

# Ealing Council Sustainability Strategy

**November 2010**

## EALING SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

One Planet Living is a vision of a sustainable world where people lead healthy, happy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources. We are demonstrating our commitment to this vision by implementing this One Planet Action Plan. Our plan will help us to embed sustainability in our organisation's culture and mission.

Global Footprint Network and WWF's Living Planet Report shows how the rate at which people are consuming natural resources and polluting the environment is rising exponentially. In the last 40 years our "ecological footprint" has increased by around 150%. Left unchecked, this rise will undermine the foundations of life for hundreds of millions of people around the world – including access to water, food production, health and shelter.

One Planet Living is a framework that helps us to focus us on how we can take action for a sustainable future. The One Planet Living framework is a global initiative developed by BioRegional and WWF.

<b>Zero carbon</b>	making buildings more energy efficient and delivering all energy with renewable technologies
<b>Zero waste</b>	reducing waste, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill
<b>Sustainable transport</b>	encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions, reducing the need to travel
<b>Sustainable materials</b>	using sustainable and healthy products, such as those with low embodied energy, sourced locally, made from renewable or waste resources
<b>Local and sustainable food</b>	choosing low impact, local, seasonal and organic diets and reducing food waste
<b>Sustainable water</b>	using water more efficiently in buildings and in the products we buy; tackling local flooding and water course pollution
<b>Land use and wildlife</b>	protecting and restoring existing biodiversity and natural habitats through appropriate land use and integration into the built environment
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	reviving local identity and wisdom; supporting and participating in the arts
<b>Equity and local economy</b>	creating bioregional economies that support fair employment, inclusive communities and international fair trade
<b>Health and happiness</b>	encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being

## Energy Efficiency – moving toward zero carbon buildings

*Making the council estate more energy efficient and delivering energy with renewable technologies*

### **Why is this important?**

According to the Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change, buildings consume half the electricity and heat produced by the power sector in the UK. Most of the energy used in the United Kingdom is derived from fossil fuels, which threatens air quality and poses risks due to a diminishing supply and reliance on foreign sources. Buildings represent an area where significant energy savings can be achieved through intelligent design and refurbishment.

Local Authorities are obligated to act on energy efficiency with the launch of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency scheme in April 2010. This scheme sets out a system aimed at ensuring the UK reaches its commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 34% in 2020. In broad terms, the complex programme requires all major energy consumers to report consumption data and uses financial rewards and penalties to motivate energy savings. Ealing Council must increase its focus on energy efficiency while also considering how it can begin to supply its own energy in the future – both actions represent potential financial savings for the Authority if strategically approached. The council's own goal is to achieve a 30% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2013 (from 2007 levels)<sup>1</sup>.

Central Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system, Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1), calls for Development Plan Documents that specify a proportion of the energy supply for new developments will be delivered by decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources, and expects area-based opportunities for such solutions to be identified.

### **Current position**

#### ***Housing***

Ealing Council also holds influence over a large number of housing units around the borough. Recent funding for new housing stock commits the council to build homes that perform to a Code for Sustainable Homes four-star rating, which goes beyond current mandates and creates homes that are 44% more energy efficient than required by building regulations. As well as environmental benefits, improving energy efficiency in buildings also has financial benefits as it reduces the amount of money spent on energy. By taking action on housing the council can also benefit its residents and reduce the risk of people falling into fuel poverty. Most homes under construction will utilise better

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<sup>1</sup> 2009 London Borough of Ealing Carbon Management Plan

insulation and low and zero carbon energy sources. One scheme being built alongside the new Northolt Leisure Centre will share energy from its combined heat and power plant - a localised energy source.

### ***Development Management***

Since a robust evidence base must underpin all policies relating to sustainable energy, the Council has prepared an energy evidence base<sup>2</sup> that establishes the rationale and viability of carbon emission saving targets and examines measures to promote sustainable design and construction. Whilst Ealing's Development Management Document adopts the emerging policies on climate change in the new London Plan, the Council has also identified a number of areas where it would wish to supplement these policies. The study therefore proposes the introduction of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets not only for major developments but also for minor schemes including both residential and non-residential. It is also proposed to provide further guidance in respect of minimising CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in refurbishments, as distinct from new build developments. This is intended to recognise the unique challenges that exist in respect of employing such measures in existing buildings.

### ***Decentralised energy***

Ealing Council, in collaboration with the GLA and LDA, has assessed the feasibility of decentralised energy networks within the borough identified through a heat mapping study (see box, right). This heat mapping study forms part of a broader programme designed to put London on a trajectory towards the target of supplying 25% of its energy from decentralised energy sources by 2025. Phase 1 of this master-planning exercise was complete in May 2010. This identified eight focus areas with the greatest potential for development of district heat and power networks in the borough, with a particular focus on the Uxbridge Road /Crossrail and the A40/Park Royal corridors<sup>3</sup>. Ealing Metropolitan Centre has been identified as one of the areas with the highest potential for developing such a network, which in the future can encompass the Ealing Council building and other premises in the vicinity.

