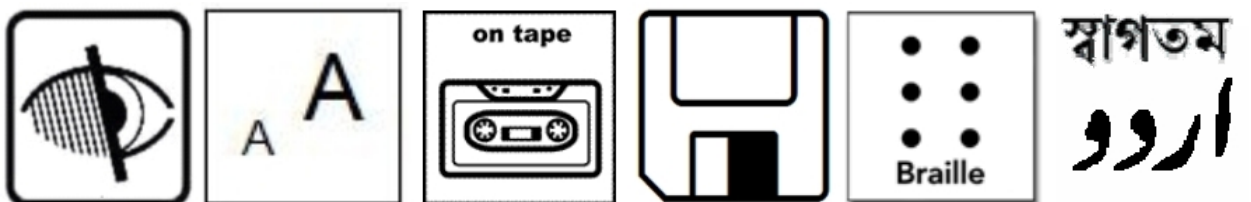


ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

2008/9



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Summary

The local environment impacts not only on the health of the people of today's and tomorrow's Rossendale but also contributes to the environment experienced by the wider world.

The actions and decisions made by many agencies, organisations and individuals have an impact on the environment and will continue to have an impact for many years to come. The environment is important to Rossendale because of its effect on feelings of wellbeing in addition to health and the economy.

The Council, and its partners, recognise the importance of this issue and have expressed a Vision for the future, which includes the state of the environment. This strategy identifies a number of aspects of the environment where action today will safeguard and improve the environment both today and tomorrow. The aspects have been identified as a framework of Aims and are as follows:-

Aim 1 – Climate Change and Energy – to limit climate change by controlling greenhouse gas emissions

Aim 2 – Waste and natural resources - - to minimise waste and the consumption of natural resources

Aim 3 – Street Scene – to improve the cleanliness of Rossendale's environment

Aim 4 – Sustainable transport – to encourage greater use of sustainable modes of transport.

Aim 5 – Air and Noise Pollution – to minimise air and noise pollution in Rossendale

Aim 6 – sustainable water environment – to encourage the sustainable management of the water environment

Aim 7 – Sustainable use of land – to encourage the sustainable use of land within Rossendale

Aim 8 – Natural environment and biodiversity – to protect, conserve and enhance Rossendale's countryside, green spaces and biodiversity

Aim 9 – Awareness and education – to increase awareness of environmental and sustainability issues within Rossendale

Each of these Aims will be achieved through the co-ordinated of agencies, organisations and individuals and delivered through related Actions.

This strategy will be regularly monitored to set a benchmark and record progress being made. It will also be regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to be valid and reflect continually changing realities.

1. Introduction, context and purpose for the Strategy

The local environment impacts not only on the health of the people of today's and tomorrow's Rossendale but also contributes to the environment experienced by the wider world. This brings to life the phrase 'Act locally, think globally'.

Nationally, this strategy links to the Government's strategy "Securing the Future: Delivering UK sustainable development strategy". The Government's Sustainable Development Strategy has the aim of enabling 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. The Government's Climate Change Bill is also planned to be enacted during 2008.

Regionally, the Lancashire Partnership's strategic vision is described in "Ambition Lancashire 2005-2025 with its aim of achieving a greener Lancashire. Their Vision for 2025 is where Lancashire is a County where the dramatic beauty of our landscape and wildlife is cherished, and our urban areas contain fine buildings and inviting open spaces. Lancashire plays its part in addressing global environmental issues and delivering environmental sustainability. This Environmental Strategy represents Rossendale's contribution to achieving the Lancashire Vision. The Lancashire Environment Partnership also published its Environment Strategy 2005-2010 in November 2004. The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy is due for publication in mid 2008.

Locally the Rossendalealive Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008-2018 sets out our Vision for the future and focuses on the priorities of people, places and prosperity. This strategy impacts on all these priorities. Although primarily affecting the priority of place, by protecting and improving the environment, the health, welfare and prosperity of residents, businesses and visitors is enhanced.

The Forward Planning Team are currently progressing the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Rossendale which will replace the Local Plan. The central document within the LDF is the Core Strategy which needs to be a locally distinctive document drawing on other Council documents and strategies. The Environmental Strategy will be a key document which the Core Strategy will need to draw upon but will also have an important role to play in the delivery of the Environment Strategy.

The choices made today, and the behaviour resulting from those choices, impact on the environment and the environment impacts on everyone. By focussing on measures and choices we can enable the Government's aims to be delivered locally. By acting with National, Regional and Local agencies, businesses, voluntary and community organisations, communities and families, we can achieve the overall Vision described in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Council will lead by example; demonstrating good practice and how it can be replicated. The Council is a substantial employer and property owner, and works with a wide range of businesses and organisations. It will seize every opportunity it can to influence and encourage others to take part in its plans to safeguard and improve the environment.

The purpose of this document is to propose issues relating to the Environment and the action that could be taken by of the Council with other agencies, organisations and individuals to protect and improve the environment. Through the development of this strategy, activities can be co-ordinated, best practice spread, the maximum benefit achieved by the avoidance of duplication.

In order to demonstrate its commitment to encouraging and delivering continuous improvement in environmental performance, the Council has approved an Environmental Policy Statement. This is available from the points shown in the appendix.

2. Background to Rossendale

- 2.1 Rossendale is one of the smallest Lancashire districts, with a slowly rising population of just under 66,000. It covers 138 sq km between the conurbations of West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester; a band of urban development runs East-West along the deeply incised upper valley of the River Irwell, flanked by harsh Pennine moorland scattered with isolated settlements.
- 2.2 Centuries of sheep farming on the enclosed moorland gave way in the industrial revolution to textile mills, which in turn have been converted to footwear manufacture or other uses. A string of former mill towns – Bacup, Rawtenstall, and Haslingden – runs east-west along the narrow valley floor, the western end being connected to the motorway network via the M66.
- 2.3 Eighty eight per cent of the borough is green space and a quarter of this is designated green belt land. It is an area of high landscape and recreational value. The Borough offers excellent opportunities for active leisure.
- 2.4 Rossendale's built environment is characterised by the remains of its industrial heritage – there are over 260 listed buildings and eight conservation areas. Stone-built terraced housing constructed before 1919 forms a third of the housing in the borough; it is visually harmonious, but almost a quarter of these houses are unfit and many are occupied by low-income or elderly residents. Approximately 450 sites within Rossendale are potentially contaminated as a result of previous or current use.
- 2.5 On the index of multiple deprivation, Rossendale ranks 92nd among English Councils. Aspects of deprivation such as crime and employment show few extremes, but there is a high degree of health deprivation in the borough – 20% of super output areas (SOAs) are among the worst 10% in the country. The environment in which we live is a significant determinant of health. All the factors that lead to health inequalities are imperfectly understood. However, local action on economic, social and environmental inequalities can make a difference (IDeA – Using the power of wellbeing to improve health. 2006). Men can expect to live for 74.6 years in Rossendale and women for 79.5 years, both less than regional or national averages. Within Rossendale there is a gap in life expectancy of 3.5 years between the poorest and the most affluent areas.

