software called 'TEAM', but does not have an energy strategy or specified annual targets.

The Carbon Trust is the lead body on energy use in Local Government owned estates. It assists organisations in cutting their energy costs through the provision of free, professional advice and assistance. In 2006 the Council had a Carbon Trust Energy Audit for its buildings, which included measures the Council can implement to save money and energy in the longer term. **These are presented in Appendix 2.**

The total savings identified represent a saving of £22,483 per year, with an initial investment of £89,432 giving a payback of 4.0 years. The likely carbon emission reductions from implementing the recommendations listed in the table would be 229.6 tonnes/year.

The analysis of the Council's operations showed that by –

- Reducing the heating temperature by 1°C
- Providing 2 hours less heating per day
- Using 1 hour's less lighting per day
- Stopping using office equipment for 1 hour per day

The Council would save £30,000 per year.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will review the proposed savings detailed in Appendix 2 and set energy consumption targets as part of its Overarching Energy Strategy. **(UK2:1ENER13)**

6.1.11 The Council's Leased Vehicles

The council currently leases cars to 68 staff. There is a limit on the Carbon Dioxide emissions of 200g/km, which is not particularly stringent. It also has an assisted car purchase scheme,

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will amend its car leasing and assisted car purchase schemes to include a policy that states only vehicles with a carbon dioxide emission level below 165g/km will be considered under the scheme. **(UK2:1ENER14)**

6.2 UK Priority 2 Section 2 – FLOODING

The effects of climate change increase the likelihood of storms and flash floods which can cause terrible damage both financially and to human life and livelihoods. Flooding is going to become an increasing issue for Councils already with flooding problems.

Flooding in parts of the District is a growing issue.

In Mole Valley the County Council is responsible for surface water drainage from the public highway and Thames & Southern Water Authority plus the Environment Agency for other areas such as provision of water to properties, sewerage drainage systems and water quality.

Unfortunately for the District there is a backlog of highway maintenance, which can impact on the quality of the drainage system. The District continues to raise its concerns regarding this **issue (see 8.1.1.2)**.

Land drainage watercourses (ditches) are categorised into three groups namely:-

- Main River - The responsibility for these rests with the Environment Agency e.g. The River Mole

- Critical Ordinary Watercourses - Those that have been deemed as important watercourses. The responsibility for policing these rests with the District Council, but the Environment Agency has an ongoing interest in them e.g. The Pipp Brook and the Rye Brook
- Ordinary Watercourses - The responsibility for policing these rests with the District Council and includes all watercourses not covered in the first two categories.

The District has taken on the direct responsibility for a number of watercourses over the years. This is to ensure that key areas do not become flooded due to poor maintenance and a sum is set aside annually to do this.

Some flooding issues arise due to poorly maintained private ditches. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the responsibility of the maintenance of watercourses rests with the owner of the land on which the watercourse passes. The District Council has policing powers to take enforcement action against those that have not carried out their responsibilities.

The District Council also works with the Environment Agency in reacting to potential flooding issues. The Council has a duty of care to the general public in that it has to assist and react to any severe problems within its boundaries. Consequently the District Council responds to 'flash flooding' warnings by providing sand bags to residents.

6.2.1 Mitigating Flooding

Within Mole Valley the number of properties at risk from flooding in 2004 were –

Leatherhead built up areas	541
Dorking built up areas	160
Within the District	1,559

The District's service to date is relatively reactive owing to the nature of the work it does and the short forecasting of problems. A review of the service has not taken place for sometime and therefore needs to be carried out. The review will need to consider issues such as –

- How we inform the public of the service we provide
- How we operate and whether this can be improved upon (this includes the Council's management of watercourses as well as its sand bagging operations)
- What measures can be put in place in advance of flood warnings for residents with issues on their own land

- Planning and development issues by linking into the Council's Local Development Framework.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will undertake a review of flood management issues with a view to producing an effective flood risk strategy. (UK2:2FLOOD1)

6.2.2 New Developments

The Council needs to consider water efficiency and water impact issues during the design stage when permitting new developments in the District. For example it can design-in lakes as balancing features to reduce the rate of surface water run-off from roads. It could also promote SUDS – sustainable urban drainage systems.

Bull Hill Car Park Development

In December 2006 the Council opened a new section of car park in walking distance to Leatherhead town centre. As part of the design not only was the area well landscaped but also included a holding area for surface water run-off.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will consider water efficiency and water impact issues during the design stage when assessing new developments in the District. (UK2:2FLOOD2)

6.3 UK Priority 2 Section 3 – RENEWABLE ENERGY

The stock-wide potential for using renewable energy technologies has not yet been fully investigated so renewable targets have not yet been set by the Council. Similarly existing 'renewable energy' schemes are not promoted. There are also no incentives to householders to encourage them to install renewable technologies.

The Council does not have on-site renewable energy generation, but purchases 'green' electricity for its three largest sites: Pippbrook, Dorking Halls and Leatherhead Leisure Centre. All other supplies are 'Brown'.

The Council does however have a flagship housing development known as 'Overlord Court' in Fetcham which has been built to high energy efficiency standards and features solar photovoltaic panels.

There is also a multi-million pound redevelopment planned for the Leatherhead Leisure Centre for 2008/09 and the Council are committed to looking at sustainable energy solutions as part of this work.

The Council needs to develop and consider a 'Renewable Energy Plan' which:

- Assess the stock wide potential for renewable energy for its own stock. This could be retrofit initiatives.
- Assess the potential for installing renewable energy on a small number of dwellings as flagships. Should the housing stock transfer go ahead the Council should approach the Housing Association to explore their commitment to such proposals.
- Considers offering additional incentives to householders to install renewable energy, for example through offering top-up grants for those that obtain funding through the DTI's Low Carbon Buildings Programme.
- Investigates funding available for renewable energy projects.

When the Council purchases energy on a 'renewable energy' tariff the Council does not have to pay the 'climate change levy'. Any savings that are made through doing this could be ring-fenced and invested in sustainable energy measures. This is a consideration for the 'Renewable Energy Plan'.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will produce a 'Renewable Energy Plan', which will form part of the overarching Energy Strategy.
(UK2:3RENEW1)

Fuel Consumption

Approximately 50% of the Council's fleet is run on Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG). The Council is considering other alternative fuels for its operations such as electric power.

The Council's street cleaning contractor Veolia uses LPG in some of its fleet, which is requirement in the Contract specification. Biffa, the Council's Waste Services contractor, does not use LPG; this was considered but considered unviable.

The Council actively monitors fuel consumption primarily to assess cost. Currently there are no targets set for performance improvements in fuel reduction.

The Energy Saving Trust will conduct 'Green Fleet' reviews at no cost. This involves producing a comprehensive report outlining a strategy that can help improve operations in many ways, including:

- Reducing fleet costs.
- Cutting vehicle emissions.
- Improving the Council's social and environmental reputation.
- Minimising traffic and parking problems.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will conduct a review of fuel usage and supply throughout the Council as part of its Energy Strategy.
(UK2:3RENEW2)

Surrey Wood Fuels Group

The Council has very recently joined the Surrey Wood Fuels Group, which in broad terms is aiming to promote wood fuel as an alternative energy source.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will review the potential for wood fuel produced locally, which could potentially provide many benefits in terms of the local management of woodland and the local economy. Its potential use will be considered as part of the options for the refurbishment of Leatherhead Leisure Centre. **(UK2:3RENEW3)**

7 MVDC Strategic Objectives for UK Priority 3 - Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement

7.1 UK Priority 3 Section 1 – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The countryside of Mole Valley is extensive and accounts for 90% of the District's area. Of this, 80% is in the Metropolitan Green Belt and/ or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The constraints that flow from preserving the attractiveness of the area and from having 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' as well as the Green Belt restrictions, limit both the nature and scale of development in the District.

The areas on and around buildings can provide valuable habitat. Domestic gardens in London account for 20% of the Capital's surface area and nearly 70% of the city's 5.5 million trees.

Nationally, approximately 150,000 new homes are built each year and at least this level of development will continue in the future. The inclusion of sustainability measures in new homes will have measurable positive effects on the environment, but can also result in cost savings for the owner. The Environment Agency estimates that it only costs £800 per house to achieve a 25% improvement in the overall sustainability of that home (using 2002 building regulations as a baseline). These improvements deliver savings to residents through reduced utility bills of approximately £140 per year.

The balance between such demands, quality of life and ensuring a sustainable future is of key importance when considering development control issues and this is carefully managed by the Council through the Mole Valley Local Plan, which will be replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF) in the future.

Typical energy costs per household per year are currently approximately £850. Therefore at current development rates, if every household development was provided with 10% renewable energy this would have a market value of £12,750,000 per year.

Households in the UK produce 27% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions and improving efficiency will act to combat this. For example homes built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment method (BREEAM) 'very good' standard reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32%.

Another consideration when considering where to locate developments is the impact of flooding. Climate change is making flood management increasingly

more important in deciding where to locate new development and how to design it. Presently 1.85 million houses and 185,000 commercial properties are at risk from flooding and this is likely to increase. The current average annual damage from flooding in the UK is around £1.4billion.

Another consideration is the materials used during construction. Annually 90 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste is generated. This equates to 3 times the waste produced by all UK households combined and only half the waste is being recycled back into the sector. Homes built to 'EcoHomes' 'very good' standard reduce waste sent to landfill from construction sites by 25%.

The Council can incorporate 'environmentally friendly' requirements and set building standards in its LDF. It can then ask developers to provide compliance information to ensure that these standards are being met. These considerations will be made as the LDF develops. It is important that when such standards are introduced they are set at a level that is challenging yet achievable for all.

The Surrey Structure Plan policy SE2 requires developments to meet 10% of their energy needs from renewable sources. Mole Valley currently implements policy SE2 on the larger developments in the District.

The 'Core Strategy Preferred Options', which forms part of the LDF (Local Development Framework) went out for consultation in May 2006. However no policy was included within to enable the Council to require a percentage of the energy demand for a development from renewable energy sources. This is consequently something the Council will have to address in the future.

In the interim there is no reason why the Council cannot promote the use of sustainable methods of construction and design when interfacing with developers. This will involve training planners about what developers could do and providing them with useful information to pass on. At the moment staff provide basic information on energy efficiency and then only if asked for it i.e. it is dealt with in a reactive rather than proactive way.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will develop an information pack on the website and an information leaflet for presentation to anyone submitting a planning application. The appropriate Council staff will also be trained on what developers can do to improve the 'sustainability' of their buildings as well as their operations. **(UK3:1DEV1)**

7.2 UK Priority 3 Section 2 – WATER CONSUMPTION & QUALITY

7.2.1 Introduction

There is increasing concern that as the result of new developments, climate change and domestic consumption pressures are being placed on our local water environment.

7.2.2 Promote Water Efficiency

The UK has grown accustomed to having water services ‘on tap’. Globally access to drinking water is predicted to reduce in the future. In the UK there are national issues with regard to the maintenance of the drainage network and water wastage due to leakage. In short we have all got to look at the ways we can save on water consumption.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will develop a ‘Water Efficiency’ Strategy. This will include consideration of the following –

- Collecting and re-using rainwater from Council buildings.
- Conducting water audits of Council properties.
- Looking at simple initiatives that reduce water consumption in the Council’s day to day operations e.g. ‘bricks’ in cisterns.
- Advising residents and local businesses on initiatives they could take e.g. low/dual flush loos, rainwater harvesting systems. **(UK3:2WATER1)**

7.2.3 Pollution

Even when we use water for everyday use e.g. bathing and washing clothes, we add to water pollution. This can impact on water species and habitats.

The Council maintains a ‘watching brief’ on both private and public water supplies. It will take enforcement action on private supplies if their standards fall. As far as public supplies are concerned the Council generally is only involved when complaints are received from consumers.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will raise public awareness on how to minimise water pollution as part of its ‘raising awareness’ initiatives within its ‘Water Efficiency’ Strategy. **(UK3:2WATER2)**

7.3 UK Priority 3 Section 3 – AIR QUALITY

7.3.1 Introduction

The Department of Health's evidence suggests that each year the deaths of between 12,000 and 24,000 vulnerable people are brought forward, and between 14,000 and 24,000 hospital admissions may be associated with short-term impact of air pollution on health.

The UK Government has set new air quality objectives for the following pollutants:

- Benzene

This is a genotoxic human carcinogen, which in high doses can lead to Leukaemia. The main source is from the combustion and distribution of petrol.

- Carbon Monoxide

This can lead to the formation of carboxyhaemoglobin, which reduces the capacity of blood to carry oxygen. The main source is from gas formed by the incomplete combustion of carbon containing fuels. The main source of which is road transport, which accounts for 69% of UK emissions mainly from petrol engines.

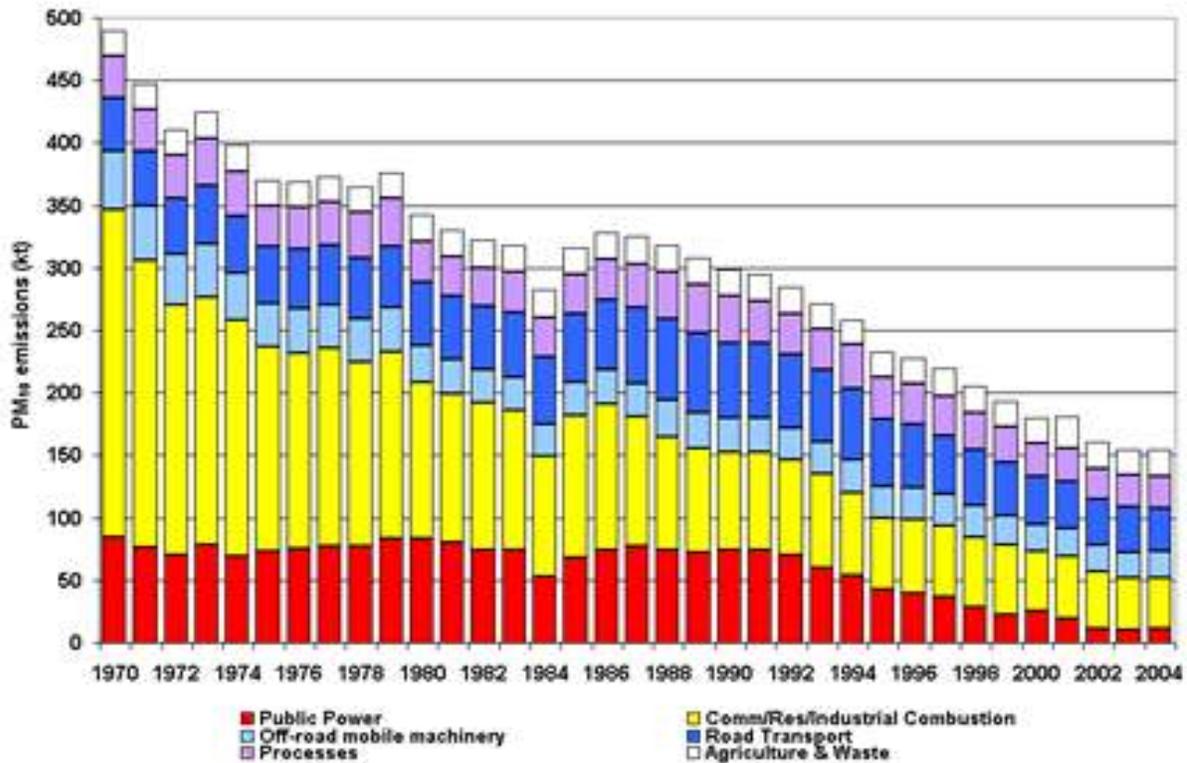
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Exposure increases the likelihood of tumours of the lung, skin and bladder. The main source is from breathing in the air from domestic coal and wood burning (39%). 28% comes from fires – accidental fires, bonfires etc.