London Development Agency (LDA) has developed an Energy Master Plan for London. This is in the form of the London Heat Map (LHM), which can be found at <http://www.londonheatmap.org.uk/>.

The LHM provides a web-based GIS resource containing high-level data on decentralised energy (DE) across London. Decentralised energy schemes have a critical role to play in reducing London's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In broad terms, Decentralised Energy means local or sub-regional supply of heat and electricity.

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<sup>2</sup> Further information can be found in the Energy Evidence Base:

[www.ealing.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/planning\\_policy/local\\_development\\_framework/evidence\\_base/climate\\_change/](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_development_framework/evidence_base/climate_change/)

<sup>3</sup> Further information regarding the identified areas in Ealing can be found in London Heat Map Study, May 2010

### ***Council estate***

Heating, cooling and lighting of the council portfolio emitted over 33,748,856 kg of carbon dioxide in 2008/09<sup>4</sup>. Perceval House (the largest business centre, which includes the Councils central computer centre) consumes over 9.2 million kWh of gas and electricity annually. A Carbon Management subgroup of the Sustainability Board began work in 2010 to monitor the council's energy consumption data and set targets to ensure penalties are minimised and energy savings are realised.

### ***Residents***

The council's website has information for residents on how they can improve energy efficiency in their homes, including information about grants and offers for home improvements on private residences. Residents can also contact the council's own home improvement agency to arrange a free survey and receive an estimate for loft and cavity wall insulation, and insulation to hot water tanks/cylinders and pipe work.

### **What do we want to achieve?**

Target	Action/Measure
A. Improve energy efficiency of privately and publicly owned housing in Ealing	
	A1. Install renewable energy technologies on 700 council-owned houses by 2013; roll out scheme to flats in second phase
	A2. Continue to work with West London Housing Partnership and Ealing Home Improvement Agency scheme to deliver private sector Decent Homes Thermal Comfort Programme (efficient heating and insulation measures), as long as TFS grant funding continues.
	A3. Develop a "ward level" energy efficiency project as a way to encourage residents and businesses to reduce their energy use (2011/12)
B. Implement major decentralised energy project in Ealing by 2012	
	B1. Develop decentralised energy plant proposal concurrent with the regeneration of Acton Town Hall

<sup>4</sup> This figure includes street lighting (7,309,858 kWh)

C. Ensure building systems are performing optimally	
	C1. Inspect and improve lighting controls at Perceval House
	C2. Utilise EMS software to fullest potential to highlight and target poor performance
D. Reduce energy consumption from stationary sources across the organisation in by 10% by April 2011 (10:10 commitment)	
	D1. Upgrade IT systems to reduce energy consumption – investigate: free cooling, higher temperature environment, hardware upgrades to enable further reductions in operating temperature
	D2. Develop and implement energy focussed asset renewal scheme (replace aging boilers/air con/roofs, insulation, windows, seal external envelope, utility infrastructures). Remote BMS interrogation
	D3. Investigate the installation of voltage optimisation/reduction in Perceval House
	D4. Ensuring all refurbishment works identify opportunities for downsizing plant or replacing with more energy efficient / renewable options
	D5. Run behaviour change campaign – e.g. “switch it off”, green week etc.
	D6. Set up Green Champions network
E. Ensure new capital expenditures include an evaluation of energy efficiency	
	E1. Add “energy efficiency” as a criterion for capital funding bids
	E2 Reduce energy consumption using Property Strategy recommendations to consolidate business practices
F. Consume renewable energy across the council estate	

	F1. Procure renewable energy through 2011 tendering process
	F2. Make use of the Feed in Tariff to produce renewable energy onsite

## Waste Reduction and Material Reuse – moving toward zero waste

### *Reducing waste, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill*

According to Ealing's Waste Minimisation Strategy, waste arisings in industrialised countries are increasing unsustainably and, until the recent economic downturn, most studies estimated UK waste production increases by between 3 and 4% per annum. This is fueled by a consumption culture whose economic basis relies heavily upon the exhaustion of irreplaceable natural resources.

The Mayor's Draft Waste Strategy (January 2010) details that London produces a massive 4 million tonnes of municipal waste every year, most of which comes from households and small businesses. Municipal waste is waste collected by boroughs from households, litter from streets and parks, and some of the waste from small businesses. Too much of this currently ends up being buried in costly landfill sites or incinerated. Not only does this levy a heavy tax on our environment, it is also a missed economic opportunity for the capital.