- 2.6 Manufacturing still employs a quarter of the borough's workforce. Unemployment within Rossendale is low, and the economic activity rate, at 80%, is well above regional and national averages. However, wage rates within the borough are low. There is a marked difference between the median weekly wage of those who work in the borough (£289) and those who commute out of the borough, mainly to Greater Manchester (£360). This gap is the largest in Lancashire, and together with health and housing statistics points to a more general diversity among social and economic groups in the borough.
- 2.7 Many people live in Rossendale because of its environment. Public surveys repeatedly highlight the natural environment as the most important factor in the quality of life in the borough. The Council, conscious of the value of this most vulnerable asset, aims to maintain and enhance it for local people.
- 2.8 The Borough has numerous environmental attributes, including several Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The Council's local plan states that the Council wishes to perpetuate the distinctive character of Rossendale's society and culture, to conserve the attractive physical environment, to improve those features that need enhancement and to remedy, in conjunction with other agencies, the unattractive aspects of dereliction, obsolescence, pollution, contamination and conflicting land use. Many aspects of this work are identified as policies in the Local Plan.

One important feature is the special nature of the Borough's moorland areas. Another is the River Irwell which was the focus for industrial development, providing first water power and then steam power. Despite years of pollution, many new industries are now working with environmental organisations to improve the quality of the river, which can now support brown trout and diverse aquatic invertebrates.

3. Vision and Aims of the Strategy

The Rossendale Strategic Partnership has expressed its Priority in relation to place as follows:-

"The Rossendale Valley contains some of the most beautiful countryside in the county. We have a duty to future generations to maintain this aspect and to ensure that we do not take from our natural resources anything which we cannot replenish."

Aims –The aims are set out within the following sections. Each Section contains background information on the subject, the health impact of that subject and sets out objectives for the future. Actions for 2008/9 are attached as an Appendix. Inevitably, this strategy will overlap with others and links to those existing or proposed will need to be identified.

Action Plans to implement the activities will be developed annually and integrated into the plans of participating Departments and partners.

An annual review of progress will be published in order to inform participants of the progress made and to ensure that the Strategy remains relevant.

The following Sections identify eight themes followed by a cross-cutting theme of awareness and education and the proposed means by which the strategy will be implemented, monitored, reported and reviewed.

4. Aim One: Climate Change and Energy

Overall aim – to limit climate change by controlling greenhouse gas emissions

4.1 Background

Climate change is one of the most serious environmental problems facing the world. Climate change is almost certainly caused by a build up of man made emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide and methane. These gases are released through the combustion of fossil fuels for energy generation and transport purposes, but also during the landfill disposal of biodegradable waste and from the use/disposal of products containing greenhouse gases.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (February 2007) reported that evidence and understanding of the warming and cooling influences on the climate leads them to consider, with a 90% certainty, that the increases in global warming are due to human activities.

We depend heavily on the use of energy in our every day lives for the heating and power supply to our homes and workplaces, for transport and for commercial and industrial uses. The majority of our energy is generated from non-renewable resources such as coal, oil and gas, the supplies of which are not without limits. The burning of these fuels releases pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and small particles into the atmosphere, affecting local air quality. Perhaps a more serious problem is the release of carbon dioxide, a contributor to climate change. It is therefore essential that we conserve precious resources by using energy wisely and look instead to the use of renewable technologies including biomass, wind, small-scale hydro-generation, wave and solar energy and other green technologies.

The Council can act in three main ways to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and thereby help the community adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Council can act as:-

a) Community leader – through the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Strategic Partnership, Rossendale Borough Council can work with other public and private agencies and the Rossendale Climate Change Group and others to help cut the overall emissions of their area and develop an integrated response to climate change adaptation.

b) Service provider – for all the services that the Council provides or commissions, it can ensure that the impacts of climate change are properly taken into account and emissions are cut as far as possible. For example,

Building Regulation enforcement will act to improve the energy efficiency of new and altered buildings.

c) Estate manager – the Council is an employer and consumer of energy and other resources. Through better management of transport and buildings, the Council can cut emissions and save money.

The Council has a duty, under Section 3(2) of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, “in exercising any of their functions, to have regard to the most recently published energy measures report (if any)”. This would include action on

- a) improving efficiency in the use of electricity, heat, gas, fuel and other descriptions or sources of energy,
- b) increasing the amount of electricity generated, or heat produced, by microgeneration or otherwise by plant which relies wholly or mainly on low-emissions sources or technologies,
- c) reducing emissions of greenhouse gases,
- d) reducing the number of households in which one or more persons are living in fuel poverty by improving thermal efficiency.

4.2 *Health Effects*

The Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency published a draft report in 2007 entitled “Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK: An Update of the Department of Health Report 2001/2”. From this and other sources, climate change can be expected to cause the following impacts on UK health:-

An increase in deaths, disability and injury from:-

- Extremes of heat and cold;
- Floods and storms, including health hazards from chemical and sewage pollution;
- Food poisoning;
- Respiratory problems from the damaging effects of surface ozone during the summer and mould growth in housing;
- Skin cancer and cataracts;
- Insect-borne disease from increases in flies and fleas.

There may also be health gains deliverable through:-

- Reduced winter deaths from the effects of cold;
- Improved health and prosperity through more frequent access to the outdoor environment for recreation and agriculture;
- Improved opportunities for economic activity related to environmental issues.

4.3 *Objectives for the future*

4.3.1 To reduce methane emissions from waste disposal

4.3.2 To reduce carbon dioxide and small particle emissions from transport use and to reduce carbon dioxide levels generally.