- Particles (PM₁₀)

Historically, interest in particulate matter focused mainly on smoke which can cause health problems especially in combination with other pollutants. However, recent epidemiological evidence is also linking concentrations of particles in the atmosphere with human health effects. Particles can vary widely in size and composition. The PM₁₀ (particles measuring 10µm or less) standard was designed to identify those particles likely to be inhaled by humans, and PM₁₀ has become the generally accepted measure of particulate material in the atmosphere in the UK and in Europe. The main sources of primary PM₁₀ are road transport (all road transport emits PM₁₀, but diesel vehicles emit a greater mass of particulate per vehicle kilometre), stationary combustion (domestic coal combustion has traditionally been the major source of particulate emissions in the UK) and industrial processes (including bulk handling, construction, mining and quarrying). Emissions of PM₁₀ from the UK have declined since 1970. This

is due mainly to the reduction in coal use. Domestic and commercial emissions have fallen from 263 kilotonnes (54% of the total emission) in 1970 to 41 kilotonnes (27%) in 2004.



Recent studies (since 1990) have demonstrated adverse effects on cardiorespiratory health, including both increased hospitalizations and increased premature mortality, associated with relatively low particulate levels. It is now widely accepted that tiny particles may have increased impact because of their ability to penetrate deep into the lung. Primary particles are emitted directly into the atmosphere by combustion processes, and are generally very small (less than 2.5µm diameter and often less than 1µm). Secondary particles are those which are formed in the atmosphere from chemical reaction and include sulphates and nitrates formed from the reactions of emissions of SO₂ and NO_x. These secondary particles are generally less than 2.5 µm diameter, but the size could vary depending on humidity. The third category is the so-called coarse fraction, which are formed from mostly non-combustion sources.

Air pollution also damages vegetation such as defoliation and lower crop yields. It also erodes and damages buildings.

7.3.2 Progress to Date

Air quality is constantly monitored by equipment based at Pippbrook. The equipment constantly samples the air for nitrogen oxides and small particles.

The data is validated by Kings College and then made available together with data from the national monitoring network on the college's website.

The data is used together with data from a number of diffusion tubes throughout the District to provide an overview of air quality.

Air pollution is controlled via enforcement action which covers issues such as smoke nuisance and industrial processes.

Mole Valley has no designated 'Air Quality Management Areas' (AQMA), which are set in place if through monitoring air quality is of concern.

Detailed analysis by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council has shown that predicted levels of pollution will be lower than originally thought and has resulted in the withdrawal of two small Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). This tends to support the view that the contribution to air pollution by traffic on Surrey's roads is reducing. However the major source of pollution is from traffic on the motorways which are operated by the Highways Agency. Neither the District nor County Councils have any jurisdiction over the motorway network.

Air quality analysis by the 11 District Councils continues. There remain particular concerns in the Borough of Spelthorne.

Modelling of emissions by traffic on all county roads shows that the quantity of carbon dioxide emitted annually will continue to decline as the proportion of vehicles with greater engine efficiency increases. Current levels (from the EVAL model of environmental and economic factors) are close to those originally predicted so progress remains on track.

Emissions from hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, particulates and carbon monoxide pollutants are also expected to decline as a result of greater engine efficiency and use of cleaner fuel. As above, current levels are following the predicted levels closely so these indicators also remain on track.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to monitor air pollutants within Mole Valley. It will also aim to reduce air pollution through transport and educational initiatives that promote less dependency on the car, e.g.:

- Developing Company Travel Plans and School Travel Plans with developers as new developments are assessed through the planning process
- Continuing to promote car share schemes
- Continuing to promote bus usage initiatives **(UK3:3AIR1)**

7.3.3 Airport development

A key factor for the District is the close proximity of Gatwick Airport. The Government published 'The Future Development of Air Transport' White Paper on 16 December 2003. It sets out a strategic framework for the development of air transport in the United Kingdom over the next 30 years. The White Paper responds to the latest Government forecasts, 'Air Traffic Forecasts for the UK 2000', which suggest that the demand for air travel in the United Kingdom is set to almost treble by 2030. The majority of this increase in air travel is expected to take place in the South East of England.

The publication of the White Paper followed one of the largest Government consultation exercises undertaken. This sought views on a wide range of airport development options across the country, including the provision of one or more new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, as well as a proposal for a new airport near Cliffe on the Hoo Peninsula in Kent.

The White Paper supports the construction of two new runways in the South East by 2030. These comprise a new wide-spaced second runway at Stansted around 2011/2012, and a new third runway at Heathrow between 2015 and 2020. This will consist of a short parallel runway to the north of the existing airport which can only be used by smaller narrow-body planes.

The provision of a third runway at Heathrow is conditional on stringent environmental limits being met. These include ensuring compliance with EU mandatory air quality limits for Nitrogen Dioxide that will apply from 2010.

The Government cannot be certain at this stage when, or whether, the conditions attached to the development of a third runway at Heathrow might be met, particularly in relation to air quality. As a consequence, the White Paper states that land should be safeguarded for a new second wide spaced runway at Gatwick after 2019. This is in case the conditions attached to the construction of a third runway at Heathrow cannot be achieved.

The County Council will continue to monitor the situation.

7.3.4 Pool Car Facilities

The www.surreycarshare.com site is accessible to the general public and is linked through to the District Council's intranet site. This site promotes four pool car schemes –

- City Car Club
- Car Plus
- Whizz Go
- Street Car

The District Council does not have a dedicated pool car for its staff, although many site inspections are carried out. However, if a lease car is no longer needed but still has time to run on its lease agreement then those cars are used as pool cars until the lease expires.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will trial a dedicated 'environmentally friendly' pool car e.g. an electric car or zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell vehicle. **(UK3:3AIR2)**

7.3.5 Raising Awareness

Air pollution is something we can all affect, however unless visible is something not necessarily acted upon.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is committed to promoting air pollution awareness and will produce a regular newsletter on air quality and circulate it to places like GPs' surgeries where individuals at risk are likely to be present. **(UK3:3AIR3)**

7.3.6 Car Free Zones

In 1984 the County Council in conjunction with the District implemented a restriction to cars in Leatherhead High Street. The restriction was reviewed further last year such that vehicle restrictions now apply from 8am – 6.30pm with deliveries restricted from 10am – 4.30pm. This initiative has not only improved the environment, but also safety in the area.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - In conjunction with the County Council the District Council is committed to giving pedestrians priority over vehicles where practically possible with a view to improving the environment in which the District's residents live and work. **(UK3:3AIR4)**

7.4 UK Priority 3 Section 4 – BIODIVERSITY

7.4.1 Introduction

Biodiversity is the variety of life on the planet. This includes the plant and animal species that make up our wildlife, and the habitats in which they live. 'Natural England' (English Nature, the Countryside Agency and DEFRA's Rural Development Service) is responsible for ensuring that England's biodiversity is protected and improved. It is the body responsible for nationally important sites such as 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (see below). Natural England will also advise on the conservation of protected species.

The UK is one of 188 Parties to attend the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The Convention had three

main objectives: the conservation of biodiversity; the sustainable use of biodiversity; and the sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.

In the UK this commitment led to the launch of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in 1994. The Plan's overall goal is to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the UK and to contribute to efforts to conserve global biodiversity, and reverse major declines in the populations, range and quality of the UK's biodiversity resource. The UK BAP targets the recovery of some of our most threatened species and habitats in the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. For each priority species and habitat an action plan describes the current status and threats, and sets out an action programme for achieving 10-15 year objectives and targets.

Each of the four countries of the UK subsequently produced country strategies for biodiversity. The England Biodiversity Strategy was published in 2003: it identified new approaches and partnerships across sectors as being essential for achieving the conservation of biodiversity.

A number of programmes are run by national agencies that complement the UK BAP. These include Natural England's Species Recovery Programme which seeks to reverse the declines in England's animals, plants and fungi. Of the priority habitats and species targeted by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, only 35% and 47% respectively are currently assessed as stable or increasing (DEFRA, 2006).

7.4.2 Biodiversity in Mole Valley

A significant proportion of Mole Valley has been designated for its nature conservation and landscape importance.

Special Areas of Conservation

The EU Habitats Directive lists habitats, plant and animal species that are of European importance because of their vulnerability or rarity. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are areas with listed habitats and species occurring in the UK.

The 'Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment' SAC covers extensive areas of the North Downs in the District. It is so designated for its mosaic of yew and bos woodland, acid heathland and chalk grassland. The Council does not manage land within the SAC, but has given tacit support to the successful 'Heritage Lottery' bid for funding to manage the downland for nature conservation benefits. This is known locally as the 'Old Surrey Downs' project and was launched in September 2006. Policy in the Mole Valley Local Plan establishes strict control over development within the SAC.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are nationally important wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 7% of the country's land area. They include chalk rivers, gorse and heather-clad heathlands and peat bogs. SSSIs support rare plants and animals that find it difficult to survive in the wider countryside.

Over half of SSSI land is also internationally important for its wildlife, and has been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites. Many SSSIs are also National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

There are 12 SSSIs wholly or partially within Mole Valley District. These include Leith Hill, Ranmore Common and the Mole Gap to Reigate, the latter being a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). 1,957.7ha of land in the District is designated as SSSI (7.6% of the District).

MVDC's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) suggests there should be no reduction in the extent of SSSI in the District and ensure that 95% of SSSIs are favourable or recovering condition by 2010. This reflects DEFRA's target for SSSIs, which is to bring 95% of SSSIs into 'favourable or recovering' condition by 2010. As of 2006, 54% of SSSIs in Mole Valley were reported as being in 'favourable' condition, with a further 31% in 'unfavourable – recovering' condition, meaning 15% were in an 'unfavourable' condition with no change or the area is declining or being destroyed.

There are three ways in which MVDC can influence the management of SSSIs. One is through management agreements with the landowner. The second is through the provision of grant assistance. The third is the control of new development or management changes. Natural England is the lead body so far as mechanisms are concerned, however the District Council does need to ensure its planning policies and proposals, and any new development, does not prejudice the condition and extent of SSSIs. The Council has good links with conservation organisations, such as the National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust, who own or manage a good proportion of the District's SSSIs. Through the Council's support for countryside management projects there is a direct link with the proactive management of SSSI and other wildlife sites throughout the District.

INSERT MAP

National Nature Reserves

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) have been established to protect and manage the special wildlife habitats, species and geological features that occur in these areas. These sites are of national and often international importance, and many NNRs are important for study and research. Almost all NNRs have some form of access provision – many are fully open throughout the year. At the end of

September 2006, there were 222 reserves, covering over 92,000 hectares throughout the UK.

179.6 hectares of Ashtead Common is designated as an NNR. This is a very well managed site adjacent to extensive residential areas with an extensive network of footpaths and bridleways. The Council has close links with the managers of Ashtead Common. They are partners in the Lower Mole Project and the Council has supported recent work on the Rye Brook restoration. These good community links assist with the management of the Common.

Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are found in towns, cities, villages and countryside and support wildlife or geology of special local interest. All LNRs are owned or controlled by Local Authorities and some are also 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest'. At the end of July 2006 there were over 1,280 LNRs nationally.

The District Council has powers under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to designate LNRs. These are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. There are 5 LNRs in Mole Valley: Edolphs Copse near Charlwood, Ashtead Park, River Mole Corridor in Leatherhead, Inholms Lane south of Dorking, all designated by MVDC and Hackhurst downs above Abinger Hammer designated by Surrey County Council. In addition, there are non-statutory reserves owned and managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

The Council seeks to manage sites for the benefit of wildlife whilst allowing opportunities for people to have access to them and enjoy them. They also have an educational value and events, such as guided walks and the River Mole Discovery Day, are organised with this objective in mind.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will seek to obtain LNR status for additional sites in the future, including the Nower/ Milton Heath area that Surrey Wildlife Trust is due to take over management of in the near future.

(UK3:4BIODIV1)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) have been described as the jewels of the English landscape. There are 36 in all, covering about 15 per cent of England. Natural England is responsible for designating AONBs and advising Government and others on how they should be protected and managed. Areas are designated solely for their landscape qualities for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty.

9,408 hectares of Mole Valley District is within the Surrey Hills AONB: this is 36.4% of the total area of the District. Surrey Hills AONB was one of the first AONBs to be designated and in 2008 will be 50 years old.

Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)

11,685 hectares of Mole Valley District is within the AGLV.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is contributing to a study of the Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) to understand its role in safeguarding the landscape of Surrey and the Surrey Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The results of the study will form part of the evidence base for policy in the emerging Local Development Framework. **(UK3:4BIODIV2)**

Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCl)s

There are 52 sites designated as SNCl)s and a further 11 sites which are part SNCl)s in Mole Valley. An additional 28 sites are identified as potential SNCl)s. They are quite diverse in their character, ownership and size. They were designated following a joint exercise with other councils to ensure a consistency of designation across Surrey.

7.4.3 Key Habitats and Species in Surrey

Despite its small size and proximity to London, Surrey supports a range of habitats and species of local, national and international importance. The varied geology and topography, together with a lengthy human influence, have sustained Surrey's woodland, heathland, chalk grassland, open water and rivers.