By 2025, the Mayor wants London:

- To send zero of its municipal rubbish to landfill by 2025
- To recycle or compost at least 45 per cent of municipal waste by 2015, 50 per cent by 2020 and 60 per cent by 2031

Climate change is a key driver for London's municipal waste management policy. Sending waste to landfill generates greenhouse gas emissions – particularly biodegradable waste, such as food, green garden waste, and paper and card, which release methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) as it decomposes.

The second biggest driver is the increase in costs due to landfill tax. Currently, landfill tax is £48 per tonne. This will increase by £8 each year until at least 2013, when it will be £72 per tonne.

Waste disposal is becoming increasingly expensive. The National and London waste strategies require authorities to recycle and recover more and landfill less<sup>5</sup>. Local Authorities must reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill by specific amounts each year. West London authorities have worked together to set out plans to meet these requirements through increasing recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, reuse, trading and residual waste treatment.

### **Current position**

Ealing's current performance in waste and recycling:

Kilograms of residual waste (waste not reused, recycled or composted) collected per household: 527.76 kg/hh/yr (2009/10 data)

2010/11 target: 654 kg/hh/yr (smaller is better)

Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion: 37.63% (2009/10 data)

2010/11 target: 40% (bigger is better)

Percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill: 71.33% (2009/10 data)

2010/11 target: 69% (smaller is better)

Council offices include some recycling facilities, but the collection is inconsistent with Ealing's household recycling, which is one of the most comprehensive collections in London. Currently, the largest office facility (Perceval House) collects only paper, cardboard and cans for recycling. Contamination of recycling bins at this office is high meaning that recyclable materials have at times been deemed rubbish. The recycling bins at Council offices need to be fit for purpose, clearly signposted and labelled, as well as consistent to ensure correct and continued use by staff and visitors. The range of materials collected for recycling also needs to be expanded to include recyclables such as food waste (biodegradable) and plastics (high volume), which are currently collected as part of the domestic services. Recycling collection offered to local businesses includes recycling of cardboard and recycling of used cooking oil. There is great potential also to expand this service to move Ealing closer to the goal of sending zero waste to the landfill.

### **What do we want to achieve?**

Target	Action/Measure
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<sup>5</sup> Draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. September 2005. West London Waste Authority



A. Increase domestic waste diverted from landfill	
	A1. Exceed target of sending 40% of household waste for reuse, recycling or composting
	A2. Ensure food waste education continues as part of the waste/recycling contract
	A3. Ensure targets for green waste recycling and in-borough reuse are included in the waste and grounds maintenance contract re-tender 2011
B. Reduce employee generated waste	
	B1. Investigate high efficiency hand dryers
	A2. Introduce office supply “re-use” areas
	A3. Investigate a bag re-use system in staff reception to minimise the number of shopping bags used for take away lunches
	A4. Relaunch reusable cup discount in staff canteen
	A5. Behaviour change campaign to reduce paper use
	A6. Implement Print Management project to control printing and ensure printer defaults save paper
	A7. Collect non-confidential scrap paper from printers and make notepads
	A8. Compost food waste from kitchen prep area and canteen users
C. Increase internal recycling	
	C1. Improve recycling facilities in PH (revamp current provision of bins/signage, expand material range)
	C2. Improve recycling facilities at other Council office sites

## Sustainable transport

*Encouraging sustainable modes of transport and reducing the need to travel to reduce congestion, carbon emissions and air pollution*

### Why it this important?

Transport accounts for 18% of CO2 emissions in Ealing and around a quarter of the man-made greenhouse gas emissions from the UK.<sup>6</sup> The Climate Change Act (November 2008) established binding emissions targets and 5-yearly carbon budgets in legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050.<sup>7</sup>

Sustainable transport will play a major role in achieving these targets - ultimately reducing motor vehicle traffic and resultant congestion and pollution.

Transport systems influence how a community functions – high-speed traffic can threaten safety and congested town centres detract from the pedestrian experience. A good public transport network is essential for the young and elderly – allowing them the opportunity to move around the community without reliance on others and a private motor vehicle. Safe road networks are essential for encouraging health-enhancing “active travel” in a community such as walking and cycling. A safe, convenient and reliable transport system is also needed to support economic development and population growth, and to give good access to jobs, services, education and leisure facilities. In short, the quality of life in our urban setting is heavily influenced by transport.