4.3.3 To minimise energy use and carbon dioxide emissions originating from the use of energy

4.3.4 To improve the energy efficiency of homes as a means of reducing fuel poverty

4.3.5 To increase the production and proportion of energy consumed from renewable sources.

4.3.6 To understand, and where possible, mitigate the effects of climate change.

5. Aim Two: Waste and natural resources

Overall aim – to minimise waste and the consumption of natural resources

5.1 Background

Household waste that is not recycled or composted is currently disposed of in landfill sites outside the borough boundary thereby adding the environmental effects of transportation. Although landfill disposal will probably always be required to some extent, it has the potential to cause pollution and releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The most important way of tackling this issue is to reduce the amount of waste that is produced in the first place.

Using the waste minimisation hierarchy, the following action, in order of priority, can both be undertaken by the Council and encouraged amongst others, including the private and voluntary sectors:-

- Eliminate – by eliminating waste, none needs to be disposed of.
- Reduce – similarly, by reducing the production of waste, there is less to dispose of
- Reuse – reusing waste that would otherwise be disposed of as waste means that you are getting better value for money as you are making valuable materials last longer. Another benefit is that new materials do not need to be purchased, thereby saving money.
- Recycle – At this stage some of the materials that have been produced and used could be capable of being used again. Recycling is better than final disposal as this prevents the use of additional natural resources together with potential savings in energy and water for processing and in the use of landfill resources.
- Dispose – the least favourable option. In Rossendale this generally means burying in landfill and space for landfill is increasingly rare and expensive.

5.2 Health effects

There are several possible health effects of waste management operations, including: noise; odour; dust; visual intrusion; damage to plants and animals; damage to soils; pollution of water; pollution of air; emissions of greenhouse gases; and damage to buildings from acidic gas. Of these the scientific evidence indicates that probably the most important on a National scale are emissions of methane from landfill sites. This is important in global warming. Odours from landfill sites can also be important.

5.3 Objectives for the future

5.3.1 To reduce waste production at source

5.3.2 To increase the reuse, recycling and composting of waste

5.3.3 To reduce greenhouse gas emissions formed during the disposal of waste

5.3.4 To support and promote the market for, and procurement of, recycled products and materials.

6. Aim Three: Street Scene

Overall aim – to improve the cleanliness of Rossendale’s environment

6.1 Background

The street scene impacts on the whole community and is consistently rated as the most important issue for local people. A clean, green and safe neighbourhood will win support for and confidence in the Council.

Cleaner, greener environments can support and achieve objectives on health, employment, transport, education etc. For instance, if parks are cleaner, greener and safer, more children will use them, increase their social networks and become fitter. A cleaner well-used area creates a perception that it is cared for and safe and helps discourage anti-social behaviour and serious crime.

Cleaner, greener environments also encourage investment and economic development, support regeneration and help areas to thrive, providing more local jobs and facilities. The Council has a key role in ensuring a cleaner and greener environment and performance in this respect has a significant impact on the public’s perception of the Council in general. The Council’s Open Space, Play and Parks development Strategies include specific initiatives and proposals in relation to this issue. These strategies are also relevant to Objectives 11.2.1, 11.2.2. and 11.2.3.

6.2 Health Effects

A high quality environment can improve health. Natural surroundings reduce stress and encourage people to take up outdoor activities such as walking, cycling or water sports, which help keep us fit and healthy. By improving local environments, we give people places close to home where they can relax or exercise.

It is known that physically active people have a lower risk of dying from coronary heart disease, type II diabetes, hypertension and colon cancer. There is now much evidence that links the natural environment with good physical health and psychological well-being. Today, stress and mental ill health are becoming more common, and the public health costs associated with these conditions are growing. The World Health Organisation estimates that depression and depression-related illness will become the greatest source of ill health by 2020.

6.3 Objectives for the future

6.3.1 To reduce litter and dog fouling on the streets and in public spaces, including parks, green spaces, rivers and other water features,

6.3.2 To reduce the incidence of fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

6.3.3 To improve the visual appearance of the streetscene and make it more “resident-friendly”.

7. Aim Four: Sustainable transport

Overall aim – to encourage greater use of sustainable modes of transport

7.1 Background

Our quality of life depends on transport for easy access to work, school, shopping, leisure and community facilities. However, the way we travel and the continued increase in road traffic is degrading local air quality, causing congestion and contributing to climate change and the depletion of non-renewable resources.

We therefore need to look at how we travel and examine how we can reduce the impact of these journeys. This means trying to become less reliant on the car and seeking more sustainable alternatives. Looking at when we travel and why we travel is important, as is using public policy to ensure that new developments are located appropriately and make it easier to use sustainable means of transport.

7.2 Health Effects

Transport policies have important health consequences through their effects on air pollution, noise, injuries, climatic change, and their ability to create (or not) safe conditions for walking and cycling. These health consequences affect most of the population, not just transport users.

Estimates of the health impacts and costs of transport strategies do not include the health effects of increased walking and cycling and the savings associated with increased walking and cycling for a population. The burden of transport on health is higher than expected, partly because users do not pay the full costs of the transport activities they engage in.

7.3 Objectives for the future

7.3.1 To minimise the environmental impact of traffic, including air pollution and noise,

7.3.2 To reduce the levels of congestion in the valley

7.3.3 To increase the proportion of journeys made by sustainable modes of transport e.g. walking, cycling, public transport and car-sharing in preference to single occupancy car use.

7.3.4 To reduce the need to travel other than by environmentally friendly means.

8. Aim Five: Air and Noise pollution

Overall aim – to minimise air and noise pollution in Rossendale

8.1 *Background*

Air pollution is detrimental to human health, can damage buildings and building materials and has significant effects on wildlife, soils and water. While the air quality in Rossendale is generally good, pollution levels are increasing in some areas due to increased traffic levels. Emissions from commercial premises and bonfires also contribute to pollution levels. Motor vehicles emit a range of pollutants including nitrogen dioxide, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and small particles, which are particularly hazardous to health. In addition, the combustion of fuels for transport, heating and power purposes produces carbon dioxide, which is linked to climate change.

Noise from industry, transport and neighbouring households can affect people's quality of life by causing annoyance, disturbing sleep and in extreme conditions, causing physical damage to health.

8.2 *Health Effects*

For most people, pollution levels in Rossendale are unlikely to cause any serious health effect. During particularly severe pollution episodes, eye irritation or coughing may be triggered. Certain sensitive individuals who are more susceptible to respiratory pollution may feel the effects more acutely, or at lower levels. These individuals include those who suffer from heart and lung disease, including asthma and bronchitis, especially young children and the elderly.

The Government's Air Quality Bands describe the health impact of varying levels of pollution on these sensitive individuals.