Surrey is the most wooded County in England and its heathland is of international importance. The North Downs supports chalk grassland and Surrey acts as a stronghold for species such as the silver-spotted skipper. Changing land use and the economic of land management has resulted in the loss or potential loss of valued habitats. There is a need to think creatively and co-operatively with conservation bodies and private landowners to ensure that sensitive and threatened habitats are managed in ways that will conserve them.

Bird populations are considered good indicators of the state of wildlife in the countryside since they have a wide habitat distribution and are near the top of the food chain (Rural Development National Strategy Plan draft, DEFRA 2006). Of the 28 species of woodland bird monitored in the South East, 32% increased in population between 1994 and 2003, whereas 47% declined and 21% showed little change (Sustainable Development Commission). A number of surveys are undertaken locally by organisations and individuals.

The Council's responsibility to local wildlife primarily finds expression by means of the planning system through its planning policies and control of development. The Surrey Wildlife Trust is the local County wildlife trust, as well as owning and managing land in Mole Valley, it provides planning advice to the Planning

Authority and has advised on the selection and survey of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, SNCIs.

7.4.4 The Council's partnerships

The majority of MVDC's support for biodiversity can be found in one of three strands: the Local Development Framework (LDF) - planning policy and development control, the work it carries out in recreational areas (**see UK Priority 3 section 6**); and the direct support and partnership working it undertakes with local groups and charitable organisations. There is a focus on providing broad support to organisations: the District Council in turn benefits from the expertise of local nature conservation volunteers. In general, volunteers complete a lot of work on the basis of goodwill.

The Council forms partnerships with other agencies such as the Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey County Council, and is a formal partner in other projects such as the Surrey Urban Biodiversity Project, the Countryside Management Projects and the River Mole Working Group. The Council directly supports three partnership projects involved in the management of the countryside: two Countryside Management Projects - the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project (in the north of the District) and the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (in the Charlwood area); and the Surrey Hills Partnership involved with the Surrey Hills AONB. Officers also work with the LA21 Nature Conservation Group on joint plans and projects.

The Countryside Management Projects

The Council is involved in two of the four Countryside Management Projects (CMP) in Surrey – the Lower Mole CMP and the Gatwick Greenspace CMP. Each of the CMPs have slightly different aims and activities. The Lower Mole CMP for example uses its broad spread of skills for tackling specialist countryside management work including landscape enhancements, woodland management and pond restoration as well as access initiatives such as the Thames Down Link footpath, and gives advice to private and public landowners, whilst the Gatwick Greenspace CMP aims to 'benefit people, wildlife and the countryside in and around Horley, Crawley, Charlwood and Horsham'. This project focuses on three inter-related threads: Environmental Conservation, Community Involvement and Planning. Activities include volunteers' carrying out habitat management, running guided walks, and developing an Environmental Centre to provide an outdoor classroom for children and adults.

Surrey Hills AONB

It is only in the last 10 years that a formal body has been established for the Surrey Hills AONB. The Surrey Hills Joint Advisory Committee brings together local authorities and relevant organisations to take a proactive approach to the management of the special landscape qualities of the AONB: this is supported by

the Council. They created and work to a 'Management Plan' that sets out the vision, policies and plans for the future management Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The organisation also runs a grants scheme, the 'Sustainable Development Fund' that supports projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the AONB, and develop / test new methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life in the area.

LA21 nature conservation group

The LA21 nature conservation group are conservation specialists who have supported the Council by carrying out, for example, free surveys of the cemetery and Cotmandene.

Other high profile projects in the county include:

7.4.5 The Green Arc Project

London's Green Belt covers around 500 000 square kilometres, extending far into the Home Counties. Since its establishment in 1955 the Green Belt has successfully prevented urban sprawl, helped to keep the open character of land between towns and maintained the setting of towns. However new and increasing pressures on the Green Belt demand a strategic approach and more positive management. The Green Arc aims to bring "the Big Outdoors closer to people through the creation of an extensive attractive and valued recreational landscape of well-connected and accessible countryside around London, for people and wildlife." The map shows the area under discussion, with the main Surrey towns marked.

INSERT MAP

7.4.6 Surrey Wide Biodiversity Plan

The Urban Biodiversity Action Plan (UBAP) for Surrey aims to safeguard and enhance the biodiversity found where people live and in doing so improve the quality of peoples' lives through contact with, appreciation of, and involvement in nature conservation.

The purpose of the plan is to safeguard and enhance the biodiversity found in urban areas of Surrey and in doing so to improve the quality of peoples' lives through contact with, appreciation of, and involvement in nature conservation.

7.4.7 Old Surrey Downs Project

The Old Surrey Downs Project is a partnership of organisations delivering practical conservation work on the North Downs. Its vision is 'to foster greater awareness of all the chalk grassland sites of the North Downs in Surrey and south London in order to encourage more visitors and a much greater

understanding of the value of these areas as indispensable components of the landscape'.

Officers have so far given support in principle to these initiatives but have not had the capacity to become more actively involved.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the District through

- The LDF and its focus on the SAC, SNCIs, Local Nature Reserves, the extent of ancient woodlands and the SSSIs.
- Development Control
- Management Agreements with Local Groups
- Grant Funding
- Continuing to support local organisations and volunteers (**UK3:4BIODIV3**)

7.5 UK Priority 3 Section 5 – AGRICULTURE

7.5.1 Introduction

Farming and forestry are the main land uses in England, occupying around 80% of the land area.

Agriculture has a number of direct and indirect impacts upon the environment. It:

- Requires natural resources and other inputs such as fertilizers and cultivation
- Potentially impacts upon the landscape and the environment
- Impacts on the local and national economies directly
- Provides industries such as food processing plants with raw materials.

Sustainability is a potential issue at many points along the food chain not only in the production of food, but also in its transport and processing. The amount of food transported on UK roads increased by 20% from 1978 to 1998, and the distance travelled increased by 50%.

7.5.2 National Sustainability Issues

The 'Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development' estimated in 2001 that world agricultural food production would have to double in the next half century in order to meet increased demand for food. Its statement 'whether agricultural activities can efficiently and profitably produce food to meet that growing demand over time without degrading natural resources and do so in socially acceptable ways', provides their perception of the key challenge that the sector will face in the coming years.

Global competition is putting pressure on many users of the land to produce higher financial returns, whilst climate change is adding further pressure. Farmers and producers therefore face significant challenges to stay in business whilst at the same time protecting the natural environment.

In the UK environmental concerns about the farming industry are far from new, with debate having raged for many years over issues such as energy emissions, removal of hedgerows, nitrates in groundwater and pesticide use.

Between 1990 and 2005 output from UK agriculture changed little, but in 2005 it was 17% higher than in the mid-1970s. By 1997 fertiliser use had risen by over half compared with the mid-1970s but thereafter was considerably reduced. Methane and ammonia emissions have fallen - by 13% and 14% respectively - since 1990.

The Council has a contaminated land strategy, which involves inspecting sites on a risk basis and ensuring that sites subject to planning applications that might be on contaminated land are investigated. If found to be contaminated any contaminants are removed and the ground made safe so that it is suitable for use.

7.5.3 Local Sustainability Issues

There are now additional concerns regarding agriculture's economic viability, and the implications of this for the social sustainability of rural areas.

In 2000 farm incomes in the UK had dropped to the lowest level since records began (Sustainable Development Commission, 2001). The impact of foot and mouth disease and other disasters have created a new imperative to establish a firmer basis on which farmers can make a decent livelihood from farming and looking after the land.

Farmers in Surrey face particularly high costs and low returns resulting from a combination of economic depression, agricultural crises and high property values. Surrey Hills AONB believe farms in Surrey to be amongst the most vulnerable in the UK.

7.5.4 Farming & Environmental Stewardship

The Sustainable Development Commission recommends that sustainable agriculture:

- Produces safe, healthy food and non-food products in response to market demands, now and in the future
- Enables viable livelihoods to be made from sustainable land management, taking account of payments for public benefits provided

- Operates within biophysical constraints and conform to other environmental imperatives
- Provides environmental improvements and other benefits that the public wants - such as re-creation of habitats and access to land
- Achieves the highest standards of animal health and welfare compatible with society's right of access to food at a fair price
- Supports the vitality of rural economies and the diversity of rural culture
- Sustains the resource available for growing food and supplying other public benefits over time, except where alternative land uses are essential in order to meet other needs of society.

The Government's 'Environmental Stewardship' scheme requires farmers to demonstrate good environmental practice. The 'Entry Level' element of the scheme requires implementation of simple and effective environmental farm management practice and already covers 2.7 million hectares of the UK. The 'Higher Level' requires a greater level of environmental farm management and currently covers 11,000 hectares. This scheme replaces the 'Environmental Sensitive Area and Countryside and Arable Stewardship' scheme which in its last year covered 1.2 million hectares under the scheme.

7.5.5 Land Use

In 2004, 51% of land in the UK was either grass or rough grazing land, and 19% of land was covered by crops or left bare fallow. Other forms of agriculture accounted for 3% of UK land. 12% of UK land area was forest and woodland whilst 14% of land area was urban land or 'land not otherwise specified'. Inland water covered 1% of UK land area.

In response to changing circumstances facing agriculture and the need to maintain a healthy rural economy, farmers are being encouraged to diversify into new enterprises to support farm income. The Council's planning policies seek to facilitate this, subject to environmental safeguards.

The Council pioneered the concept of the 'Whole Farm Plan' in the 1980s in response to the increasing number of applications being submitted for the diversification of farm enterprises. This seeks to encourage farmers and landowners to set their proposals within the context of the economy of the farm as a whole. The Council is more favourably disposed towards projects that will support the farm economy, rather than simply independent commercial enterprises that might be better located within a built up area.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to ensure that the development requirements of the District are met principally in the built-up areas through the use of previously developed land to avoid use of 'green field' land, including agricultural land. **(UK3:5AGRIC1)**

7.5.6 Local Partnerships

The District Council supports two key projects to further sustainable farming in the District: Surrey Hills AONB and Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG).

Surrey Hills AONB

As mentioned above the Council is a member of the Surrey Hills AONB, with representation on the Joint Advisory Committee and is a core funder of the organisation. Surrey Hills AONB runs a number of projects, one of which is to provide support to local farmers with local marketing and branding under the 'Surrey Hills brand'. In a recent survey by Surrey Hills AONB 70% of shoppers said they would buy more local produce if they could identify it. As such the organisation is promoting the Surrey Hills brand as a mark of distinction for high quality local produce. The brand considers that it bridges the gap between supply and demand and increases returns for rural businesses.

The Surrey Hills AONB was also involved in the production of the 'local food finder' booklet.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Land managers and farmers are important to the management of the landscape. Without a viable farming sector, the management of the countryside as we know would be threatened. There is, therefore, a direct correlation between a healthy agricultural economy and the management of the countryside. Some farming practices however can be damaging to traditional landscapes and wildlife habitats and a balance between high productivity and conservation needs to be struck.

FWAG is a national charity that advises farmers on how to integrate environmental objectives within their farm practice. Surrey FWAG runs a Green Farm programme which provides those farmers who are supplying the Surrey Hills Brand with an environmental audit and a work plan to improve and conserve the landscape and wildlife features on their farms.

Farmers' Market

The Economic Unit Manager keeps a watching brief on the Farmers' Market, however it is not supported financially by the Council. Nationally and locally Farmers' Markets are in decline as farmers find new ways of marketing and distributing their produce.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will through its support of local groups ensure that the local agricultural economy is supported and promoted throughout the District. **(UK3:5AGRIC2)**

7.6 UK Priority 3 Section 6 – FORESTRY & PARKS

7.6.1 Introduction

Forests and woodland play an important role in sustainability. The international plight to halt deforestation, due to concerns around atmospheric CO₂ levels, the loss of biodiversity and habitats, is well known. In the UK, the Forestry Commission focuses on 'sustainable forestry' as being that which means today's forests will continue into the future, and that the quality of the inheritance will offer at least the same benefits and opportunities as that are currently enjoyed. In practice, this covers a range of areas from generating rural livelihoods to maintaining and improving soil quality and providing educational opportunities.

Mole Valley as a district has an average of 21% forest cover, compared to the Surrey average of 18% and the national average of 12%. It contains some important woodlands, some of which are SSSIs (Glovers Wood, Ashtead Common and Bookham Common) and others which are SNCIs (Edolphs Copse, Hammonds Copse). The Weald in particular is rich in copses of ancient semi-natural woodland and has important hedgerows and field trees.

7.6.2 Ancient Woodland

The South East supports 40% of England's ancient woodland. Ancient woodlands are those that have been wooded since at least AD1600. They are considered to be of particular value as they have never been converted to another land use, leaving many features undisturbed. They tend to retain important biodiversity above and beyond the trees, particularly ground flora, birds and insects, even though many woods may have been felled and replanted at various times in history. They can be sources from which wildlife can move to other woodlands. They can also be seen as integral to the character of local and regional landscapes and contribute to people's sense of place.

Ancient woodlands accounted for 3,023 ha (11.7%) of the District in 2004. They are protected as SNCIs or SSSI, but they also need to be actively managed. The Council supports the management of some ancient semi-natural woodlands through its support of countryside management projects. A lot of work is carried out through the 'Forestry & Woodlands Framework Steering Group as part of its 'Seeing the Woods for the Trees' strategy.

7.6.3 Woodlands

One of the most significant issues affecting woodlands in the District is the lack of management. Poor management can result in woodlands having a decreased nature conservation value. Many traditional woodland management practices such as coppicing, resulted in a diversity of habitats for flora and fauna and the

decline in these forms of management produces 'derelict' woodlands of limited ecological value.

The Surrey Hills AONB has a number of aims regarding woodlands in the AONB. These include:

- supporting woodland owners and managers to practice sustainable management of all ancient woodlands, and other woodlands that contribute to the landscape character;
- identifying, promoting and supporting markets for timber and other high and low value forest products in order to generate incomes to help sustain appropriate woodland management;
- disseminating the wider importance of woodlands and the need for management, including the felling, replanting and coppicing of trees, to woodland owners and managers;
- supporting and promoting the benefits of removing inappropriate trees and woodland, particularly for the restoration of heathland, chalk grassland and the reinstatement of views.

Over the years there has been encroachment of scrub that threatens heathland and chalk downland, because of the decline in the amount of grazing. These are internationally rare and important habitats, so although the removal of scrub and trees in such areas can be controversial, traditionally these landscapes were more open. The Council consequently supports management practices that restores open heathland and chalk grassland.