### Current position

Due to high levels of two pollutants, particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, the borough was declared an Air Quality Management Area in December 2000 and subsequently developed an Air Quality Action Plan. In recent years, congestion reduction has been a top priority for the borough and the council has focused significant resources on sustainable transport, including:

- Supporting the development of Travel Plans for schools, new development and town centre businesses
- Delivering public realm enhancement projects in town centres

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<sup>6</sup> Travel in London, Key Trends and Developments, Transport for London, 2009

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/climatechange/climatechangeandtransport?page=1#a1000>

Accessed 4 June 2010. Department For Transport. About Climate change and transport

- Promoting cycling through enhanced routes, additional parking, and cycle confidence training
- Improving bus service accessibility and reliability
- Increasing train station accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and disabled people
- Improving specific roads and junctions where there are unnecessary and avoidable delays
- Extending car clubs across the borough

Ealing Council developed its own Staff Travel Plan in 2008 and began work on achieving targets to reduce the use of motor vehicles and increase the number of cyclists. To date a 44% rise in cycling and an 18% increase in public transportation use has been achieved.

### What do we want to achieve?

Ealing's Transport Local Implementation Plan (LIP) gives a comprehensive plan of action setting out how Ealing will progress towards more sustainable transport, along with other transport aims & objectives. Up to date details about the Transport LIP can be found on the Council's website: [www.ealing.gov.uk/services/transport\\_and\\_streets/transport\\_strategy\\_and\\_policies/Lip/](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/transport_and_streets/transport_strategy_and_policies/Lip/). Relevant draft LIP and other key targets and actions are replicated and summarised below.

### What do we want to achieve?

Target	Action/Measure <sup>8</sup>
A. Promote "Active Travel"	
	A1. Utilise school and workplace travel planning, improve infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, continue Direct Support for Cycling programme and develop a campaign with PCT linking health and active travel to achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2.5% cycling mode share by 2014</li> <li>▪ 27% walking mode share by 2013</li> </ul>
B. Improve public transport accessibility and journey times	

<sup>8</sup> Note details of the targets listed may change as a consequence of the LIP consultation and approvals process.

	B1. Improve north/south transport connections to reduce bus passenger excess wait time to 1.1 minutes
	B2. Utilise bus priority measures to reduce bus average journey time on four main corridors during AM peak (Mon – Fri 0700 – 1000) to 29.6 minutes by 2013
	B3. Achieve DDA compliance for 400 bus stops (56% of total) by 2013
C. Improve air quality by reducing the impact of the transport system	
	C1. Increase the number of car club parking bays to 107 by 2013
	C2. Install 12 electric vehicle charging points by 2013
	C3. Reduce emissions of particulate matter including working with neighbouring boroughs and Heathrow Airport to implement an ambitious access plan to the Airport
D. Realise modal shift at schools – away from cars	
	D1. Achieve 6% reduction in children arriving to school by car 2010/11 (from Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy)
E. To increase Ealing Council employee cyclists rate to 15%	
	E1. Hold five employee events and trainings each year; improve cycling facilities
F. Encourage City Car Club use for Council employees	
	F1. Re-launch membership campaign to employees; increase number of members across organisation to 250 by December 2011
G. Reduce number of stationery delivery days each week	
	G1. Change specification with Office Depot, reducing deliveries to 1-2 days per week

## Sustainable materials

### *Using and procuring sustainable products that have a low embodied energy*

#### **Why is this important?**

Human consumption of resources significantly exceeds what the earth can provide<sup>9</sup>. The public sector responsibility includes both internal business practices and activities such as home building, schools and road construction. The Code for Sustainable Homes<sup>10</sup> is Central Government's mandatory requirement for all new residential properties, which aims to ensure that all new homes are zero carbon by 2016. The Government's target is to make schools zero carbon by 2016.

As a major consumer of goods and services, the council has a responsibility to use its purchasing power to drive the demand for goods that are environmentally sensitive. Considering environmental impacts of materials that the council uses can reduce pollution, both from production and transport; conserve resources such as trees and water; and reduce waste.

#### **Current position**

##### **Development Management**

The proposed waste policies in the Council's Development Management Document reflect the emerging policies on climate change in the new London Plan, recognising the need to minimise waste by reusing and reduce the use of materials. Major planning applications will also be required to demonstrate compliance with the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM, to ensure that all aspects of sustainability have been considered in the design and construction stages.

##### **Procurement**

The council is currently drafting a Responsible Procurement Strategy that will include a section on the environmental impact of procurement. Presently projects that utilise the procurement process must complete a Sustainability Impact Assessment, which is reviewed by the Sustainability Coordinator.

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<sup>9</sup> "Buying a Better World: Sustainable Public Procurement." Forum for the Future. December 2007

<sup>10</sup> The Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The Code aims to reduce our carbon emissions and create homes that are more sustainable. It applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/sustainability/codesustainablehomes/>)

Procurement has identified two projects to enhance Ealing Council's environmental performance – replacing everyday printing paper with recycled content stock and reviewing the stationery offering to ensure “consumables” such as notebooks and envelopes are also more environmentally friendly. In the medium term the council's energy contract will be re-tendered, and the Sustainability Board has made a commitment to maximise the inclusion of green energy in the estates portfolio.