The health effects of exposure to noise are an increasingly significant public health issue. Noise is a serious issue and one of the most common environmental problems. It is also the leading disturbing factor in homes and offices. In certain workplaces and during certain leisure activities, such as going to discos or listening to walkmans, excessive noise can severely damage hearing. Effects of today's ongoing noise pollution include:

1. Irritability, behavioural deviation, stress-related psychological problems, communication difficulties, relaxation and sleep disorders.
2. Adverse impact on future generations (deteriorated residential, social and learning environments, impaired human development).
3. Socio-cultural, aesthetical and economic problems (social isolation, run-down neighbourhoods, reduced value of buildings).

8.3 *Objectives for the future*

8.3.1 to maintain and improve air quality in the valley,

8.3.2 to minimise the effects of noise on quality of life

9. Aim Six: Sustainable water environment

Overall aim – to encourage the sustainable management of the water environment

9.1 Background

Water is a valuable resource and an essential requirement for life. We depend on it in our homes and gardens and for industrial and agricultural purposes. Although it is a renewable resource, moving around the hydrological cycle, our increasing demands for water and the release of pollutants into watercourses have a direct impact on the natural environment. A lot of energy is used to purify rainwater and treat sewage so saving water helps to reduce energy use and therefore climate change.

The controlled or accidental discharge of effluents can, however, cause pollution of watercourses that may lead to a reduction in water quality and loss of aquatic species. Also the natural ecosystem relies on surface water so that any water excluded from the environment has an impact on the ecosystem.

The latest forecasts suggest that summers will be drier, while winters will be wetter with increasing occurrences on flash floods, heightened by increased surface run-off caused by extension of the built environment.

To ensure the long-term future of the water environment it is therefore important that we use water wisely and safeguard it from pollution. We also need to protect communities against future flooding incidents by regular maintenance of flood defence schemes, the avoidance of building on flood plains and the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage systems into new developments to control surface water runoff.

9.2 Health Effects

The quality and sufficiency of water is critical for the maintenance of human life and also for the wider ecosystem. However it can also be a vehicle for harm to health by conveying pollution or damaging the infrastructure.

9.3 Objectives for the future

9.3.1 To encourage the sustainable use of water in the valley

9.3.2 To protect and improve water quality in the rivers and watercourses

9.3.3 To effectively manage flood risks in the valley

9.3.4 To ensure the effective operation of foul and surface water drainage systems including the effective and efficient drainage of land.

10. Aim Seven: Sustainable use of land

Overall aim – to encourage the sustainable use of land within Rossendale.

10.1 Background

Land is a finite resource. The pressures on the use of land for homes, jobs, shopping, leisure, food production, transport and building materials can lead to

the loss of what is most valued in the environment. We therefore need to balance the protection of our environment whilst allowing sustainable forms of development that will bring about economic growth, employment and social progress. This includes concentrating development on previously developed or “brownfield” land, where possible, in order to protect the green spaces.

Land can become contaminated by virtue of past or current use or even by the use of an adjacent site e.g. migration of gases from landfill sites. Rossendale has a history of industrial activity over centuries that have left some potentially contaminated sites in the borough. However, few sites are so contaminated that they cannot be re-used for either employment or housing purposes. Contaminated land within the borough needs to be identified and cleaned up where there is a risk to human health and to the environment.

Soil is important for a number of reasons:-

- a) food production is essential for human survival. Almost all vegetation including grassland, arable crops and trees need soil for the supply of water and nutrients and to fix their roots,
- b) soil stores and partly transforms minerals, organic matter, chemicals and energy. It also acts as a natural filter for groundwater.
- c) soil is the habitat for a huge number of organisms,
- d) soil is the platform for human activity. It is part of the landscape and cultural heritage and acts as the foundation for development.

10.2 *Health Effects*

There are no mandatory standards defining concentrations of contaminants in soil above, which there may be an unacceptable risk to human health. Contaminant toxicology and the extent of exposure to contaminants, which is linked to human behaviour at a site, form an essential part of the risk assessment process.

10.3 *Objectives for the future*

10.3.1 to balance the need to stimulate the growth and regeneration of the borough with the need to protect the quality of the environment

10.3.2 to protect Rossendale’s surrounding moorland, parks and green spaces

10.3.3 to make full and effective use of land and buildings within the urban area through bringing the under-used derelict sites and structures back into use where practicable.

10.3.4 to implement a proactive contaminated land strategy in order to reduce the extent of contaminated land.

10.3.5 to minimise the environmental impact of the construction of new developments.

11. **Aim Eight: Natural Environment and biodiversity**

Overall aim – to protect, conserve and enhance Rossendale’s countryside, green spaces and biodiversity

11.1 *Background*

Rossendale's countryside runs alongside and around the urban areas. The moorland to the North and South of the central valley provide an important landscape backdrop and wildlife resource. Together they provide opportunities for recreation, wildlife biodiversity and landscape enjoyment.

Rossendale's natural green spaces and associated wildlife make a major contribution to the quality of life for those who live and work in Rossendale. They also contribute towards Rossendale's image as a green borough and serve to make it an attractive place for companies and people to locate to.

The Green environmental infrastructure is important for several reasons:-

- a) trees ensure that we can breathe by taking CO₂ out of our air, and it
- b) encourages physical activity and therefore improves health
- c) encourages relaxation and a sense of well being and leads to a decrease in graffiti and vandalism
- d) can encourage social interaction between children and different communities
- e) protects and enhances wildlife and natural habitats, which is important for its own sake.

11.2 *Health Effects*

The health benefits of nature are physical, social and spiritual. The evidence base shows three broad levels of engagement with nature that can have beneficial health effects, those being "a room with a view", the presence of nearby nature and active participation with nature.

The value of green space and nature in terms of health benefit is reflected in the Government's Biodiversity Strategy. (Defra 2004). It accepts that objective research supports what many people intuitively feel, that nature is good for us. The strategy notes that projects aimed at encouraging people to take up walking in natural environments, or to undertake active countryside management, have resulted in far higher levels of public participation, as the attractiveness of the environment acts as an additional motivator, and that research shows that mere visual contact with nature reduces stress and promotes well-being. Delivery of biodiversity objectives will not only enhance the quality of the environment, but also provide the underlying foundations for health improvement initiatives, so long as people have access to biodiversity.

11.3 *Objectives for the future*

11.3.1 to protect and enhance Rossendale's biodiversity and green infrastructure including SSSIs.