Because of the geological diversity of Mole Valley the characteristics of woodland cover can vary considerably from north to south. The Council also takes this aspect of local distinctiveness into account when proposals for landscaping and new planting schemes are considered.

7.6.4 Woodland Burials

2006 saw the introduction of Dorking's first official woodland burial site at the foot of Box Hill. The site is sufficiently large to provide 200 plots.

Each plot is marked by a tree rather than a gravestone and biodegradable coffins and caskets – wicker caskets are used for example. This initiative was introduced because interest in green burials has grown in recent years. There are many such sites across the Country with Shamley Green and Tenterden sites being two examples in the South East. The Dorking Cemetery site is the only woodland burial site in this part of Surrey.

The trees planted are all 'native British' such as Oaks, Ashes and Hornbeam. The area will be allowed to grow as naturally as possible eventually developing into a wooded area with wild flowers and grasses.

7.6.5 Parks

Meadows

The amount of land turned over to meadow has decreased significantly in the past fifty years nationally due to development, intensive agriculture and a lack of management. Meadows have a number of benefits: they support a range of native flowering plants which in turn support a wide range of insects, invertebrates, birds and mammals; they can act as wildlife corridors; help avoid large expanses of scorched turf developing during periods of drought; and, as a land management option, help reduce CO₂ emissions.

Shrub beds cost in the region of £4.50 per m² to maintain whilst grass cutting costs less than £1 per m², as such there is an increasing amount of interest in using meadows as a low cost visual attraction in amenity horticulture in the UK and Europe.

There are two types of meadow within the District – those that are naturally occurring and those planted by the Council and enhanced with other species to add interest to the amenity. The Council has introduced a number of ‘wildflower’ and ‘long grass’ areas over the past couple of years. There are currently the following meadow sites within the District -

Leatherhead

Kingston Road Rec
Randalls Park Avenue/Cleeve Road/Randalls Road (Housing)
Leret Way
Fetcham Splash
Park Gardens
Redhouse Grounds (to be sown in March)

Dorking

Dorking Cemetery
Cotmandene
Meadowbank
Deepdene Terrace

Ashted

The Woodfield
Ashted Park

Charlwood

The Orchard open space

The meadow area at the cemetery is one of Surrey’s best unimproved grasslands and a stronghold for some rare species.

Wildflowers and wild grasses do not like high nutrient levels and where this occurs the wildflowers are overtaken by vigorous weed species. As such, a

meadow needs to be cut and the grasses collected periodically in order to maintain its biodiversity value. The Council does this as much as is feasible, but cannot do so on larger sites owing to time and cost constraints. It will nevertheless continue to look to develop additional sites for meadows.

Recycled/harvested water

The Council also uses recycled/ harvested water on its flower beds. The water is harvested from two wells and the Council is also able to abstract additional water from the River Mole under license when needed. This has resulted in virtually no mains water being used on the maintenance of the Council's flower beds last year.

Last year, due the particularly dry summer it was necessary for a significant amount of water to be abstracted from the river, which given the low water levels was far from ideal and a reflection of what might become a recurrent issue in the future.

Green waste

The Parks department has a policy of recycling and reusing as much green waste as it can. Bays have been constructed at the Council's Pixham Lane Depot, and all green waste from the Council's 'Parks Maintenance' contractor, Burleys, is chipped and composted there to be used as mulch in future years. This not only reduces landfill, but also cuts down on transport costs and the fuel consumption associated with buying mulch in from elsewhere. The mulching of flowerbeds using this green waste also reduces the Council's water consumption, as it enhances water retention.

Plant holding stock

The Council is nearly self-sufficient in terms of the plants it uses for all the landscape schemes it undertakes or renews each year. It does this by utilising plants from other sites as a part of good maintenance. By avoiding the additional costs associated with purchasing new plants, this provides Mole Valley with very good value for money. This practice also decreases the number of plants that need to be brought in from elsewhere in the country, and therefore the CO₂ emissions associated with transporting them to Mole Valley.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to support the management of its forestry and parkland areas through its support of local groups such as Surrey Hills AONB to ensure that woodland and open space in the District is properly managed and does not deteriorate. **(UK3:6FOR&PARK1)**

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to look at ways in which the management of its green spaces can support biodiversity and operate in an improved environmentally friendly manner. It will for example continue to look to develop additional meadow sites and assess differing ways in which it can harvest rainwater for watering purposes. **(UK3:6FOR&PARK2)**

8 MVDC Strategic Objectives – UK Priority 4 - Sustainable Communities

8.1 UK Priority 4 Section 1 – TRANSPORT

8.1.1 Introduction

Mole Valley District Council has to work on transport related issues so as to not only seek to improve the general environment of the District but also to ensure the sustainability of its community.

The Council is limited in what it can undertake as Surrey County Council is the Highway Authority for the District. It can nevertheless influence change, work in partnership with the County on several fronts and use initiative to create change.

The key considerations within the Transport Sector are –

- The Road Network – Condition, Traffic Volumes and Flow, Travel Plans, Safety
- Parking
- Buses
- Rail
- Cycling & Pedestrians
- Schools

8.1.2 The Road Network

Condition

Poorly maintained roads not only result in more wear and tear of vehicles, but also increase the risk of accidents and increase noise and air pollution. Surrey County Council has made a commitment to reduce the proportion of roads in need of maintenance over time as required through the Government's national targets (**see section 3.1**).

The District Council can assist the County Council by communicating through any highway issues drawn to its attention. It does this through various ways –

- Direct discussions with the County Council's regional representative
- Through 'action groups' and surveys/consultations
- Through its Councillors and Committee system

There is current concern within the District Council over the extent of outstanding work. The County Council is aware of this issue and are endeavouring to improve the list of outstanding repairs and concerns over vegetation growth in rural and urban areas.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to lobby Surrey County Council to improve its performance in relation to keeping the public highway well maintained. (UK4:1TR AN1)

Traffic Volumes and flow

The contribution to greenhouse gas emissions across the UK from road vehicles rose from 17% to 21% between 1990 and 2000 and is forecast to rise again to 24% in 2010 and to over 26% by 2020.

The Government's target is to limit traffic growth to 1% per annum and 5.5% between 2004 and 2010. Nationally traffic levels have risen by 1-2% per annum, but less than 1% in the District. Data in 2001 showed that car ownership per household within the District was –

No vehicle	4,400	13%
One vehicle	13,300	39%
Two vehicles	16,000	48%

This equates to 1.34 cars per household.

Dorking Decongestion Forum (DDF)

In order to tackle the concerns regarding traffic congestion specifically in the Dorking area the District Council together with Surrey County Council and businesses within the District established the Dorking Decongestion Forum (DDF) Car Share & Shuttle Bus Schemes.

Over 65% of congestion on the Dorking network is created by commuters going to and from work and generally one commuter equals one car.

Access to the details of the scheme is via the web – www.surreycarshare.com.

Another initiative launched by the Forum is the shuttle bus. Shuttle buses run to and from the Redhill/Reigate area, carrying about 60 people into work in Dorking who would otherwise use their cars. The bus operates over the lunchtime period so that staff can still get into Dorking town centre if they need to, without using their cars.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is committed to supporting and promoting the 'Dorking Decongestion Forum Car Share' scheme specifically to –

- To new businesses in the District
- To schools
- To all Council Staff (UK4:1TRAN2)

Travel Plans

Whilst the Council is restricted in its ability to affect environmental issues relating to the public highway it can through 'Green Travel/Transport Plans' directly affect travel issues relating to its own staff and any new development within the District.

The Council introduced its 5 year Transport Plan in 2001 aiming to reduce fuel pollution, the total vehicle mileage associated with the Council's business and to encourage staff to use alternative forms of transport to the car. The Plan has resulted in the following actions –

- The Council's fleet utilises predominantly LPG vehicles. LPG is about 30% less polluting than petrol and 40% less than diesel. The fleet includes 40 vehicles which are mainly transit vans and minibuses e.g. 'Dial a Ride' buses and Inspectors vehicles (although some officers use their own vehicles).
- Procuring officers ensure that within pre qualification documents and specifications environmental and sustainability issues are raised although there does not appear to be a framework or written guidance to assist them in what should be specified.
- A trial aimed at encouraging staff to utilise bicycles when carrying out site inspections was implemented, however due to the dispersed nature of the District this was unsuccessful.
- A CO2 emission upper limit of 200g/Km for all vehicles leased from the Council was introduced and remains in force.
- Staff are able to obtain an interest free loan for public transport season tickets.
- Staff's private car mileage rate payments are staggered to encourage the ownership of smaller sized engines.

The Travel Plan has been of limited success and now needs reviewing having reached the end of its 5 year period.

Some considerations for the new plan are –

- To conduct a staff survey of travel to/from work and travel whilst in work.
- To increase the number of staff who regularly walk, cycle, car share and use public transport for journeys to and from their workplace.
- Contractors have been receptive to using LPG on transit sized vehicles and vans, however the Council has experienced resistance from Contractors with larger vehicles such as refuse vehicles. The reasoning for this needs to be evaluated

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District is committed to the 'Travel Plan' for its own operations and will review and update it to take into account new initiatives and build on the experience gained to date. (UK4:1TRAN3)

The District Council through its planning process actively encourages other organisations to adopt their own Transport or 'Green Travel' Plans. This is particularly important for large developments and vulnerable areas like schools.

The District Council needs to increase the number of 'Green Travel Plans' within the District. However it is important to note that Surrey County Council through its 'Safer Smarter Travel' actively engage with existing business and schools communities throughout Surrey to promote and assist with travel plans outside of the planning process. To date 233 Travel Plans have been established throughout Surrey.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council is committed to improving the number of new Green Travel Plans associated with developments in the District. It will also look at ways of securing 'smaller development' commitment to environmental issues, perhaps through a 'commitment statement'. (UK4:1TRAN4)

Road Safety

The United Kingdom has a good record for road safety compared with most other EU countries. In 2001 it had the lowest road death rate in the EU, at 6.1 per 100,000 population. The highest road death rate in the EU was in Portugal, at 21.0 per 100,000 population (in 2000). The UK rate was also substantially lower than those for other industrialised nations such as Japan (7.9 per 100,000 population), Australia (9.0) and the United States (14.8).

The United Kingdom also has a relatively good record in terms of overall road accidents involving children. In 2001 the UK death rate for children aged 0 to 14, at 1.7 per 100,000 of population, was the fourth lowest in the EU.

3,201 people were killed on Britain's roads in 2005, 1 per cent less than in 2004. The number of people seriously injured fell to 28,954, 7 per cent lower than in 2004. Total casualties in 2005 were 271,017, 3 percent fewer than in 2004.

In 2005 a total of 6,858 people were reported as injured in road collisions in Surrey.

- 64 people were killed
- 520 people were seriously injured
- 6,274 people were slightly injured

The table below shows these headline figures for the last five years.

Year	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
2001	53	658	6676	7387
2002	66	629	6111	6806
2003	62	494	5899	6455
2004	72	576	6254	6902
2005	64	520	6274	6858

The 2004 detailed casualty statistics by mode of transport for Mole Valley showed the following:

Mode of Transport	Number
Car	282
Pedestrian	33
Bicycle	24
Motorbike	54
Bus/Minibus	3
Goods Vehicle	19
Other	11
Motorway & Trunk Roads	63
Total	489

Only Epsom and Ewell had lower casualty figures at 335, all other Districts had higher casualty rates with Guildford being the highest at 1018.

Surrey County council has adopted the Government's target to reduce deaths and serious injuries on its roads by 2010. Based on the average injuries for 1994-98 deaths and serious injuries are to be reduced by 40% and the number of children killed and seriously injured by 50%. There is also a target to reduce the slight casualties by per kilometre travelled by 10%.

The County being the Highway Authority have taken the lead in road safety and are addressing the targets through good road design together with road safety education and enforcement.

The District supports the County's target and assists in meeting those targets through the joint Mole Valley Parking Strategy. The District's management of 'on-street' parking enforcement is assisting in keeping the roads clear and safe from obstruction and inconsiderate parking. The proposal to introduce Controlled Parking Zones to Dorking and Leatherhead will create a safer environment for all road users and pedestrians.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council supports Surrey County Council's actions to improve road safety and is committed to developing and implementing the 'Mole Valley Parking Strategy' with the County to ensure a safer environment for all road users and pedestrians. (UK4:1TRAN5)

8.1.3 Parking

The District comprises two town centres, Dorking and Leatherhead, and two villages, Ashted and Bookham, with off-street parking. The provision of off-street parking is in excess of current demand with the exception of at peak periods such as Christmas. The location of car parking facilities although not ideal, are generally good and cater for the varying sectors – residents, visitors, commuters and businesses. The quality of the stock can be improved upon as can security and safety issues as well as directional signage. These are all considered within the Mole Valley Parking Strategy adopted in 2006 and its associated 5 year action plan.

On-street parking is a different matter. The existing provision of on-street space is not rationalised and the limited parking restrictions need reviewing to take into account the change in demand of the road users. Having jointly adopted the Parking Strategy for Mole Valley both Surrey County Council and the District Council are reviewing the parking situation with a view to introducing Controlled Parking Zones in both Leatherhead and Dorking town centres.

It is anticipated that implementation will be in 2008/09 and will address current issues such as –

- All day commuter parking in compact residential areas
- Rationalisation of the limited space to ensure that some short stay provision is permitted in High Street locations where obstruction is not an issue
- The provision of Disabled Parking, motorcycle and bicycle bays
- Rationalisation of the current yellow line restrictions
- The issue of loading and unloading of goods to businesses where accessibility is an issue owing to the transportation infrastructure and the properties.
- Pedestrian movement and priority

Parking Attendant enforcement was increased in 2006 from 6 Parking Attendants to 8 Parking Attendants covering the whole of Mole Valley. This initiative will improve compliance not only in the two town centres but also in the outer villages and at schools. The introduction of Controlled Parking Zones will improve the situation further as additional resources will be required and thus the enforcement regime will have more flexibility.

The above targets will contribute to the reduction of traffic pollution as well as improving accessibility for people with special needs, security, safety and maintaining the viability of the District's town and village centres.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council is committed to improving its off-street parking service and is actively working with the County Council to ensure the introduction of Controlled Parking Zones to the two town centres thus creating a less congested and safer environment for the community. **(UK4:1TRAN6)**

8.1.4 Buses

Bus services within the District are privately operated and do not necessarily provide the penetration of service that outer areas of the District need. The Council has therefore looked at alternative ways it can fill perceived gaps in the service with a view to not only reducing the dependency on car travel but also to enable access to a bus service for the more vulnerable such as the elderly.

