

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

2004 - 2008

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Introduction

“The quality of our public space affects the quality of all our lives. It affects how we feel about where we live, where we work and where our children play. Successful, thriving and prosperous communities are characterised by streets, parks and open spaces that are clean, safe, attractive – areas that local people are proud of and want to spend their time.”

“Living Spaces – Cleaner, Safer, Greener” Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2002

- 1 Our local environment is critical to all of us, whether we live in, work in or visit the Winchester District. The state of the local environment can affect many aspects of our quality of life – our feeling of safety, our health and our well-being for example.
- 2 There are many different aspects which go to make up our local environment. This includes everything we see when we step outside our front door: parks, countryside, trees, street furniture, and the wildlife and nature that exists within and around it.
- 3 As a local council, we have a key role in maintaining our local environment for current and for future generations, ensuring our residents have a safe and pleasant environment in which to lead their lives.
- 4 This strategy picks out six important themes in looking after the local environment: open spaces, the street scene, countryside, biodiversity, trees and hedgerows and environmental protection. These themes form the six chapters of this strategy.

Winchester District’s Community Strategy

- 5 The City Council is a partner of ‘Winchester and District Working Together...’, a partnership involving different private, public and voluntary sector organisations who are working together to achieve a better quality of life for those living and working in our District.
- 6 The partnership has created a Community Strategy, setting out what it is going to do to achieve this aim, including the following vision for a High Quality Environment:

To protect our environment and use natural resources carefully so that we, and the generations to come, will continue to enjoy the natural and built environment within this District.
- 7 As a member of the partnership, we will work to achieve this vision, and this strategy is aimed at helping us do so.

Winchester City Council's Corporate Priorities

- 8 Each year, the City Council lists its priorities for the District, and for the 2004 – 2007 rolling three year strategy, the following are two of the key priorities which we are working towards:

Homes and Environment: to provide affordable homes in safe and pleasant environments for all sectors of our community

Green Agenda: to minimise pollution and waste and to make efficient use of resources

- 9 This strategy will contribute to achieving these priorities.

What this strategy will do

- 10 There are many different officers and teams working to look after our local environment, as well as numerous partner organisations and voluntary groups.
- 11 This strategy seeks to draw together the work of all these people to ensure our overarching aim, to protect and enhance the District's environment, is effectively achieved.
- 12 This strategy recognises the links between the different aspects of our environment. All the six chapters are interlinked and have an impact on each other. The strategy seeks to recognise this, and ensure that these are not seen as six separate chapters but as themes which mesh together to describe the local environment experienced by those who live, work and visit our District.

Reviewing the strategy

- 13 The Environment Strategy will run from 2004-2008. Progress towards achieving the aims set out here will be reviewed in quarterly so that it will remain a flexible strategy, able to take account of new targets, initiatives and opportunities. This will also allow it to influence our business planning process which runs throughout the year.
- 14 Part of monitoring the strategy will include annually examining our performance against the following national and local indicators, as well as new local performance indicators which will be developed alongside the key indicators for the environment chapter of the Community Strategy.

Reference	Indicator	02/03 Actual	03/04 Target	03/04 Actual	04/05 Target	05/06 Target
BV82a	Percentage of waste recycled	16.1%	19%	17.85%	20%	36%
BV82b	Percentage of waste composted	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1%
BV89	Satisfaction survey cleanliness of streets (surveyed every 3 years)	n/a	80%	73%	n/a	n/a

Reference	Indicator	02/03 Actual	03/04 Target	03/04 Actual	04/05 Target	05/06 Target
BV 106	% new homes built on brownfield sites	77%	70%	72%	63%	65% (due to MDAs)
BV119e	Satisfaction with Parks/Open Spaces (surveyed every 3 years)	n/a	75%	81%	n/a	n/a
BV199	Cleanliness of Environment - % of assessed land deemed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus	New 03/04	No target as new indicator and no info to base target on	10%	10%	8.5%
	Annual use of developer contributions for open space provision (percentage of contributions received/spent)	29%	60%	70%	100% of money received in 04/05 to be spent in 04/05	100% of money received in 05/06 to be spent in 05/06
LPI CL 04	% of people satisfied with cleanliness standards (surveyed every 3 years)	n/a	90%	87.10%	n/a	n/a