11.3.2 to encourage informal recreation and enjoyment of Rossendale's green spaces

11.3.3 to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of Rossendale's green spaces and wildlife.

11.3.4 To work with the Lancashire RIGS group to help implement the Lancashire Local Geodiversity Action Plan in Rossendale

12. Aim Nine: Awareness and education

Overall aim – to increase awareness of environmental and sustainability issues within Rossendale

12.1 *Background*

At any one time we are faced by a variety of global and local environmental issues, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, acid rain, litter, air pollution, increased waste production and traffic congestion. These problems are, however, generally the result of the accumulation of local impacts. It is therefore important that local action is taken to protect the environment in order to maintain and improve the quality of life of both present and future generations.

Legislation plays a large part in controlling the environmental impact of businesses, organisations and the public.

The scientific evidence that climate change is a serious and urgent issue is now compelling. It warrants strong action to reduce greenhouse-gas around the world to reduce the risk of very damaging and potentially irreversible impacts on ecosystems, societies and economies. With good policies the costs of action need not be prohibitive and would be much smaller than the damage averted (Stern Report, 2006).

Technology can also offer a number of benefits, such as harnessing of renewable sources of energy, the development of cleaner vehicle technologies and the discovery of new uses for waste materials.

However, the power that individuals have to influence change, through the actions and decisions taken every day, can have a large impact on the environment. Greater understanding of environmental issues by everyone is therefore of vital importance in helping to make choices which protect and improve both the local and global environments. Changes in land-use would have a range of influences on the environment and these would need to be understood.

This is not just about presenting facts and figures but making linkages with people so that they change their attitudes and, thereby, their behaviour. To do this, we would need to:-

- a. Produce clear and consistent information;
- b. Create a sense of urgency;
- c. Confirm the local impact;
- d. Make environmental issues “cool” and become the norm;
- e. Target specific groups with specific messages which are tailored to them;
- f. Recognise that this requires long-term commitment as this is not a short term process;
- g. Recognise the economic impact of environmental actions or inactions
- h. Understand the feasibility of proposed initiatives e.g. carbon sinks, for Rossendale.

12.2 *Health Effects*

It is fundamental to the encouragement of personal responsibility that people, businesses and the community should have access to useful, timely and accurate information upon which personal choices can be made.

12.3 *Objectives for the future*

12.3.1 to increase public awareness of the environment and sustainable development;

12.3.2 to encourage environmentally responsible business practice;

12.3.3 to become a source of information about the links between pollution and wildlife.

13. Implementation, Monitoring and Review

13.1 This Strategy will be implemented through its adoption by the various Departments, their partners and individuals involved. Progress made in implementing the strategy and action plans will be monitored through the Council's performance management framework, through implementation of the Council's Procurement Policy, through the Rossendale Local Strategic Partnership Environment Theme Group and through liaison with partners. A set of indicators will be used to enable absolute changes within the borough to be monitored over time. This will enable us to identify where progress has been made and also where further action may be needed in the future.

13.2 The Audit Commission and Defra have produced a local quality of life indicator set covering a range of important sustainable development issues that influence our long-term wellbeing. They include a range of issues concerned with developing sustainable communities which work to:-

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their communities;
- Meet the needs of existing and future generations; and
- Respect the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally to make their communities sustainable.

The indicators of relevance to the environment can be used to:-

- Paint a picture of the environment locally;
- Facilitate comparisons of performance between different areas;
- Stimulate debate and raise public awareness;
- Inform local strategies and local area agreements;
- Review, justify and set local objectives and priorities;
- Monitor change and assess and evaluate progress over time; and
- Enhance partnership working, shared action and joint working.

The indicators can be merged with the BVPIs of greatest relevance to the Environment to produce a set of information useful for all the above purposes.

13.3 Reference is also made to the performance of business as they have a marked impact on the natural environment. The Council has the ability to influence the environmental impact of businesses and the Government

expects businesses to report on their significant environmental impacts whether they are direct or indirect. Both the Council and organisations with which they interact have an effect in three ways:-

- Supply chain impacts – their use of resources e.g. energy, water, raw materials and logistics
- Direct organisation impacts – boiler or plant emissions, transport emissions, waste, recycling rate
- Downstream impacts – products in use, product disposal

Therefore Government has recommended the use of a selection of key performance indicators and these reflect the overall design of this strategy.

- 13.4 The Council's Environmental Health service will lead on monitoring and reporting progress to the Council and LSP. In addition, it will collect evidence, endeavour to gain commitment and look for any synergistic effects between people's or organisations' activities. During the first 12 months, work will concentrate on understanding the identity of interested organisations and individuals, their knowledge, capacity and capabilities, setting baselines and indicators, delivering and identifying existing and potential actions. These will be brought together in an Action plan appended to this Strategy and the cycle of consultation, encouragement, commitment and delivery repeated annually thereafter.
- 13.5 This strategy will be monitored using the Acorn Scheme for Environmental Management and reviewed not less than annually.

14. National Indicators

- 14.1 On 11 October 2007 the Secretary of State for communities and Local Government announced a new set of 198 national indicators. Final definitions have now been published and indicators of direct relevance to the environment will be included in Annex 4 of their Handbook. A new system for reporting data is being developed and should be completed by the Government by April 2008. Best Value Performance Indicators will be discontinued as indicators from 1 April 2008, although some may continue to be used as local indicators.
- 14.2 Of the indicators that fall within the Economy and Environmental Sustainability section, the following could be regarded of direct relevance to this strategy, although activity in relation to its implementation will impact on many other indicators in addition to those mentioned below. A full list of both local and national indicators, targets and measures will be developed during 2007/8.
- NI 167 Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak
NI 170 Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years
NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
NI 176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes)

NI 177 Local bus and light rail passenger journeys originating in the authority area
NI 178 Bus services running on time
NI 185 CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations
NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area
NI 187 Tackling fuel poverty – % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating
NI 188 Planning to Adapt to climate change
NI 189 Flood and coastal erosion risk management
NI 191 Residual household waste per household
NI 192 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
NI 193 Percentage of municipal waste land filled
NI 194 Air quality – % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations.
NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting)
NI 196 Improved Street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping
NI 197 Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented
NI 198 Children travelling to school – mode of transport usually used

14.3 At the time of writing, work is ongoing to develop baselines and methods of collecting data in relation to both national and local indicators.