The District Council together with private businesses support the Dorking Decongestion Forum which was set up to reduce the number of journeys made to work by car. In November 2005 it launched a trial Shuttle Bus service to take employees to work from postal areas RH1, RH2 and RH3 within Mole Valley.

Dial- a - Ride Community Transport

Community Transport offers a seven-day a week Dial-A-Ride service, which enables people who cannot use public transport to travel independently. The reason people travel on Dial-A-Ride range from visiting friends, relatives, Centres for older people, shopping, visiting the hairdresser and medical appointments. This service is particularly important for people who are living in the District's rural areas with no convenient, practical or even existing public transport, as it offers them an opportunity to travel to access services, thereby avoiding social isolation.

There is also a community transport vehicle, which is available for organisations based in Mole Valley to hire at reasonable rates. The Dial-A-Ride drivers, as well as being trained in first aid, have all been trained to MiDAS standard, which is the nationally recognised standard for mini-bus drivers.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to promote and operate the Dial-a-Ride service or other community transport schemes to ensure that those who cannot use public transport are able to travel throughout the District and thus have a better quality of life. **(UK4:1TRAN7)**

Staff Transport

The Council actively promotes alternative modes of travel to its staff through access to 'Plan Your Journey' via the Council's Intranet site. This gives up to date travel information on -

- Timetables and maps
- Changes to Bus Services
- Guildford Park & Ride
- Real time information
- School buses
- Community transport
- Fares and ticket details
- Latest news about bus services
- National Express

The real time bus information service 'Suretime' uses GPS technology to monitor the movement of buses. This enables bus arrival times to be predicted at stops for several hours in the future.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will continue to promote and provide live public transport information to its staff via its intranet site.
(UK4.1TRAN8)

8.1.5 Rail

The Council's concerns relate more to the accessibility and safety of residents and commuters using the rail service rather than the service itself. Through addressing these issues it is more likely that a greater number of people will use or even continue to use the service.

Platforms at Dorking Deepdene Station and Dorking Station are accessed by stairs making them difficult for use by disabled persons or parents with prams.

The Council raises concerns regarding the conditions for those walking or cycling to stations through the Mole Valley Cycling Forum (**see 8.1.1.7 below**).

The Council is also involved in commuter parking at railway stations where it is impacting on either road safety and/or accessibility for residents. Current concerns in the vicinity of Dorking railway station are being addressed through the Mole Valley Parking Strategy (**see section 4.5**).

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council in conjunction with Surrey County Council will address the issue of commuter parking at railway stations. It will consider issues particularly at Dorking and Leatherhead Stations as part of the work in conjunction with the controlled Parking Zones for these two towns. (UK4:1TRAN9)

8.1.6 Cycling & Pedestrian

The 'Mole Valley Cycling Forum' was formed in 1996 as part of Mole Valley's Local Agenda 21 initiative. It is a 'cycling and pedestrian campaigning group' and consists of Mole Valley residents with support by officers from Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council. The Forum:

- Promotes sustainable transport by encouraging cycling and walking to reduce reliance on cars.
- Produces proposals for traffic management measures, cycle routes, and cycle facilities (e.g. cycle parking) for those travelling to work, school, shops and stations on bike or on foot.
- Encourages and supports community groups to produce ideas for their local area.
- Works with the Council to produce solutions to traffic issues.
- Reviews Council proposals that have an effect on cycling and pedestrian interests.
- Monitors larger planning applications to see if there are any cycling issues or opportunities to improve cycling facilities.

The Forum actively seeks grant funding opportunities, has carried out comprehensive cycling reviews of both Dorking (2000) and Leatherhead (2001) and was actively involved in the following local schemes implemented between 2000 - 2002:-

- Cycle route alongside the railway from Leatherhead station to north Leatherhead.
- Shared cycle/pedestrian path on the A243 Chessington Road (Kingston Road to the Star Public House) providing a useful link from North Leatherhead to the bridlepath along the north side of Ashted Common.
- Cycle path/horse track from Givons Grove to Thorncroft Bridge and on to Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

It is currently involved in Surrey's work on the National Cycle Network and a highway improvement scheme for the A24 between Capel – Horsham.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to support the work of the 'Mole Valley Cycling Forum' in recognition of the valuable contribution it makes to encouraging and improving cycling and pedestrian facilities. (UK4:1TRAN10)

8.1.7 Schools

In Surrey there are 550 schools (this covers both the maintained and independent sectors but only a few nurseries). Surrey County Council estimated that the total number of pupils at the schools is 173,833, the number being based

on annual returns from maintained schools and various sources for the independent schools. So, allowing for 198 school days a year and two trips per day, this means there are 68,837,868 trips per year to and from the schools.

One key target for the County is therefore to increase the number that travel either by public transport, cycle or walk.

Under the banner of 'Safer Routes to Schools' cycling and pedestrian alternatives are promoted through the 'Mole Valley Cycling Forum'. The following have been implemented as a result of their work –

- A crossing at Flint Hill, Dorking.
- A cycle route from Brockham to Ashcombe School.

The forum also promotes cycling proficiency training.

Other 'Safer Routes to School' initiatives to the north of the District include –

- The Route from Ashted to Therfield
- The Route from the North end of Ashted to Roseberry (Epsom) along the A24

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to support the work of the 'Mole Valley Cycling Forum' in recognition of the valuable contribution it makes to the 'Safer Routes to School' initiative. **(UK4.1TRAN11)**

The District Council integrates with schools in many differing ways through youth and community work. The District is fortunate to have two key leisure centres one in Dorking and one in Leatherhead. Schools are also visited to promote issues like waste recycling.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will use its networking opportunities with schools to promote environmental issues particularly by linking alternative travel modes like cycling and walking to healthy living. **(UK4.1TRAN12)**

8.2 UK Priority 4 Section 2 – HOUSING

8.2.1 Introduction

Sustainability has a possible impact on the Council's responsibilities and interests with regard to housing in a number of ways:

- energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in existing and new developments, private and public sector stock, and the Council's own estate

- social implications of house prices and the ability of the Council to enable a wide range of people to live in Mole Valley, by means of schemes such as shared ownership, affordable housing to rent and buy, the adequate provision of sheltered accommodation, and retirement properties.

Affordable housing has relevance to sustainable development in that is important to avoid polarising people and communities according to wealth. Additionally, all new build housing association homes have needed to achieve the EcoHomes' 'Very Good standard' since April 2006, and need to take account of the ongoing needs of the people who will live there, in their provision of facilities.

The energy implications of this area have been covered in Section 6.1 of this strategy: 'UK Priority 2 Section 1 – ENERGY CONSUMPTION & CO2 EMISSIONS': as such this section focuses on the affordable housing agenda, and the social implications of the housing stock transfer to the tenants.

Mole Valley has a higher than average proportion of owner-occupiers (over 76%) and the average house prices are the third highest in the county. At present the Council still owns its own housing stock, although it is in the process of proposing a Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT), with a ballot expected in March 2007.

Data taken from the Land Registry website compiled from information on property sales during the period April - June 2004 shows that the overall average price paid in Surrey was £300,000. This masks a huge variation in the prices paid for detached properties at £474,000 compared with the average price for a flat of £189,000. The table below shows how prices paid in Surrey compare with those for the South East region.

April - June 2004	Surrey	South East region
Detached	£474,675	£339,824
Semi-detached	£248,299	£201,541
Terraced	£215,343	£166,583
Flat/maisonette	£189,626	£140,987
Overall	£300,647	£213,828

8.2.2 Affordable Housing

Consultation around the Housing Strategy and LDF have all shown the high priority the community gives to the need for more Affordable Housing. The lack of affordable housing in the District is a significant concern for the future sustainability of the area. To address this concern the Council has produced the 'Affordable Housing Priority Delivery Action Plan 2006/09' as set out in **Section 4.14.3**. Additionally one of the Council's stated goals up to 2009 is as follows:

“The supply of affordable housing for key workers and residents to rent or buy in the District is significantly improved”, where Affordable Housing is defined as housing provided with a subsidy for those unable to afford market housing.

The Council doesn't build new Affordable Housing, its role is to ensure effective partnerships are in place to affect and maximise delivery. The Council therefore works with developers and Housing Associations to supply appropriate affordable housing that meets the needs of the community.

The Council is, however:

- The strategic Housing Authority with responsibility for enabling appropriate Affordable Housing is built that meets the needs of its community.
- The Planning Authority with responsibility for the Local Plan and emerging LDF, which sets the planning requirements for Affordable Housing in relation to new build developments.
- Currently the largest social housing landlord in the District with responsibility for ensuring the best use of the existing housing stock.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is committed to delivering Affordable Housing as set out in the 'Affordable Housing Priority Delivery Action Plan 2006/09'. **(UK4:2HOUS1)**

8.2.3 Housing Stock Transfer

As set out in section 4.14 the Council will transfer its housing stock to a new Registered Social Landlord (RSL), Mole Valley Housing Association (MVHA), during 2007.

Mole Valley Housing Association has committed to works and services which will support the more vulnerable residents in the District. It has committed to -

- A £52m programme of repairs and improvements over 5 years including a modern, fuel efficient central heating system; modern kitchens and bathrooms; improved insulation; UPVC double glazing; and electrical rewiring
- A mobile housing management service across the District
- A Community Warden scheme
- A 'Handyperson' service for all MVHA tenants
- A free of charge decorating scheme for pensioners and residents with disabilities
- A tenant resource centre for tenant participation activities
- Significant budgets for community development work.

To demonstrate its commitment, the Council has agreed to set aside £5 million of the housing stock transfer proceeds, in the first five years following transfer, to provide additional Affordable Housing within the Mole Valley District. This will

ensure continued commitment to the Government’s Sustainable Communities Agenda.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will work with the Mole Valley Housing Association to ensure that the commitments outlined in **section 8.2.3** are delivered. **(UK4:2HOUS2)**

8.3 UK Priority 4 Section 3 – VILLAGES

8.3.1 Introduction

People living in Mole Valley on the whole enjoy a high quality of life in a good environment. However there are some residents who are unable to access benefits enjoyed by others. In the more remote parts of the District it is not easy to access public transport and there are some communities that do not enjoy the same level of prosperity as most.

Leatherhead North, Chart Downs, Goodwyns and parts of North Holmwood continue to rank highest in terms of deprivation within Mole Valley. They rank in the top 50 out of 709 areas county-wide. Work will therefore continue to be resourced so that these communities can enjoy a quality of life on the same par with the rest of Mole Valley. Beare Green and Box Hill also have challenges on aspects of quality of life that they can enjoy as a community.

8.3.2 Mole Valley Community Plan

One of the key objectives for the Community Plan is developing stronger communities. Some of the key actions and targets are as follows –

Targets & Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mole Valley Community Learning Partnership are supporting Box Hill residents to gain IT skills via a project based at the Village Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Youth Strategy improve rural representation of young people in ‘Youth Voice’.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mole Valley district Council has helped the Bangladeshi community in Dorking find a suitable community centre for meeting and worship.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Planning Group is supporting Capel, Brockham, Ockley, Headley, Newdigate and Betchworth to develop their Parish Plans.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Planning Group has established the Chart Downs Goodwyns North Holmwood Partnership to focus on the special needs of those areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mole Valley District Council provides and promotes a community alarm

<p>service to enable more people to be supported to stay in their own homes rather than transfer to fully fledged county social care.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Planning Group is also aiming to make better use of networks such as the Police Independent Advisory Group so that it can keep in touch with ‘hard to reach’ groups to better understand and try to meet their needs.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to support local Resident Associations, Parishes and the work of the Community Plan through the provision of resource so as to ensure that it understands the needs and aspirations of villagers throughout the District. (UK4:3VILL1)

8.4 UK Priority 4 Section 4 – NEIGHBOURHOOD REGENERATION

8.4.1 Introduction

It is vital that the District’s neighbourhoods are not in decline. Social cohesion and a real sense of community are vital if society is developing both constructively and progressively. Sectors discussed in this strategy contribute in different ways to neighbourhood regeneration and a lot of work is already being carried out.

However currently there is no overarching ‘Neighbourhood Action Plan’, which ensures that all aspects are being addressed and appropriately prioritised. This needs to be addressed through the Council’s Neighbourhoods Panel’s work.

The Panel needs to consider managing and maintaining the public space in residential areas so that with time fewer people experience problems with upkeep, management and misuse of their neighbourhood and people notice improving quality of life. Their work needs to encompass having a clean and sustainable environment.

In developing the plan the Council will incorporate the following two initiatives.

8.4.2 The Local Government Reputation Campaign

The Local Government Association (LGA) is running a ‘reputation’ campaign which encourages Councils to sign up to a set of core actions split between improving communications with the public and improving the local environment. This is based on evidence which suggests that while public satisfaction of Council services is improving the public perception of the Council is not. Evidence suggests that what matters most to local people is to see clean streets and improvements in the environment of their neighbourhood.

The 'Reputation' Campaign identifies the following core actions –

- Ensure visible cleaning and clear Council-linked branding of staff and vehicles
- Undertake education and enforcement
- Eliminate demarcation in cleansing contracts to ensure that there are no gaps in coverage
- Set a 24 hour target for action on fly-tipping and abandoned cars
- Have one phone number for all street scene problems
- Know where your 'grot spots' are
- Aim to have a green flag award for at least one park
- Ensure the Council informs the community of initiatives and action taken

Although the District Council is already committed to the target of 24 hours for fly tipping for example other core actions do need addressing.

The District Council will sign up to the Local Government Association's 'Reputation' Campaign with a view to improving the way in which it communicates and provides services to the community. (UK4:4NEIGH1)

8.4.3 Clean Neighbourhood Strategy

In 2006 under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005' Authorities were given the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for various offences such as fly posting, noise, graffiti and dog fouling. The Council is in the process of developing a 'Clean Neighbourhood Strategy', which will detail how it intends to provide its enforcement.

This is at an early stage but will form part of the 'Neighbourhood Action Plan'.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will produce a 'Neighbourhood Action Plan' to ensure that the environment in residential areas is properly maintained and is a pleasant area in which to live. (UK4:4NEIGH2)

8.5 UK Priority 4 Section 5 – SCHOOLS

8.5.1 Introduction

It is extremely important that the messages about sustainability are raised at school and in other youth forums. Informing and encouraging behaviour changes now will influence how the youth will choose to live in the future.