### What do we want to achieve?

Target	Action/Measure
A. Buy 100% recycled content paper for all daily printing/photocopying needs	
	A1. Use results of paper trial to change purchasing policy for everyday paper
B. Influence budget holders to consider environmental impact of goods and services	
	B1. Include guidance on Sustainable Procurement in Responsible Procurement Strategy – explore topics such as low embodied energy, durability, reduced packaging, renewable and non-toxic materials, local production
	B2. Review Sustainability Impact Assessments from Procurement
	B3. Remove "luxury items" from stationery purchasing. Default to "green items"
	B4. Explore "opt out/opt in" for Members deliveries (currently 2x week)

## Local, healthy and sustainable food

*Choosing low impact, local, seasonal and organic diets that contribute to wellness and reduce food waste*

### **Why is this important?**

Choosing local and sustainable food supports the local economy and helps protect the environment. Food that is grown locally requires less transportation and minimises the related air quality and congestion impacts. Homegrown or allotment-grown food connects adults and children to their source of nutrition. Allotments provide a community, especially for the aged, to share knowledge, socialise and stay active.

Organic food is grown in a manner that places a strong emphasis on the protection of wildlife and the environment.<sup>11</sup> Organic farming builds soil structures, recycles nutrients back into the soils and supports a diversity of birds, plants and insects.

### **Current position**

Ealing has one of the largest allotment provisions in London, approximately 100 acres over 45 Council sites and another 15 on private land. There are approximately 2000 allotment gardeners on Council sites and an estimated half of allotment holders are over the age of 60. Allotments are a strong demonstration of sustainability in Ealing. Some of the many benefits include:

#### *Reducing the use of chemicals and protecting soil quality*

- Encouraging a range of good gardening practices - composting, planting green manures<sup>12</sup> and using organic mulches to produce the best soil. Thousands of free green manure seed samples have been distributed and their use encouraged
- Providing information about plant health and diseases to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides
- Educating gardeners in how to reduce use of tap water without sacrificing the abundance of produce
- Delivery of woodchip for use as mulch and as a compost accelerator

#### *Saving water*

- Around five hundred free water butts have been provided to allotment-holders, sourced from a local company which receives material in them and previously threw the barrels away

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<sup>11</sup> "What is organic?" web page accessed via [www.soilassociation.org/](http://www.soilassociation.org/) 20 September 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Green manures are plants that are sown specifically to improve fertility. Garden Organic Factsheet GS3 accessed via [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk) 27 October 2010.

- Despite doubling the land area in use and a 50% increase in the cost of water over the past few years, water bills have actually declined, suggesting that knowledge and practice has developed on the allotments.

#### *Promoting a healthy diet*

- Groundwork West London manages a schools project in South Acton

#### *Ensuring social equity and building community*

- Completed raised beds for gardeners with restricted mobility
- Several plots are used by disadvantaged groups around the borough
- Volunteer site managers organise community work-days to carry out general maintenance and improvements to their allotments

### **What do we want to achieve?**

Target	Action/Measure
A. Increase the number of allotment plots	
	A1. Provide 40 new beds annually
	A2. Deliver a new allotment site by spring 2011
	A3. Conduct a survey to better understand allotment use, 2011/12
B. Schools & leisure centres	
	B1. Review school dinners contracts for the inclusion of seasonal, local, organic and ethically sourced food and drink, 2011/12
	B2. Investigate vending arrangements at leisure centres to ensure healthy food is offered
C. Encourage the use of local and organic food in staff canteen	
	C1. Review contract for inclusion of seasonal, local, organic and ethically sourced food and drink
D. Promote the benefit of local, healthy, organic food to employees	



	D1. Provide information on the intranet about what is in season, growing tips and links to allotment information
	D2. Organise a spring plant swap for employees

## Water

### *Reducing water usage in buildings and in the products we buy; preventing flooding and pollution*

#### **Why is this important?**

According to Waterwise, London is drier than Istanbul and the UK has less available water per person than most other European countries<sup>13</sup>. It is important to treat water as a valuable resource so that communities do not become vulnerable as a result of scarce supply in the future. Grounds maintenance also is a large user of water, keeping the open spaces and gardens in order throughout the year, though particularly in the summer months. Our demand for water puts stress on infrastructure and wastewater pollutes our rivers and seas. Reducing our water consumption is beneficial, as is managing water in the natural environment.