ACTION PLAN – 2008/9

Aim One – Climate Change and Energy				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
1.1	Modify the grass-cutting programme to ensure fine turf and intensively mown areas are cut to a high standard while investigating suitable areas for alternative management regimes which promote increased biodiversity and suit changing ground conditions.	To adapt to the longer growing season and site conditions due to the effects of climate change.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
1.2	Investigate and monitor the market to identify vehicles that are able to operate on less solid ground e.g. 4 wheel drive mowers.	To adapt to the effects of climate change by enabling the fleet to operate on damp ground.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
1.3	Trial a minimum of one area to study the impact of less intensive turf management.	To reduce energy consumption in grounds maintenance and increase variety of habitats available.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
1.4	Ensure the use within own sites of chipped timber produced from woodland maintenance.	To reduce energy usage from transporting materials into Rossendale.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
1.5	Evaluate current working practices and encourage behaviour amongst staff that reduces energy consumption through the use of machinery.	To reduce overall energy consumption and creation of CO2 emissions.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
1.6	Audit and modify the current system of collection of Xmas trees, which achieves a high level of public participation, to achieve a lower level of energy usage in the collection process.	To maintain and improve recycling levels and reduce transportation costs and CO2 emissions.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
1.7	Develop an enforcement strategy to ensure compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations in relation to energy efficiency measures in new build and refurbishment.	To improve the reliability of installation of energy efficiency measures, ensure that proposals can be confirmed as implemented and provide information to	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Building Control

		Housing Strategy team to improve accuracy of SAP rating database. This may involve increased action at the time of visits or more visits.		
1.8	Develop a scheme to promote energy efficiency measures at the time an application is made for approval of extensions which are exempt from the requirement to undertake improvement to the remainder of the house.	To increase our knowledge of SAP ratings and encourage people to install energy efficiency measures at the time of other improvements	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Building Control
1.9	Develop a scheme to promote energy efficiency measures at the time an application is made for a Disabled Facilities Grant.	To increase our knowledge of SAP ratings and encourage people to install energy efficiency measures at the time of other developments.	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Building Control
1.10	Establish a portfolio of principle Council buildings and building types (e.g. pavilions).	To be able to develop an environmental picture of the Council buildings to which environmental information can be attached (Phase One, Stage 2 of the Acorn Environmental Management scheme).	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.11	Establish a baseline assessment for all principle Council buildings.	To be able to describe the most likely environmental aspects of the Council, collect information about key legal requirements, information about energy and water usage and any environmental implications (Phase One, Stage 2 of the Acorn scheme).	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.12	Evaluate the feasibility of reducing energy usage in outdoor lighting of unadopted streets or open spaces, having regard to security and safety issues	To reduce the energy consumption of unmetered uses of energy.	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.13	Undertake a procurement exercise in relation to repair and maintenance of civic buildings	To maximise the environmental benefits of such a contract at the time of its renegotiation.	March 2009	Civic Buildings

1.14	Undertake a procurement exercise in relation to gas and electric supply contracts.	To maximise the environmental benefits of such a contract at the time of its renegotiation.	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.15	Establish measurement systems for the measurement of CO2 emission in compliance with the definitions in appropriate National Indicators	To be able to provide information in relation to National Indicators	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.16	Examine the feasibility of applying for funds to install sources of renewable energy on the Civic Building stock	To increase the energy produced on site.	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.17	Evaluate the information obtained through energy monitoring, Display Energy Certificates and feasibility studies and set targets for energy reduction or sustainable energy production on site during 2009/2010	To be able to set meaningful and realistic targets for achievement by end March 2010.	March 2009	Civic buildings
1.18	Consider the installation of motion detectors in areas of low frequency usage in Council buildings	Reduce energy consumption by ensuring energy is not used when the rooms are vacant.	March 2009	Civic Buildings
1.19	Review the transport fleet prior to extension of lease of refuse collection vehicles in relation to their emissions of CO2 and particulates.	Use the opportunity to ensure latest technology is used to minimise emissions.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
1.20	Review the transport fleet used for street sweeping and parks and open spaces maintenance in relation to their emissions of CO2 and particulates.	Use the opportunity to ensure latest technology is used to minimise emissions.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
1.21	Investigate the possibility of introducing driver training to encourage environmentally friendly driving practices	Reduce CO2 emissions by more efficient driving practices.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
1.22	Develop business continuity plans in the event of adverse weather conditions or other situations which may prevent normal activities	Ensure services can be maintained in the event of adverse weather and therefore to be able to adapt to climate change.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing

1.23	Investigate the information available from the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme	Obtain information to assist in the review of transport fleet.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
1.24	Implement a rerouting exercise to minimise the distance driven for the collection of waste	Reduce CO2 emissions	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
1.25	Carry out and implement a rerouting exercise in relation to street sweeping to minimise the mileage driven.	Reduce CO2 emissions.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
1.26	Subject to available resources, undertake a Stock Condition Survey to determine current SAP rating of properties within Rossendale according to a protocol agreed with partners within Pennine Lancashire.	To develop a baseline for energy status of domestic properties, which can be used to monitor progress of strategy and to aid targeting on areas of greatest, need.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.27	Undertake survey of applicants for Equity Release Loans to determine whether energy efficiency action have been taken via own resources by property owners.	Gain information about energy efficiency actions taken where we have no continuing contact with the applicant.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.28	Research the possibility of developing financial incentives for private landlords within the Landlords Accreditation Scheme for energy efficiency measures.	Encourage private landlords to undertake energy efficiency measures in their properties. This could be an additional incentive for landlords to join the scheme.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.29	Undertake a review of information concerning health and benefit take up in relation to Rossendale Wards and Super Output areas.	To enable energy efficiency works to be targeted in 2008/9 in the absence of the data from the Housing Condition Survey	March 2009	Housing Strategy & Environmental Health
1.30	Research the implications of the Energy Bill (or other legislation concerning revision of HECA) and develop strategy for CO2 emissions savings.	To develop a co-ordinated response to the legislation resulting in a proactive plan to reduce CO2 emissions from dwellings in Rossendale.	March 2009	Housing Strategy & Environmental Health
1.31	Develop a project, working with estate agents, to promote energy efficiency amongst owner-occupiers selling their properties by	Encourage energy measures at the time properties are sold and when an Energy Performance Certificate is being produced.	March 2009	Housing Strategy & Environmental Health