It is equally important that current generations are leading by example. School governors should review how they are maintaining the fabric of the school, what energy supplies they are using etc in order to operate on a more sustainable footing.

If sustainable issues are to be kept alive it is critical that the youth are involved in an ongoing basis. In Mole Valley the youth have been given a voice through the Youth Council (**see 8.6.4 below**) and this assists in setting the agenda for initiatives and projects in the District.

8.5.2 Education

Whilst the Council has worked closely with schools, climate change or sustainability have not featured that high on the schools' agenda instead issues supporting youth activities, the Youth Council and health have tended to dominate the agenda. Whilst it is critical that the Youth Council directs its activities itself it is important that the Council is proactive in approaching schools and youth forums to raise the issues surrounding climate change and the need to change personal behaviour on a daily basis.

Having said this, the Council has worked very well on raising the issue of waste reduction and recycling. A schools' recycling service was recently introduced to allow schools to easily recycle their waste. Over 30 schools now receive recycling collections of paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, metal tins and cans. Collections are made on a fortnightly basis from 1100 litre trade bins. As part of the recycling service schools have been provided with classroom recycling bins, posters and badges to raise awareness within the schools.

A number of schools have been visited by Officers who have been working in partnership with Surrey Waste Management to introduce the new service and talk to pupils about all the issues surrounding waste. Schools visited include The Ashcombe School in Dorking, the Greville School in Ashted, The Belmont School nr Holmbury St Mary and The Acorns Infant School in Betchworth and Leigh. Further talks are planned over the coming months.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will approach schools and youth forums to raise the issues surrounding climate change and the need to change personal behaviour on a daily basis. (**UK4:5SCH1**)

8.5.3 School Buildings

Whilst the District Council is not the Education Authority it can raise awareness of climate change issues and the fact that School Heads, Teachers and Governors should be leading by example.

Currently no work is being carried out in this area. It is therefore intended to meet with these groups to establish what they currently have in place, what they could do and who could assist them.

Advice and assistance is provided for businesses in the District and through raising the schools' awareness of business websites like Egeneration this will assist in knowledge sharing and in demonstrating what other sectors in the community are already doing.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will establish what work is being carried out at schools to address the issues of climate change. During this process it will raise awareness of what initiatives other schools are doing and what assistance is available to them. (UK4:5SCH2)

8.5.4 Mole Valley Community Plan, The South East Surrey Children's Services Area Partnership & The Youth Strategy

Through the Community Plan, the South East Surrey Children's Services Area Partnership and the Youth Strategy, the Council has raised the priority of addressing issues of concern to the youth of Mole Valley. Key issues such as bullying and providing places where the youth can meet after school have been focused on. The approach has provided an important support mechanism geared to encourage and develop school age children.

Below are some of the school specific targets and initiatives being undertaken through the Community Plan, the South East Surrey Children's Services Area Partnership and the Youth Strategy produced in 2005 -

Targets & Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% of school age children countywide take part in 2 hours physical activity per week – aim to increase this to 85%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the number of work experience placements the District Council takes by 25% from 2005/6 to 2006/7.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the percentage number of secondary schools participating in Youth Voice from 53% to 73% by 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the number of junior schools involved in Junior Youth Voice from 20% to 50% in 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To open one skate park and youth shelter per year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the % of visits to schools by District Council Officers by 5% from 2005/6 to 2006/7.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To roll out a successful anti-bullying strategy to other schools across the District and to raise awareness of the problem by investing in confidential phone/text line.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of schools to achieve 'healthy school' status by Dec 2006. 100% participation in programme by Dec 2009.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mole Valley schools participate in the cycling to school public service agreement.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council wants to ensure that young people are engaged in the community and opportunities, activities and facilities are available and accessible to them. In order to meet this commitment the District Council will continue to support and promote the Community Planning Group, Youth Voice, the South East Surrey Children's Services Area Partnership and the Youth Strategy through the provision of dedicated resource.
(UK4:5SCH3)

8.6 UK Priority 4 Section 6 – SOCIAL COHESION/DIVERSITY

8.6.1 Community & Council Working Together

The Council works with various partners to ensure that the voice of the Community is listened to. Below are some examples of joint working which have or are in the process of ensuring real changes within the community.

8.6.2 Dorking Needs Action (DNA) & Leatherhead Tomorrow

Dorking Needs Action (DNA)

DNA was formed as part of the Government's 'Market Town Healthcheck Programme' and is a wide reaching public consultation and research initiative. It establishes fact and figures, views and feelings of the community about the issues that really matter to it. It encompasses the environment, transport, community and economy issues.

A report on its research and consultation work carried out in 2006 together with its recommendations is to be made available to the public in June 2007.

Leatherhead Tomorrow

Early in 2005 a project called Leatherhead Tomorrow was launched to allow individuals, groups and organisations in and around Leatherhead to express their opinions about the town.

The project team comprises volunteers from across the community, local business and interest groups. It is independent of the Council but supported by both Mole Valley District Council and the County Council.

The project follows a methodology developed by the Countryside Agency to assist small market towns to become more lively and successful and to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

An Action Plan containing projects which the community feels will improve the area has been prepared in a form which will enable the group to apply for funding from various agencies such as the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

'Leatherhead Tomorrow' has split their resources to cover 4 key themes looking at the following -

Economy

- Are there sufficient jobs?
- Is there enough childcare to support working parents?
- What shops, restaurants and other town centre services would you like?
- Should we be encouraging more tourism?

Travel & Access

- What could be done to increase demand for public transport, to encourage people to leave their cars at home or what could make it easier to walk or cycle around town?
- How accessible is the town to disabled people, and what car share and other schemes are available?
- How easy it is to move around the town, what are the footpaths like? Are there sufficient cycle lanes, car park facilities, and where are there conflicts between pedestrians and motorists?

Social & Community

- Crime prevention
- Housing
- Access to medical and other services
- Access to community services such as services for the elderly
- Leisure and recreational activities and cultural facilities

Environment

- What do you think of the appearance of the town, its street fittings and fixtures?
- What are the distinctive features and landmarks of the area?
- What opportunities are there to enhance the environment and the countryside around Leatherhead or to encourage greater access?

Financial support has been received from the Council as well as Surrey County Council, The Leatherhead Trust, the Thomas Flack Trust and Church Street businesses. Matched funds are currently being sought from the South East England Development Agency which will enable many facets of access to the town and riverside to be improved for pedestrians, wheelchair users, cyclists, drivers and users of bus services. They include seats on routes to the town, more cycle racks, better traffic signs, enhanced bus stop information, maps and information boards in car parks.

Current community projects include -

Leatherhead Church Street Enhancement Project

The Church Street Enhancement Project has a steering group representing the businesses, Town Centre Forum, Chamber of Commerce, town centre management and the Council. A project manager has been funded by nine of the Church Street businesses and the landlord for most of the properties. An urban design company will be chosen in March 2007 after competitive tenders have been assessed. They will conduct public consultations before preparing designs to enhance access, attractiveness and business prospects. The final designs will be submitted in September 2007 for planning approval and application for funding from a wide circle of sources.

Leatherhead High Street

Traffic management changes have now freed the High Street from vehicles during much of the day, with limited access at other times and full access in the evening. The next stage involves discussions on better control of car parking when vehicles are allowed in the High Street, a lower speed limit, more cycle racks, more seats, better signs to key facilities and management of pavement advertising boards.

Leatherhead Riverside

Along the riverside a plan is ready to provide improved paths, cycle ways, seating, picnic tables and wildlife information boards so that more people can enjoy the area which was seen as the most important feature of the town in the 'Health check' responses from the community.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to support the work of the 'Dorking Needs Action' and 'Leatherhead Tomorrow' initiatives in recognition of the valuable contribution it makes to empowering the voice of the Community on 'Sustainable Development' and other community issues.
(UK4:6SOC1)

8.6.3 Mole Valley Community Plan

The objectives and targets set under the Community Plan are highlighted in **section 4, LP5**. Some of the current flagship projects are highlighted below. These contribute to ensuring our neighbourhoods are not in decline and reinforce that community involvement is alive in Mole Valley - the community has raised their concerns, the community representatives have listened and actions are being taken as a direct result of that consultation.

EASIT – East Area Surrey Initiative for Transport

By building bike shelters at schools, running buses to shuttle employees from the major businesses in the area to and from work and to town in the lunchtimes, or providing a car share forum EASIT's membership is growing. It currently has 36 organisations or 45,000 members across Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead and Gatwick Airport. This benefits the community by reducing traffic and congestion and therefore reducing accidents on the road and the impact on our environment.

School Trade Waste Recycling

A large percentage of business waste is sent to landfill with no incentive from central government to recycle. The waste produced by schools fell into this category, which contradicted the recycling messages the Councils were promoting to children of school age.

An initiative to address this situation has recently commenced and school recycling is now being collected directly by Mole Valley District Council as part of its household waste collection service. The material is collected, taken to the Materials Recovery Facility in Leatherhead and recycled.

Making Mole Valley Employers Smoke Free

By summer 2007 all workplaces will have to be smoke free. This means that no smoking will be permitted in all enclosed or partially enclosed workplaces and public places. The new legislation is complex and a working group has been set up to decide how this information will be disseminated as widely and effectively as possible – initiatives will include a variety of 'stop smoking' programmes. It is hoped that this will encourage people to stop smoking and thereby improve the health and wellbeing of those living and working in the District.

Dorking Youth Café

Young people make up 25% of the population of Mole Valley and those living in and around Dorking want to meet somewhere dry and warm after school. The success of a pilot scheme has confirmed demand in Dorking and a working

group has been set up to emulate the success of the 'BFree' youth café in Leatherhead.

Leatherhead Children's Centre

The Community Planning Group is not only helping to promote the new Leatherhead children's centre but is actively encouraging the public to offer its expertise to assist the running of the centre which is set to target 800 families in the north of Leatherhead. North Leatherhead currently ranks 45th out of the most deprived 709 measurable areas defined as 'Super Output Areas' in Surrey.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to support and promote the Community Planning Group (also known as the local Strategic partnership or LSP) through the provision of dedicated resource. This will assist in facilitating the actions within the Community Plan and supporting the local democratic and inclusive community processes. (UK4:6SOC2)

8.6.4 Mole Valley Youth Council

Mole Valley Youth Council was set up in response to feedback received from the District's young people that they needed 'a voice'. Equally the District wanted to encourage greater youth participation in issues that matter locally.

Initially members were drawn from the six state secondary schools in the area and the Council was first established at the end of 2002 with three key purposes:

- To involve young people in defining which Council services should be provided for them
- To inform young people about how local democracy works and why it is not always possible to offer 'quick-fix' solutions to their problems
- To give young people a voice

The primary concerns the Youth Council had related to crime and the police. They were very concerned about drugs, theft (particularly of mobile phones) mugging, why people committed crime, lack of street lighting and the need for more CCTV, the lack of public transport, the relationship young people had with the police, the training and employment needs of young people and the need for affordable leisure activities.

From the original 12 Youth Councillors the Youth Council has now grown to 43 members including state schools, private schools and Youth Centres.

They have a place on the Community Planning Group and are consulted on levels of council tax and the proposed District Council Priorities. They are welcome at Town Centre Forums, Police Partnership Groups and other community meetings.

In response to young people's wishes the Youth Council has developed an events programme, which has included successful events such as the 'Youth Music Bands Events' which were held at Dorking Halls and 'Vocalise' teen disco.

The Youth Council wanted to celebrate young people's success and promote what is positive. Their third Youth Showcase event was held at Dorking Halls in January 2006. Prizes were awarded to young people for helping others, for team or group achievement, for music, dance, drama, sport, art and design.

Mole Valley Youth Voice is also represented on the Surrey Youth Parliament and through this now has a national voice. It has also established a 'Healthy Lifestyles Group' which specifically looks at ways to encourage young people to recycle more and to improve awareness of the causes and effects of climate change.

There is also a Junior Youth Voice comprised of 10 and 11 year olds from the areas primary schools. They provide a younger perspective on issues. They have just completed their Junior Community Strategy which is called 'Get into Mole Valley – Our Way Forward'. The document illustrates what they want to see in Mole Valley in the future, what problems they feel currently exist and specifies what they would like to change.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - Mole Valley District Council is committed to continuing its support of Youth Council through the provision of facilities, resources and funding in order to maintain and develop the voice and participation of the youth within its community. (UK4:6SOC3)

8.6.5 Mole Valley District Council's Community Support Services - Support for the Vulnerable

The Council's Community Support Services Department provides a variety of support services for elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents of Mole Valley.

Using information based on the 2001 census for Mole Valley 24.4% of the population was 60+yrs and 39.1% were 50+yrs. The population predictions supplied by the Office of National Statistics for 2010 are 27.0% 60+yrs and 40.5% 50+yrs. This is set to rise further to 27.8% 60+yrs and 42.3% 50+yrs in 2014.

The evidence above shows that, for at least the next ten years, there will be a larger demand on support services provided to the community. Their requirements are likely to be more demanding in terms of resources and technical advancement as people's expectations increase and potential solutions become more complex / varied.

Another challenge is the reduction in the number/availability of volunteer helpers, who once provided considerable benefits to local authorities and organisations like the WRVS and Age Concern.

Mole Valley District Council is addressing these demands in a number of ways –

The Mole Valley Access Group

The Mole Valley Access Group work to improve access to the built environment throughout Mole Valley. This could be in Council premises, shops, churches and other buildings open to the public. The intended beneficiaries are people with disabilities but all residents, visitors and businesses derive some benefit by having fully accessible premises.

The Group's work largely concerns highway improvements such as introducing dropped kerbs at pedestrian crossing points and accessibility issues to and within shops and restaurants. This work also improves the viability of villages through improvements to Village Halls and local shops thereby helping to sustain the rural villages

Bathing Service

The Council offers a bathing service which enables people who are unable for medical/health reasons to bath safely to have a professional bath nurse visit and assist them with bathing in their home. This importantly ensures that elderly people are able to stay in their home environment without the need of relocating to sheltered housing or residential homes.

Community Alarm

The community alarm service offers a professional 24/7 monitoring and reactive service for people who are connected to the community alarm centre through either sheltered housing schemes or from special units in their homes. This service enables people to remain safely in their own homes, gives peace of mind and adds to their independence.

Recently with the advance of Telecare, Community Alarm is able to offer a range of additional products such as flood detectors, pill dispensers and bed sensors, these can extend even further the length of time a person can live safely at home.