Waterways are important habitats, whose health is important to preserve biodiversity and also help developed areas cope with periods of heavy rainfall that may result in localised flooding. Fortunately Ealing has few flood prone areas thanks to past conservation efforts, but the waterways that cut through the borough provide wild life corridors and important plant and animal habitat. Where flooding does occur, it disrupts residents' lives, affecting homes and transport routes, which in turn can impact the local economy.

#### **Current position**

##### **Flooding**

Ealing has few flood prone areas is due to the identification and conservation of important water catchment areas such as Greenford lagoons and flood plains along the River Brent. However water usage in green spaces and street trees can be high and inefficient. There is a recognition that water savings can be made through the selection of landscaping. For instance planting hardy perennial plants instead of short-lived annual flowers could reduce the amount of watering that is required. This impacts both water use and in many cases transport as well, since water is often hauled around the borough in tanks. Leaks in pipes on green spaces don't always get resolved quickly, though some work

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.waterwise.org.uk/reducing\\_water\\_wastage\\_in\\_the\\_uk/the\\_facts/the\\_facts\\_about\\_saving\\_water.html](http://www.waterwise.org.uk/reducing_water_wastage_in_the_uk/the_facts/the_facts_about_saving_water.html) accessed 9 August 2010. Waterwise is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation working to decrease water use in the UK.

has already begun to reduce the use of potable water in allotments with the installation of water butts, which collect rainwater for use in vegetable patches.

### **Water conservation**

The Council currently has room for improvement in its water conservation efforts, especially in its older buildings. While dual flush toilets were installed in many Perceval House washrooms when the building was modernised, it is estimated that about half of all toilets are still “full flush”. Currently taps installed throughout most buildings are of typical water volume flow, and have not been updated to restrict the volume or duration of flow of water used for hand and dish washing.

### **What do we want to achieve?**

Target	Action/Measure
A. Reduce Council’s use of potable water wherever possible	
	A1. Explore opportunities to incorporate rainwater harvesting or other water recycling technologies in buildings and street cleansing services
	A2. Review planting practices to ensure landscaping is drought tolerant
	A3. Investigate alternatives to using potable water for watering plants
B. Monitor water usage in Council offices	
	B1. Strengthen relationship with Thames Water to gain assistance with reducing water usage
	B2. Develop a communications plan to inform staff about conserving water at points of use
C. Reduce water usage in Council owned buildings, including offices and housing stock	
	C1. Use Green Champion Network to develop ideas for how to minimise water use
	C2. Specify low-flow toilets, showers and water faucets in any refurbishment, maintenance or new build projects across Council estate

## Land use and wildlife

### *Protecting and expanding existing natural habitats and creating new space for wildlife*

#### **Why is this important?**

Open spaces protect and enhance local character and distinctiveness, and contribute to the quality of life and well being of local communities. A growing body of research indicates that people who live in areas of good quality open space have overall better mental health. More specifically in regards to the environment, open spaces provide habitat for biodiversity and perform stabilising functions for overall systems such as water, air, and climate. Trees provide an important environmental benefit, especially in urban areas. They reduce the heat island affect, provide shading and absorb carbon dioxide. Trees are flexible because they can be planted in more challenging settings, such as small spaces along motorways.

#### ***Land use and Planning***

Planning for how land is used in the urban context is crucial to creating a sustainable community and environment. Land is at a premium in the city and subject to competing potential uses such as housing, industry, retail and transport. If left to the free market, land would be used in the most economical way but not necessarily coordinated to meet other social and environmental objectives. Land use regulation is therefore necessary through planning policy. Ensuring that there is open space of the right type, in the right amounts and locations is also a function of planning policy.

#### ***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 a part. Genetic diversity, of our crops and of native species, is important for ensuring resistance to disease and to a changing environment. It is diversity at the habitat and ecosystem level that provides us with essential life-sustaining services such as climate regulation.

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

### Current position

Ealing's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and emerging LDF protects green spaces and provides a range of policies to protect the intrinsic values of Ealing's green spaces. The LDF review process has comprehensively audited open space in Ealing. The LDF document is supported with greater detail about open space quantity, quality, customer needs and investment priorities, through the Green Space Strategy (under draft), replacing the Open Space Strategy 2003-8.

The UDP has designated 64 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). NI197 for 2009/10 reported that on 47 of these sites 'positive conservation management has been or is being implemented' – **a score of 73.4%.**<sup>14</sup> Ealing has a Countryside Stewardship Scheme nearing completion, which could be replaced by the new, more holistic Environmental Stewardship Scheme run by Natural England.

The Council already has a number of policies and plans in place that support the expansion of habitats and creation of new space for wildlife, including:

- Local Development Framework (LDF);
- Open Space Strategy;
- Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Grounds Maintenance and Arboriculture contracts - technical specifications;
- Existing Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Community ties are strengthened through partnerships. Volunteers are encouraged at weekly ranger task days and multiple local organisations manage some sites directly (e.g. the London Wildlife Trust, Selbourne Society) or promote sustainable policy (e.g. Friends of the Earth). Ealing Wildlife Network coordinates green groups in Ealing and meets with the council regularly to discuss individual site issues and overarching policies.