	emphasising the financial benefits of energy efficiency measures to raise their SAP rating and thereby increase the sale price or saleability of their properties.	An added benefit could be the collection of SAP ratings from properties being sold to add to the stock condition information.		
1.32	Work with DIY stores, builders' merchants and similar retailers to promote energy efficiency measures and collect information about energy efficiency status of properties.	Promote energy efficiency and improve intelligence.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.33	Engage Housing Associations in the energy efficiency agenda	Promote energy efficiency and improve intelligence.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.34	Develop energy efficiency promotion initiatives involving provision of measures funded from CERT money and/or RBC capital programme.	Direct delivery of energy efficiency measures.	March 2009	Housing Strategy Finance & Environmental Health
1.35	Explore the potential to develop a project in the Elevate area to add energy efficiency measures to the face-lifting schemes.	Take the opportunity to incorporate energy efficiency measures into the contract or to be carried out at the same time as face-lifting to minimise disruption.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.36	Explore the feasibility for the development of an energy efficiency demonstration project, together with partners including a Housing Association, Elevate and others, whereby a small house is improved and fitted with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and occupied by a family. The work also be undertaken by apprentices or identified from within the community.	Demonstrate how a family could save money and live more comfortably in the exemplar project. Evidence from this project would be used to support bids for funding in future years.	March 2009	Housing Strategy & Environmental Health
1.37	Contribute to the work of the Pennine Lancashire Sustainability group.	Joint working and sharing of good practice	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.38	Investigate the possibility of jointly funding a dedicated post to lead energy efficiency measures in Rossendale.	Rossendale has no expertise within the workforce to develop and monitor contracts for energy efficiency. By jointly	March 2009	Housing Strategy

		funding a post, a part-time post would in effect be created.		
1.39	Promote the availability of energy efficiency measures during the delivery of DFGs.	Increase take up of energy efficiency measures in a vulnerable group and gather information concerning SAP rating of a further approximately 90 premises per annum.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
1.40	Assess current Permitted Development Orders to enable recommendations to be made concerning the encouragement of micro-renewable energy installations and SUDS.	To actively encourage the development of measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.	March 2009	Development Control – Forward Planning
1.41	Participate in the development and publication of the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy and in the implementation of the associated Action Plan when published	To participate with partners in wide-ranging climate change issues, spread good practice and co-ordinate action	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
1.42	Develop a behavioural-led initiative to reduce power consumption from ICT equipment	To reduce CO2 emissions resulting from consumption of power by computers and related ICT equipment	March 2009	Customer Services & ICT & Environmental Health
Aim Two – Waste and natural resources				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
2.1	Develop a project to expand the system of waste collection involving fortnightly collections and cessation of collection of side waste	To maximise the roll out of fortnightly collections to reduce disposal and increase recycling of domestic refuse	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
2.2	Increase the establishment of mini bring sites.	To improve access to facilities and encourage recycling.	March 2009	Street Scene - NEAT
2.3	Evaluate the BREW scheme pilot and consider the continuation of the scheme and/or expansion of the scheme that promotes recycling of materials.	To maintain or increase the level of recycled materials from commercial and industrial premises	March 2009	Street Scene - NEAT

2.4	Investigate the development of a project to encourage the separate collection of domestic batteries	To remove batteries from the waste stream	March 2009	Street Scene - NEAT
2.5	Following the reclassification of streets throughout the Borough, to reorganise the street cleaning routes and target the worst streets	To improve the overall state of cleanliness of streets by targeting resources at areas of greatest need.	March 2009	Street Scene – Street Cleansing
2.6	Investigate the feasibility of the promotion of a scheme for the recycling of waste materials produced during the refurbishment of properties.	To reduce the volume of waste building materials which can be reused locally. The feasibility of the scheme will be examined by other parts of the Council.	March 2009	Regulatory services – Building Control
2.7	Develop an initiative to encourage recycling amongst farms and other difficult to access premises to minimise the temptation to burn refuse and increase recycling rates amongst such properties.	To maximise recycling rates and reduce air pollution.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
2.8	Undertake a review to determine the % take up of recycling bins	Set a baseline of take up of various recycling facilities so that the success of any initiative to encourage doorstep recycling in the future.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
2.9	Continue looking into the feasibility of a Resource Recovery Centre within Rossendale.	To enable a much more efficient waste collection strategy to be implemented.	March 2009	Street Scene - Projects
2.10	Adopt an environmental procurement policy in line with that of Lancashire County Council and the North West Centre of Excellence	To ensure that procurement is undertaken to support environmentally responsible practices.	March 2009	Finance - procurement
2.11	Aim to achieve level 1 of the Flexible Framework contained within the Government's Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan	To ensure that procurement is undertaken to support environmentally responsible practices.	March 2009	Finance - Procurement

Aim Three – Street Scene				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
3.1	Carry out an improvement scheme to repair paths in parks	To improve the visual amenity, avoid trip hazards and encourage walking by the provision of safer paths within parks.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
3.2	To investigate the possibility of removing dangerous structures while allowing the future development of land.	To work with Development Control to protect and improve the Streetscene by the removal of eyesores.	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Development Control
3.3	Develop a co-ordinated policy and strategy for tackling empty homes	Reduce the visual pollution from empty and derelict buildings.	March 2009	Housing Strategy
Aim Four – Sustainable Transport				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
4.1	Develop and implement a travel plan relating to travel to and from work and travel requirements during the working day.	To reduce the CO2 emissions from transport in relation to travel. Such a plan would need the establishment of a baseline, which could be obtained through a staff survey. A range of measures could be considered including car sharing, providing cycling facilities, negotiating bus transport, setting up video-conferencing facilities, providing advanced or environmentally-friendly driver training etc.	March 2009	Organisational Development
4.2	Encourage the adoption of travel plans amongst major employers	To reduce the CO2 emissions from transport in relation to travel.	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
Aim Five – Air and Noise pollution				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
5.1	Investigate the extent to which properties within Rossendale may be affected by Radon gas and	To respond to the change in status of the area in relation to the emission of radon	March 2009	Regulatory Services –

	develop a policy for any action found necessary.	from underground.		Building Control & Environmental Health
5.2	Undertake a consultation exercise in relation to the Noise Policy	To ensure that enforcement of issues relating to noise balances and reflects the needs of stakeholders	September 2008	Street Scene – Environmental Health
5.3	Undertake a consultation exercise in relation to the Air Quality Policy	To ensure that enforcement of issues relating to noise balances and reflects the needs of stakeholders	September 2008	Street Scene – Environmental Health
5.4	Investigate the feasibility of the introduction of mobile or temporary NOx monitoring stations to assess localised pollution “hotspots” e.g. outside schools.	To provide intelligence about localised areas of air pollution associated with transport.	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
Aim Six – Sustainable water environment				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
6.1	Undertake a review of water usage, water requirements of planting schemes and introduction of water interception practices	To reduce over-reliance on water through better management practices and help to avoid risk of flooding through reduced water run-off.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
6.2	Develop and implement an initiative to reduce wastage of water	To reduce water wastage in homes and businesses	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
6.3	Complete the preparation of the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To assess the degree to which future development should be prohibited in areas of high flood risk and whether a Level 2 assessment is required.	November 2008	Regulatory Services – Forward Planning Team
6.4	Review and develop services relating to private water supplies including risk rating of supplies serving more than one property.	To implement expected National legislation and control risks to health from private water supplies	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
6.5	Work with the Environment Agency in relation to the Upper Irwell catchment Flood Risk	To help develop options for the engineering options available to mitigate	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental

	Management Strategy	the effects of flooding		Health
Aim Seven – Sustainable use of land				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
7.1	Establish up to date information concerning SSSIs, Contaminated Land and other sites about which information should be taken into account when considering an application.	To ensure that Development Control applications are considered in the light of correct and relevant information in relation to the environmental status of the sites	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Forward Planning Team
7.2	Identify the requirement and advantages of incorporating a range of activities including environmental improvements linked to town-centre re-development and the refurbishment of existing buildings and reclamation of land in the Council's Economic Strategy	To provide appropriate infrastructure to support current and future economic needs	March 2009	Economic Regeneration.
7.3	Manage the investigation of a site of potential contamination in Whitworth working with Defra appointed contractors and funded through the Contaminated Land Capital Grants Programme.	To ascertain whether action is needed to remediate land and protect human and environmental health	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
7.4	Revise and republish the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy	To ensure the co-ordinated and planned delivery of services in relation to potentially contaminated land.	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
Aim Eight – Natural environment and biodiversity				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
8.1	Undertake a procurement exercise in relation to the purchase of herbicides, fertilisers, and compost / soil improvers. Ensure environmentally aware good practice is communicated to customers.	To ensure that the most environmentally friendly, yet effective, materials are purchased. To encourage customers to follow the same practices.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks and Open Spaces
8.2	Ensure practical arboriculture operations do not reduce the biodiversity within our woodlands and undertake a viability exercise	To establish proper management of trees and assist in the establishment of improved habitats and varieties of species.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks and Open Spaces

	to establish how biodiversity can be increased.			
8.3	Develop and implement a programme for the elimination of invasive species e.g. Japanese Knotweed, on land owned and managed by Parks and Open Spaces.	To encourage increase in species and increase potential for biodiversity.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks and Open Spaces
8.4	Provide staff training to increase awareness of the role of Building Control in checking on any biodiversity conditions that may be affected during the demolition and construction phases of developments.	To make best use of the visits to sites undertaken by BC staff to ensure, for example, that any areas of the sites, that are required to be protected, are protected.	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Building Control
8.5	Develop an effective partnership with Lancashire RIGS Group to implement the Lancashire Local Geodiversity Action Plan	To provide local leadership in issues related to geodiversity	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
8.6	Develop a project for the identification and protection of unguarded disused mineshafts and quarries	To remove any statutory nuisances	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
Aim Nine – Awareness and education				
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Target date</i>	<i>Lead Department</i>
9.1	Continue the programme of education in 6 schools on the advantages of recycling and waste minimisation	To increase the level of awareness of waste minimisation	March 2009	Street Scene - NEAT
9.2	Develop and implement a programme of awareness and education involving schoolchildren and signposting improvement works when undertaken.	To raise the levels of awareness of environmental issues amongst schoolchildren and ensure the Rossendale brand is associated with improvements in the environment and to explain what work is being undertaken.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces
9.3	Apply for Green Flag status for at least one park	To demonstrate achievement of good practice in the Parks and Open Spaces service.	March 2009	Street Scene – Parks & Open Spaces

9.4	Identify the level of staff awareness of environmental issues including biodiversity, energy efficiency, waste minimisation and implement a training programme in relation to identified needs	To enable all staff to identify the implications of these issues in relation to their work and also private life. The need can be identified by inclusion in PDPs.	March 2009	Organisational Development
9.5	Consider the establishment of a "Green Champions" scheme to be adopted throughout the Council.	To be a means of leading and ensuring environmentally friendly activities and policies throughout the Council.	March 2009	Civic Buildings
9.6	Investigate the potential for improving the branding of recycling points to present a standard appearance.	Improves the potential for marketing recycling initiatives if a consistent brand is developed.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
9.7	Prepare information sheets to be able to inform residents and others what facilities are available for the collection and/or disposal of hazardous waste	Improve the ability of the Council to provide correct information and reduce the likelihood of fly tipping of hazardous waste.	March 2009	Street Scene - Cleansing
9.8	Widen the membership of the embryonic environmental group within Rossendale to include representation from Senior Management and Portfolio Holder.	To ensure full commitment of the Council and ensure widest representation and leadership.	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
9.9	Ensure that the Council's Core Strategy, Revised Preferred Options incorporate initiatives to promote environmental good practice	To ensure that the Council's Environmental Policy Statement is implemented through ensuring the maximising of opportunities for improving and maintaining the environment.	November 2008	Regulatory Services – Forward Planning
9.10	Review current and existing plans and policies to assess their ability to influence development control decisions pending the adoption of the Core Strategy.	To promote environment requirements in relation to imminent applications and deliver early environmental gains, especially in relation to CO2 emission controls.	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Forward Planning
9.11	Assess PPS22, supplement to PPS1, PPS9 and other relevant National statements and assess what additional measures should be recommended for local adoption	To ensure that National policy is implemented locally with local variation where appropriate.	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Forward Planning

9.12	Develop local lists incorporating additional information to take into account in order to validate applications	To ensure that National lists and specific lists are produced and available for consideration in relation to development control applications.	March 2009	Regulatory Services – Forward Planning
9.13	Raise awareness of implications and means for compliance with Environment Information Regulations	To ensure the Council complies with legal responsibilities	March 2009	Street Scene – Environmental Health
9.14	Hold an Environmental Fair emphasising issues relating to Climate Change	To increase public awareness of environmental issues	October 2008	Street Scene – Environmental Health
9.15	Develop a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment process.	To help ensure that policies and strategies adopted by Rossendale Council reflect principles in the Environmental Policy	Sept. 2008	Street Scene – Environmental Health