The service works closely with Health and Social Care to ensure that, as many people who can benefit from this service are able to. The Community Alarm Service operates to the highest professional standards and achieved the Telecare Services Association Code of Practice in October 2006.

The Community Alarm Service also offers an 'Out of Hours' service to other organisations as well as lone worker and safe staff monitoring.

Day Centres

In 1998 the Surrey Officers Group for Community Support Services commissioned a research project from Kingston University. This was entitled Centres 2000 and Beyond and identified that one of the most important reasons for attending a centre was for the support that people built up amongst their peers and for the networking opportunities that arise for them. It also identified that from 2000 onwards leisure activities and opportunities in Centres would be important and the need for a hot mid-day meal would not be so important.

There are two Day Centres for active older people, one in Dorking, the Mayflower and the other in Leatherhead, the Fairfield. These centres provide a warm, friendly, lively atmosphere and an opportunity to keep in touch with friends or make new groups of friends or support networks. The Council also offer volunteering opportunities with both centres.

The centres are an ideal haven to drop in to for coffee or a sit down during a shopping trip in Dorking or Leatherhead and are also a single destination for hairdressing, chiropody, aromatherapy, hot lunches / snacks and general information.

Both centres have a wide range of entertainments and activities which involve social interaction, however at both centres Members if they so wish can use the opportunity to sit and read a newspaper with a drink in quiet.

The Fairfield centre offers full computer facilities for the members.

Handyman Service

The Handyman service offers help with small repairs around the home and improvements to safety and security. The main benefit of this service is to keep people living at home safe and independent for as long as possible. The service is aimed at being affordable to someone on a pension and is for older and vulnerable people.

The Council employs a Handyman who works to professional standards and has received the necessary training to enable such items as 'grab rails' and handrails to be installed at the correct height for an elderly client.

The Handyman also installs a range of safety products e.g. key safes, door chains and spy holes. These help reduce the fear of crime and help people feel safer in their homes. Other work undertaken is to fit tap washers or replace light bulbs with energy efficient light bulbs. The Handyman also carries out safety checks to help prevent trips and falls within the home.

The service works closely with the Community Alarm service assisting in the installation of Telecare products such as smoke and flood detectors or wandering client sensors for dementia patients.

Other added benefits include providing advice and guidance on related matters, such as the Council's Home Safety Assistance and referrals for fire safety, home security checks, Warm Front and the Pension Service.

Grants to Health, Welfare and Advice Organisations

The Council's Community Support Services Department promotes and seeks Grant funding opportunities. Although these grants are small in size they are vital to community groups providing specific support and services to local (often elderly) people.

These grants enable groups of people generally, but not exclusively, in rural villages to provide a weekly or fortnightly lunch club. Grants are also given to small local organisations that offer support and a regular meeting for people who are hearing impaired/deaf or blind. They are an important way of enabling isolated people to maintain social contact.

Partnership Working

The department is working on a Public Service Agreement with Surrey CC, Elmbridge BC, Woking BC and Spelthorne BC for a project to enable vulnerable older people to live at home safely and independently. This carries access to pump priming grants and an opportunity to claim a sizeable reward in 2008/9.

The Community Alarm Service is working within a south-east Surrey group of Boroughs and District councils to develop new technologies, supported by Preventative Technologies Grant funding.

Representatives from the Community Support Services department meet regularly with colleagues from Dorking and Leatherhead Community Hospitals to ensure smooth and efficient hospital discharge processes and a reduction in avoidable hospital admissions and re-admissions.

The Bathing Service is a partnership between Mole Valley who carry out all of the administration necessary and Surrey County Council who fully fund the service.

The Community Alarm Service, by arrangement with Reigate & Banstead BC, provides a full service across their area. The service also provides a monitoring service under contract for several other Surrey local authorities.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - Mole Valley District Council is committed to continuing its support of the elderly and vulnerable sectors of the community through the work undertaken by its Community Support Services Department and strategic partnerships. It will continue to ensure that its services are delivered to all parts of the community of Mole Valley and addresses those most in need. **(UK4:6SOC4)**

8.6.6 Homelessness

The number of people accepted as homeless increased year on year from 18 in 1988/89 to 156 in 1995/96. Since then the numbers have reduced and now typically number under 100 per year.

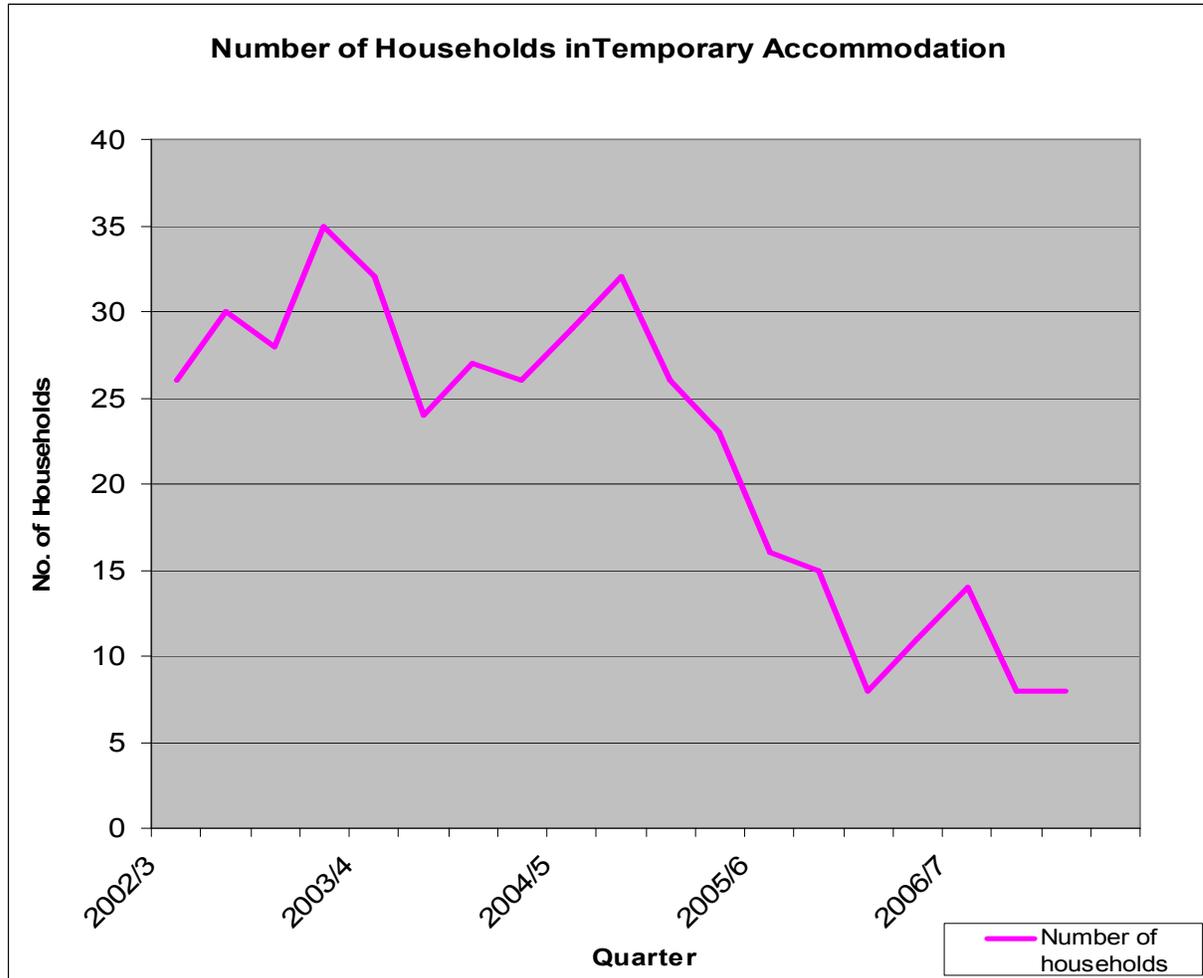
The housing register and allocations policies enable permanent help to be provided in cases of genuine homelessness either immediately or after a stay averaging six months in temporary accommodation.

Mole Valley provides its own temporary housing, within the District, to house homeless people. Currently this includes 23 units offering secure accommodation, some self-contained and some with use of shared facilities for cooking, bathing and laundry. The Council is taking action to ensure that all temporary accommodation will be self-contained at the earliest opportunity.

Current demand for temporary accommodation is around 12 units. Demand has decreased dramatically in recent years (as illustrated in the chart below). This is due to the proactive work of the Housing Needs and Advice teams who are focused on the prevention of homelessness.

The Council recognises that other specialist agencies are better able to meet the needs of some homeless people such as those with learning disabilities or mental health needs. The Council works with and funds an outreach service through Cherchefelle Housing Association and Reigate & Banstead Housing Trust to provide support to up to 20 clients in temporary accommodation at any one time.

Mole Valley's Community Strategy recognises the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing locally to help prevent homelessness occurring.



COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will review its Homelessness Strategy on a regular basis to ensure that the targets and aims set out in the Action Plan are being achieved. (UK4:6SOC5)

8.6.7 Culture & Cultural Activity

Culture and cultural activity cannot be seen as peripheral or separate from other quality of life and social issues. Cultural activities, in whatever form, enrich the lives of their participants and of the community as a whole. These activities be they music, literature, dance or football allow people an outlet for their creativity and self-expression which they may not have through work or domestic duties.

The Council's Cultural Strategy states -

'We recognise the significant impact that culture is making to the quality of life in Mole Valley, and the role that it can play in improving health, tackling social inclusion, developing skills throughout life, contributing to the economy, and developing an individual and community sense of worth and identity. Our vision

for culture is to protect and enhance all that is good in the district and to improve that which is not, so that anyone living or working in Mole Valley, irrespective of age, economic circumstance, race, gender, level of ability or geographical location is positively encouraged to, and has the opportunity to, participate in and enjoy culture at all levels in a way that helps preserve and sustain the local environment.'

The Council has adopted this statement by already committing to the following -

- Ensuring the existing cultural infrastructure is protected and developed to meet the needs of the district;
- Seeking to attain excellence of cultural provision by meeting the identified gaps within the district;
- Ensuring that people living in the rural areas of the district have access to a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities;
- Paying particular attention to the development of cultural opportunities for and participation by young people;
- Encouraging and supporting the vibrant voluntary sector;
- Ensuring a focus on those individuals and groups within the district who may be particularly disadvantaged in terms of accessing or affording cultural activities and opportunities.
- Developing cultural activity and the cultural industries as part of the broader economic development of the district.
- Promoting the benefits that culture can bring in tackling health, safety and other community issues, and ensuring that it is given the full opportunity to contribute fully as a partner in doing so.

8.7 UK Priority 4 Section 7 – ECONOMIC GROWTH

8.7.1 Introduction

Situated in close proximity to London, Surrey has a dynamic economy and a population of 1.06 million, of which over half are economically active. The unemployment figure remains at 0.9%. The 2002 workplace based Annual Business Inquiry puts the total number of Surrey businesses at around 56,000.

Gross Value Added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the UK and is used in the calculation of GDP. In 2002 Surrey's GVA had grown to £16.5bn, equivalent to an annual growth rate of 3.8% since 1982. Output has grown steadily above the UK annual trend growth rate of 2.5%. In 2003, the single largest sector in output terms was business services, including activities such as professional services, IT services, and consultancy. The sector contributed £400m to output in Surrey, almost twice as much as the second largest producer in Surrey, the retail sector.

Surrey is served by two of the world's largest international airports, Gatwick and

Heathrow. Most major towns in Surrey have connections by rail to central London with a frequency of half an hour or less. Surrey also benefits from a comprehensive road network including the M25, M3 and M23. Proximity to Europe is also clearly a factor in the decision of a number of international companies to locate in the county.

The skills and occupational attributes of Surrey's local workforce are strong. There are high levels of entrepreneurship and above average percentages of the resident workforce are employed as managers and senior officials. The percentage of the population with degrees is high and education within the county is also highly rated, both the schools and the universities.

Surrey's high value economy is reflected in the presence of large multi-nationals. In addition, the County benefits from a number of clusters and specialist sectors, which are internationally competitive and have strong potential for growth. These include:

- Redhill/Reigate - advanced electronics and engineering and air transport;
- Guildford - research and development relating to advanced engineering (electrical and electronic);
- Windlesham, Surrey Heath pharmaceuticals;
- Leatherhead - biotechnology and the centre of excellence in food research;
- Surrey University - key industry links with biotechnology, medical, satellite technology, digital and multi media sectors.

Surrey's residents are highly qualified. The 2001 Census recorded that 27% of 16 to 74 year olds (209,100 people) had a degree or diploma (level 4/5) qualification, compared with 22% in the South East and 20% in England.

8.7.2 The Surrey Economic Partnership (SEP)

The Surrey Economic Partnership is a partnership between businesses, public sectors and voluntary sectors which brings together the principal organisations in economic development to:

- Exchange views and address the issues facing the Surrey Economy.
- Take collective action to engage businesses and enable businesses to influence public sector agenda and strategies.

The mission of SEP is to maintain the above average trend in economic growth across Surrey through a commitment to sustainable economic development solutions. Five priorities have been developed by the Partnership –

- Helping to innovate businesses
- Helping to raise the productivity of staff

- Helping businesses to become more efficient with land and property, including
 - Lobbying the government for more affordable housing
 - Helping businesses gain a better return from existing, new or reusable space
 - Providing advice on home working
- Helping reduce dependency on the road network, including
 - Providing advice on how to reduce the need for road travel
 - How to contribute towards reducing congestion
 - How to make the most of ICT
- Helping to fulfil Corporate Responsibilities
 - Developing ways in which businesses can become involved in protecting the environment and supporting local community initiatives
 - Providing advice on how to implement cost effective and environmentally sensitive waste management improvements to businesses
 - Providing advice to businesses on how to benefit from the installation of combined heat and power systems.

SEP, through its 'Action Group', has been active for several including responses to the South East Regional Assemblies 'South East Regional Transport Plan', responding to the review of airport expansion in the UK and promoting organisational transport plans.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will raise awareness of the Surrey Economic Partnership (SEP) locally, maintain its links with the partnership and set up a procedure for alerting new businesses of their existence.
(UK4:7ECON1)

8.7.3 Mole Valley District Council's Economic Development Unit (EDU)

Not only do the Economic Development Unit support and participate in the work of the towns' Chambers of Commerce, ensuring a strong link between the Council and businesses, but it also considers the wider economic issues facing the District.