Links outside the strategy

- 15 The Environment Strategy focuses on the physical and natural environment of the District, although there are several links to other aspects of the environment which will be addressed elsewhere.
- 16 Aims and actions for the built and the historic built environment are not included in this document, although we recognise the quality and state of the buildings in the District contribute significantly to how the local environment is perceived.
- 17 The City Council is also creating a strategy which will focus on integrating sustainability into the internal working of the City Council. This will impact on how the Environment Strategy delivers its actions, ensuring that they are sustainable.
- 18 Climate Change is also a serious threat to our local environment and to whether future residents of the District will be able to continue to enjoy the same standard of local environment as we have now. A strategy to address this will be written by the City Council in next two years, setting out what we as a local authority can do, and can encourage others to do.

Open Spaces

Our Vision:

The quality and safety of Winchester City Council's parks, gardens and public open spaces are important to us. These areas play an important role in creating places where people can meet, play sports, enjoy the arts or simply relax. They are also important not just for recreation but for creating a focus for a community and contributing to residents' quality of life. We want a district where everyone has access to a variety of open spaces where children can play and which are safe and clean. We also want to make sure that our parks and gardens are of a good quality for our residents, and that they are both appropriate and attractive.

- 1 To achieve this, we need to:
 - recognise that the amount of open space in the District makes a meaningful contribution to the well-being of our community
 - ensure new development has adequate provision of open spaces, or access to facilities nearby
 - work to maintain the Council's own areas of open space to a high level of cleanliness, safety and attractiveness
 - promote the appropriate consideration of all aspects of design, function and character in open spaces
 - encourage the work of community groups and Parish Councils to care for areas of open space in their localities
 - encourage biodiversity to flourish by promoting less formal areas in the Council's open spaces to create wildlife corridors
- 2 Public open space is important for many reasons. It contributes significantly to social inclusion because it is free and available to all, and can become the focus for a community through the many and varied opportunities provided for social interaction.
- 3 The health benefits of using recreational space are also important, arising from the opportunity to engage in healthy outdoor exercise and from the psychological effects arising from the way that they allow escape to a less stressful, more relaxing environment. There are many open spaces in the District which can be used for recreation, including the River Itchen Navigation for example, which promotes recreational activities such as walking and fishing.
- 4 Caring for open spaces also benefits the wildlife in the District. There are opportunities in formal open spaces for areas to be left wild to provide habitats for a variety of wildlife.

What we currently do

- 5 There are many beautiful parks and open spaces in Winchester District which present a variety of opportunities for formal and informal recreation. The City Council currently manages 36 equipped play areas, as well as three skate parks and three sports complexes.

- 6 We are responsible for cleaning and maintaining these areas, which is done through our external contractor, SERCo. The City Council has a five-year plan for refurbishing its play areas that will also ensure that a good standard of access for disabled users is achieved for each play area so that all residents can safely use the facilities.
- 7 There are public open spaces in the District which are not owned by the City Council. In the parished areas of our District, Parish and Town Councils are responsible for the recreational grounds and playing fields in their areas (with the exception of those at Whiteley and a playground at Bishops Waltham, which are managed by us). These open spaces may also be owned by a private trust or a resident's group. For those areas not owned by the Council, we offer an annual maintenance report giving advice on the condition of the area and its equipment. Sometimes the City Council may take on a privately owned open space to ensure it is properly cared for.
- 8 We also play a vital role in the provision of public open spaces in new housing developments in the area. Through policies in our Local Plan, and agreements with developers, we obtain recreational space in all new and existing housing developments. Or, if the development is too small, we obtain a contribution from the developer which forms the Open Space Fund for that parish, to be spent on providing or improving facilities locally. We also advise on the equipment that should be provided at these spaces and help Parish Councils spend the money allocated to their area through the Open Space Fund on new open spaces.
- 9 We are responsible for cutting the grass and carrying out other maintenance works on many amenity areas around the District. Our contractor, SERCo, undertakes the work in accordance with a specification approved by the City Council. We also maintain highway verges (excluding trees) on behalf of Hampshire County Council, which is responsible for setting the standards required for this work.
- 10 Open spaces in the District also include pedestrian precincts and market squares. We play a role in ensuring that these areas are well maintained through street cleansing amongst other things, well designed through our policies in our Local Plan and made attractive by sponsoring campaigns such as Winchester in Bloom. There are also local committees which run Bishops Waltham and Denmead in Bloom, which we support where we can by offering advice. Parish Councils also play a key role in looking after these open spaces in their localities. The 'Street Scene' chapter of this strategy will go into more detail on how we care for these important areas in our District.