The vast network of allotments across the borough also encourages biodiversity. Native hedgerow plantings provide habitat and food for birds. Native and, at times, rare animals reside on the allotments due to the unique habitats created by these pockets of green space.

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<sup>14</sup> There are three important notes:

- A site can only score if the positive management can be proven. It does not mean that other sites are in poor condition or are not being managed.
- These sites are under a variety of ownership and tenure.
- The list of SINCs is about to be revised and the area will increase substantially.

## What do we want to achieve?

Target	Action/Measure
A. Protect all green places, designate them appropriately and enact robust planning policy on issues affecting environmental sustainability	
	A1. Complete Green Space Strategy by Feb 2011 linked into Local Development Framework
	A2. Revise list of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation for the LDF by Dec 2010 and improve the NI197 result year on year.
	A3. Review and revise the Biodiversity Action Plan by June 2011
B. Manage and maintain all council controlled and managed tree in a safe and healthy condition	
	B1. Establish 200 new trees in the borough April 2011
	B2. Explore the use of a tree valuation system to value our tree stock by 2012
C. Enter into partnerships with external organisations where appropriate to support and fund conservation activities in the borough	
	C1. Enter into Environment Stewardship Scheme with Natural England if viable, by end 2011
D. Improve environmental specifications of Ground Maintenance and Arboriculture contracts	
	D1. Include sustainability indicators in the performance management system of the retendered contracts e.g. on pesticide use, vehicle types, water use

## Culture and heritage

*Reviving local identity and wisdom; supporting and participating in the arts*

### **Why is this important?**

“Culture” covers the multitude of things that we do in our leisure time – playing or watching sports, strolling in our parks and open spaces, visiting our museums or art galleries, using our libraries and enhancing our intellectual experiences through reading and learning. It is about people and what makes a place different or special. Cultural activities motivate and enrich the lives of people of all ages who live in and visit the borough. Culture is inclusive. It develops social capital by strengthening local networks, and personal capital by developing people’s skills, health and confidence.

We can help make our communities more cohesive by encouraging cultural activities that help promote a better understanding between different faiths and social backgrounds, and by making our facilities more accessible for local people to experience and participate in culture and leisure activities.

### **Current position**

Ealing Council provides a wide range of cultural and leisure opportunities, some of these opportunities and services are provided by the Council. Many of these opportunities are also provided by the community as well as by other organisations. Ealing Local Strategic Partnership’s Cultural Strategy 2007-12 sets out what the Council is currently delivering, which includes the promotion of sport, the arts, lifelong learning, nature conservation and other community celebrations that bring residents together.

**View Ealing’s Cultural Strategy online:**  
[www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/strategies\\_and\\_policies/cultural\\_strategy/](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/strategies_and_policies/cultural_strategy/)

The council’s Positive Futures programme, delivered in partnership with Brentford Football Club’s Community Sports Trust, is one of the best examples of how young people can be engaged in sport and diverted from crime. Young people on the scheme have also been trained as sports coaches, improving their employment prospects.

The council hosts the annual London Mela on behalf of the Greater London Authority. The London Mela attracts over 90,000 people to a day-long celebration of Asian culture.

## What do we want to achieve?

Target	Action
A. Work collaboratively with partners to improve and promote heritage	
	A1. Secure funding for the refurbishment of Pitzhanger Manor House and Walpole Park; and Gunnersbury Park and Museum.
	A2. Engage partners and communities in the implementation of the Ealing Heritage Strategy
B. Create and maintain high quality and effective parks and open spaces for the use of all residents and visitors	
	B1. Complete revision of Green Space Strategy 2011-2021 by Feb 2011
C. Support sports and physical activity by improving and promoting facilities	
	C1. Complete Sports Facilities strategy 2011 – 2021 by Feb 2011
D. Transform libraries into versatile 21 <sup>st</sup> century community hubs	
	D1. Co-locate libraries with other service providers.
	D1. Provide greater opportunities for involvement in the delivery of modern library services through volunteering, and partnerships with the voluntary and community sector

## Equity and local economy

### *Creating local economies that support fair employment, and international fair trade*

#### **Why is this important?**

A healthy local economy forms an essential foundation of a community. In basic terms, the “local economy” refers to the distance between producers and consumers. A localised economy connects residents to locally based businesses, products, services and trades and keeps wealth within the community. Ensuring Ealing’s residents possess the right skills training and employment opportunities is also an important component of a healthy local economy. The council and its partners have developed a Work and Skills Strategy to address barriers to employment, improve skills and support local economic development.