The EDU monitors and manages business property vacancy rates. Regular liaison with retailers, agents and landlords allows an accurate picture of the vacancy situation to be reported. For the 2005 outturn Dorking's vacancy rate was 4.73% representing 13 vacant units and Leatherhead's was 5.1% representing 8 vacant units. These figures are both below the Council's 10% target.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is committed to monitoring and managing business property vacancy rates as an indicator of the economic health of the District. **(UK4:7ECON2)**

8.7.4 Mole Valley District Council's Economic Study

This year the Council has initiated a review of the economy of the District as part of the work for the Local Development Framework, the Local Plan.

The study will not only cover the two main towns of Dorking and Leatherhead, but also encompasses the smaller centres of Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham. A review will also be undertaken on the village centres.

The aim of the study is to look at how Mole Valley's economy is performing and to work out how best to secure the success of the towns, smaller centres and villages into the future, ensuring they are places people want to live in, work in and visit.

The study will include assessing the impact of national trends, such as internet shopping. It will look at how Mole Valley competes with neighbouring centres and consider what may need to be changed to help strengthen the centres.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will undertake a review of the economy of the District as part of the work for the Local Development Framework, the Local Plan. The review will include the two main towns of Dorking and Leatherhead, but also encompasses the smaller centres of Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham as well as the village centres. **(UK4:7ECON3)**

8.7.5 Tourism in Mole Valley

Unfortunately the County Council has recently closed 'Surrey Tourism' which had a dedicated resource of some 4-5 staff, which is making it harder to promote the District as a tourist attraction. However the cross working between the Visitor Information Centre and the Town Centre Managers stationed in Dorking and Leatherhead is helping to address the situation.

As a result of the changes Surrey Tourism Partnership was formed between Tourism South East, Mole Valley, Guildford and Waverley District Councils plus other key partners such as the RHS Wisley, National Trust, Gatwick B&B Association, MacDonald Hotels, Denbies and The Country Club. The partnership currently funds a two-day week Co-ordinator.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District will continue to support the Surrey Tourism Partnership and its Economic Development Unit to ensure that Tourism throughout the District is promoted and supports the local economy. **(UK4:7ECON4)**

8.8 UK Priority 4 Section 8 – HEALTH & WELFARE

8.8.1 Introduction

The population of Mole Valley is approximately 80,000 and tends to live longer than the national average. Life expectancy for men is 78.3 years (compared to 76.1 nationally) and for women 83.2 years (compared to 80.7 nationally). However there are pockets of deprivation and 3.6% of the population in Mole Valley claim income support (compared to 8.5% nationally).

8.8.2 Mole Valley Community Plan

The District's main force for tackling community health and social care is through Mole Valley's Community Plan. Some of the key priorities, targets and actions for 2006 and 2007 are as follows –

Priority	Actions & Targets
Tackling health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify geographical areas showing a high degree of health inequality in Mole Valley, evidenced by the 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation'. • Support the setting up of a second Children's Centre in Dorking. • Developing a partnership with local agencies to address fuel poverty, targeting those aged 65 and over. Undertaking targeted interventions to raise awareness of schemes available (e.g. warm front during flu campaign; promoted through staff and community newsletters and via services such as meals on wheels, Dial-a-ride, handyman scheme and disabled facilities grant).
Reducing the number of people who smoke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking cessation clinics being run and advertised widely in the community. 5% of all workplaces to be smoke free by end of 2007. • Stop Smoking programme for young people across the District. Trainers going out to schools and youth venues across the District.
Tackling obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the importance of fruit and vegetables through the 5 day message and

	<p>the school fruit and vegetable scheme (100% uptake in Mole Valley).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support 'Healthy Schools' programme to achieve targets: 100% of schools to be participating in the programme by Dec 2009.
Improving sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual health clinic offering drop-in at Leatherhead hospital. Continue to publicise and develop services. • Identify funding to provide free emergency hormone contraception to under 21s and roll out programme once funding secured – target March 2007.
Improving mental health & well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional health and well-being is part of the 'Healthy Schools' status referred to above.
Reducing harm and encouraging sensible drinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted support to young people at risk of alcohol misuse through 'Surrey Young People's Service' (SYPS). Two targeted alcohol campaigns per year to promote responsible drinking and address underage drinking. • Dorking 'Alcohol Designation Order' to combat anti-social effects of binge drinking.
Helping children and young people to lead healthy lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mole Valley's Youth Strategy specifically addresses this priority.
Promoting a healthy and active life amongst older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the number of people receiving a service at home (either 'community alarm', bathing or handyman) from baseline of 928 to 1029 by March 2008. • Age Concern Surrey working with community development workers established a walking for health scheme in North Leatherhead. Volunteers have been trained and walk programmes started. The scheme will now be developed with more trained leaders with a view to providing to a wider cross section of the community (including families with children).

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The District Council will continue to support and promote the Community Planning Group through the provision of dedicated resource. This will assist in facilitating the actions within the Community Plan to improve the health and welfare of its residents. (UK4:8HW1)

8.8.3 Fuel Poverty Plan

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) profile of fuel poverty shows that several wards within the council have above average levels of fuel poverty.

The Council used to have an 'Affordable Warmth' or 'Fuel Poverty' strategy, but this has now been incorporated within the Community Plan. However, although it is mentioned, currently there is no associated action plan with targets and defined responsibilities.

The Council has various public interfaces such as at its reception in Pippbrook and the 'help shop' in Leatherhead. At present they only provide advice on fuel poverty and energy efficiency when asked for it. The Council does not proactively promote fuel poverty issues or identify residents who may be at risk of fuel poverty.

Additionally the Council does limited work in partnership with relevant local agencies, such as the local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) and the HEAT project run by Enact Energy where assistance can be provided to target the fuel poverty issues.

The Council needs to identify households in fuel poverty and establish a 'Fuel Poverty Plan'. This should –

- Address the needs of residents that are most vulnerable.
- Improve properties to levels well beyond the 'Decent Homes Standard' in order to ensure that they are not in danger of returning to fuel poverty due to issues surrounding energy efficiency.
- Ensure that when allocating properties to new tenants the Council does not exacerbate fuel poverty. For example it should put groups vulnerable to fuel poverty (e.g. pensioners, single parent families) into the most energy efficient homes and put families into homes that are the right size for them.
- Identify external funding opportunities.
- Identify useful partnerships e.g. formalise links with the health sector, as health workers are perfectly placed to identify fuel poor households.
- Involve local energy agencies.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will improve its links with local energy agencies and partnerships to assist in developing a 'Fuel Poverty Plan',

which identifies households in 'fuel poverty' and address the issues that this brings to the health and welfare of residents. (UK4:8HW2)

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will train front line staff such as receptionists and staff at the Council's Help Shop so they are able to identify residents who may benefit from 'fuel poverty' advice and support. (UK4:8HW3)

8.9 UK Priority 4 Section 9 – COMMUNITY SAFETY

8.9.1 Introduction

People living in Mole Valley generally enjoy relative prosperity with low unemployment and low levels of crime. This is evidenced in part by the relatively low crime rate compared to other Districts - in 2002/03 Mole Valley had the lowest level of crime in the county.

In 2003/04 total crime was further reduced by 4.2% in Mole Valley. Furthermore the Government's target was a reduction of 10% in relation to burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime and Mole Valley performed well in each category - violence against individuals reduced by 9.7%, vehicle related crime reduced by 16.5% and the number of burglaries reduced by 10.2%.

The most recent crime figures for last autumn show a continued reduction in the British Crime Figures of 10.6% for Mole Valley. During the current Community Safety Strategy 2005/08 the overall crime reduction target for Mole Valley is 10.5%.

8.9.2 The Mole Valley Community Safety Partnership & Community Safety Strategy

The Mole Valley Community Safety Partnership comprises the Police and Police Authority, District and County Councils, Fire Service and Primary Care Trust. The partnership has produced a Community Safety Strategy for 2005 -08 which is discussed in **section 4.12 MVDC5**.

Whilst national trends show large increases on 2004/2005 figures in Criminal Damage (mainly graffiti), alcohol related violence and burglary, our local figures show reductions of 23%, 6.7% and 19% respectively. There is no doubt that the close working of the partnership is behind some of these improvements.

Below are two examples of excellent partnership working across the District: -

Graffiti

The 'Mole Valley Anti Graffiti Group', with representation from Surrey Police, British Transport Police, Surrey County Council agencies including Trading Standards and Highways, Rail Companies and Mole Valley District Council, meets regularly. 'Hot Spots' are identified and areas and perpetrators targeted.

Prompt removal from private as well as public premises, plus police-led work on education, publicity and intelligence, have brought recorded incidents from April to December 2005 down by 23% against the similar period for 2004.

Designation Order

The adoption of a 'Designation Order' (a ban on on-street drinking) was introduced to cover the Dorking Town Centre as part of a campaign to reduce violence, anti-social behaviour and other acts of criminality associated with excess alcohol. Targeted patrols and engagement with the 'Surrey Young People's Service' and a 'Youth Outreach' agency continue in identified areas. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership also works closely with the licensing trade (Pub Watch) in dealing with identified trouble makers and with Surrey Trading Standards in the area of underage sales of alcohol.

During the first six months of the Designation Order, incidents of alcohol related violence fell significantly.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council is committed to the Mole Valley Community Safety Partnership and will continue to provide resource to ensure that issues relating to crime throughout the District are addressed in a coordinated way for the benefit of the community as a whole. (UK4:9CRIM1)

9 Corporate Issues

9.1 Communication Strategy

The Council is in the process of reviewing its Communications Strategy. The revised document will provide a framework for developing a communication plan specifically for Sustainable Development. The plan will detail how the Council will communicate throughout the District the importance, key issues and practical advice on Sustainable Development.

The plan will detail how the Council will promote environmental issues externally through its website, internally through the Council's intranet site, locally in local newspapers, at forums etc.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will produce a 'Sustainable Development Communication Plan'. Within the plan it will identify how it will promote environmental issues externally through its website, internally through the Council's intranet site and locally in local newspapers. (**UKCORP1**)

9.2 Nottingham Declaration

The Nottingham Declaration on climate change is a voluntary pledge that Local Authorities can make to demonstrate their commitment to locally tackle the issues of climate change. The Energy Saving Trust is part of a steering group that manages and promotes the declaration.

To date 133 Councils have signed the Declaration. The steering group has a target of 200 Councils committing to the Declaration and the EST corporate target is for 17 more by March 2007.

The signing the Nottingham Declaration is a real commitment requiring action. Once signed up the Council is committed to declaring within appropriate plans and strategies the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from its operations, especially with regard to energy sourcing and use. This strategy already commits to producing an Energy Strategy which will fulfil this pledge. Additionally there are no harsh deadlines to meet which will mean that the Council's proposed timeframes within this document are not pressurised by signing the Declaration.

Other commitments relate to travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services, which again are already covered in this strategy.

The Nottingham Declaration is included as **Appendix 4**.

By making a public declaration as part of a national scheme the Council is sending a strong message to the community about the priority the Council is placing on the issue of sustainability.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will sign the Nottingham Declaration. (UKCORP2)

9.3 Local Climate Impacts Programme (LCLIP)

The Local Climate Impacts Programme (LCLIP) helps organisations to assess how they might be affected by climate change so that they can prepare for its impact.

LCLIP is funded by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on behalf of the government.

This may be a useful tool for the future and the Council needs to look further into whether joining this programme is a feasible option in the longer term, when it has established more data.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will evaluate the Local Climate Impacts Programme (LCLIP) in order to ascertain if this is a practical way for the Council to assess the future impact of climate change on the District. (UKCORP3)

10 Monitoring, Targets & Indicators

Sustainability issues feature in all aspects of the Council's work. The monitoring of the Council's performance is therefore through a variety of ways –

National Performance Indicators

There are a variety of national targets and indicators. The key ones relating to sustainable development are outlined in **section 3.1**.

Additionally the Council produces a 'Best Value Performance Plan' annually, which was a duty given to Local Authorities in April 1999. The plan contains a series of government defined performance indicators which inform the public of the standards they can expect to receive and how the Council is performing against those standards.

The Council has set its own target for improvement against the indicators many of which give an indication of improvement or otherwise in relation to sustainable development issues.

Local Partnerships

There are as evidenced in this document a large number of local partnerships conducting work which has an impact on sustainability. The work of these groups is being supported, monitored and in some cases directed by the Council (County and District).

The work with and by Surrey County Council has a huge impact on sustainable development issues within the District. The two Councils therefore work closely together to ensure a co-ordinated approach to issues such as road safety, air quality etc. Key targets are set, regularly monitored and reviewed.

The Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework provides an overarching view. Currently the work on the 'Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Core Strategy' has provided an overarching set of 21 objectives with a variety of indicators (**see Appendix 3**), which will be tested against the objectives of the LDF as work on the LDF progresses.

These objectives and indicators have been formed from a thorough analysis of the policies, plans and programmes at international, national, regional, county and local level. They will filter through the organisation of the Council through the local planning process and promote a proactive positive approach to managing development.

Local Plans & Strategies

Mole Valley has a series of local plans and strategies. These provide the framework for the Council's activities. The key local strategies have been

reviewed in order to identify what is and not being done in terms of sustainable development issues. This review has assisted in informing the action plan in Appendix 1.

When new strategies are produced or existing ones updated. They will be reviewed to ensure that any sustainability issues are identified and addressed.

Sustainable Development Indicators

From the above it can be seen that there are a number of targets and indicators, national and local, all of which assist in identifying the 'success' or otherwise of how the District is performing in terms of the issues relating to sustainable development.

The government led 'UK Sustainable Development Strategy' outlines 68 indicators through which to review progress in the 4 key UK priority areas. The 20 indicators highlighted by the Government in its 'Strategic Framework' (**see 3.2.2**) have been specifically raised by the Government as key or 'higher level' objectives which need monitoring closely.

The District Council does not have a 'single point of call' document to demonstrate how it is performing with regard to sustainable development under each of the categories identified in this strategy. It therefore needs to develop a set of indicators and targets so it can do this.

Clearly some indicators and targets have already been identified and are being measured, however others have not and some will be produced from the work outlined in the action plan in Appendix 1.

COMMITMENT TO ACTION - The Council will produce an annual 'Sustainable Development Monitoring Report' to enable an assessment to be made as to how the District is performing in relation to sustainable development issues. (**UKCORP4**)