**View Ealing’s Work and Skills Strategy online:**  
[www.ealing.gov.uk/services/regeneration/employment\\_and\\_skills/](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/regeneration/employment_and_skills/)

It is recognised that it is not feasible to provide everything that a community requires locally; therefore supporting equitable trading is also important. Fair Trade is an alternative approach to conventional international trade. It is a trading partnership, which aims to secure sustainable development for excluded and disadvantaged producers. It seeks to do this by providing better trading conditions, by awareness raising and by campaigning.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Current position**

The health of the local economy is a key feature in Ealing’s Work and Skills Strategy. Objectives include increasing local training and employment opportunities, ensuring the right skills are developed and helping residents secure sustained employment. Each of these objectives supports a healthy local economy. Since it was established in 2008, over seventy 18-24 year olds a year have secured apprenticeships at the Council, leading to a Level 2 qualification.

In 2008 Ealing became a “Fairtrade Borough”, led by a grass roots organisers and supported by Council leaders. More than 40 local businesses offer Fair Trade items and Ealing Council features a selection in the staff café. Building upon this success, Ealing Fairtrade Group aims to involve more schools in activities promoting education and action on the Fair Trade agenda.

#### **What do we want to achieve?**

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<sup>15</sup> Definition of Fair Trade as agreed by Fairtrade Foundation, Oxfam and Traidcraft



Target	Action/Measure
A. Improve employment prospects for residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase local training and employment opportunities for 16-24 year olds</li> <li>– Reduce the proportion of out of work residents in neighbourhoods where over 25% are on out of work benefits (to under 25%)</li> </ul>	
	A1. Secure local training and employment commitments (including apprenticeships, local recruitment targets, training for disadvantaged jobseekers) in local developments through developing guidance in Supplementary Planning documents and ensuring planning and S106 processes provide opportunities to negotiate commitments.
	A3. 225 apprenticeship opportunities to be provided with local employers in Ealing and 20 pre-apprenticeships (volunteering placements) at the council with 50% progressing onto apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds.
	A2. Secure local training and employment commitments in forthcoming council contracts.
B. Reduce the proportion of children in poverty, narrowing the gap between Ealing and the England average from 8.4% to 7%	
	B1. Council and partners to conduct a child poverty needs assessment to inform a local strategy and targets to be developed by March 11.
C. Provide opportunities for social enterprises to start up and grow	
	C1. Develop a programme with partners to incubate social enterprises in the borough
D. Increase Fair Trade items sold on Council premises	
	D1. Introduce Fair Trade items in vending machines

## Health and happiness

*Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well-being.*

### Why is this important?

Health and happiness play vital roles in creating a sustainable borough. Of course, the things that make people happy will vary from person to person, but it is widely accepted that the quality of life enjoyed by individuals is affected by their health and their involvement in, or sense of belonging to, a community. Ealing recognises the importance and has identified health and well-being as key goals in achieving the vision of Ealing's Local Strategic Partnership, set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy:

*"In 2016 Ealing will be a successful borough at the heart of West London, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper and live fulfilling lives in communities that are safe, cohesive and engaged."*

Ealing Council has five priorities when delivering services to its residents and they all relate to making the borough a happier and healthier place to live:

- Making the borough safer
- Securing public services
- Securing jobs and homes
- Making the borough cleaner
- Delivering value for money

Learn more about Ealing's Health and Well-being Board online:  
[www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/lsp/meetings/health\\_well\\_being\\_board](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/lsp/meetings/health_well_being_board)

As well as improving residents' health and happiness, activities to enhance Council employee health and well-being will benefit the organisation by helping to produce a more motivated and productive workforce with fewer sickness absences.

### Current position

The Council has a Health and Well-being Strategy in place, which is being delivered by the Council with its partner organisations. The Health and Well-being Board monitor progress against the areas for action identified in the strategy.

The Council carries out an annual Staff Survey, which asks staff how happy and satisfied they are with working at Ealing Council. The results of this are reported to Corporate Board and actions are identified that may be necessary to support staff who may be experiencing difficulties. Staff contributions that go over and above what it expected are recognised in the Annual Employee Awards.

#### What do we want to achieve?

Target	Action/Measure
A. Increase the number of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	
B. Improve the rate of staff reporting they feel valued and recognised (2009: 53%)	
	B1. Continue Employee Awards programme to recognise outstanding performance
	B2. Use Inside Ealing feature "Ealing Life" to promote understanding of the important services Council provides to residents
C. Increase the percentage of employees that feel that they have correct balance between work and home life (2009:60%)	
	C1. Improve flexible working and home working opportunities
	C2. Review reduced working hours practices to allow for increased flexibility and take up