Working in partnership

- 11 To provide attractive, safe and appropriate open spaces for our District, we work in partnership with a number of people and organisations.
- 12 So that all new housing developments in the District have access to recreational areas, we work closely with developers who contribute to the open space provision for a new area.
- 13 We also want to develop our partnership with our residents, their Parish Councils and the Winchester Town Forum by improving consultation with them

over recreational spaces in their area and what facilities they would like to see provided. Involving residents through consultation by ourselves and by Parish Councils in the provision of open spaces in their area will be a key part of achieving our aims for open spaces in the District.

- 14 A healthy river or stream corridor can be the focal point of new development, adding to the quality of life of local people. They provide urban greenways, as well as maintaining an area where wildlife can flourish. Along with developers, the City Council works with the Environment Agency to ensure that these waterways are kept in a good condition, enhancing our open spaces.

Links to other plans

- 15 The City Council contracts out the services related to the maintenance of our open spaces to SERCo. A key document therefore is our contract with SERCo, aspects of which will be reviewed to ensure we are meeting this strategy's aims.
- 16 The current Open Space Strategy plays a very important role in how we provide and improve recreational facilities for our District. This strategy is updated annually and used by the City Council's planning officers in determining what recreational provision new developments in the District should be provided by the developer either as an on-site facility or through a monetary contribution.
- 17 The Winchester District Local Plan is a vital document for open spaces in the District, setting out the standards in terms of quality and quantity for recreational space that should be provided for existing and new development.

What will we do to meet our aims?

- 18 There are several ongoing tasks which will help us achieve our aims for our open space.
- 19 Residents will be asked for their views on the provision of facilities in new recreational areas through a programme of consultation. Where the recreational area is to be sited in a new housing development, people living in the nearby area will be consulted.
- 20 We will continue to provide timely advice and support to parishes and the Winchester Town Forum to make sure they have sufficient open space to meet their needs, and to make sure that any money allocated to them in the Open Space Fund is spent.
- 21 We will review the formula for assessing the amount of open space to be provided by developers at new development sites, to ensure that it results in play areas or sports grounds of a high standard which will be of great benefit to the community. This review will also include whether open space funding can provide resources for the continued maintenance of open spaces by Parish Councils.
- 22 The opportunity for this to be done will arise during the introduction of the Local Development Framework, which will replace the Local Plan. As part of this review of policy, the effectiveness of the implementation of policies for designing 'safer' open space environments will be evaluated, along with monitoring of the design and use of open spaces to ensure that they can be accessed and enjoyed by our residents.

- 23 Communities and Parish Councils also play a vital role in looking after plots of open space in their areas. This can include local community conservation groups getting together to maintain and care for a particular piece of land in their neighbourhood or a Parish Council working to create a pocket park in the parish for the benefit of all residents.
- 24 We want to encourage Parish Councils or community groups to continue to take responsibility for the open spaces in their areas to help increase community empowerment in running local facilities in a way suitable to their needs. We will also continue to provide these groups with support and advice so that they can maintain responsibility for their open spaces and care for them in way most appropriate to the area's needs.

Action Plan for Open Spaces						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target date
1	Recognise that the amount of open space in the District makes a meaningful contribution to the well-being of our community	Residents making more use of the open spaces in the District	Publish a new Sport and Active Recreation strategy, encouraging resident's use of public recreation facilities	To be reviewed in light of strategy's actions	Sports & Recreation Development Officer, involving Parish Councils	March 2005
2	Ensure new development has adequate provision of open spaces, or access to facilities nearby	All housing development areas make proper provision for sustainable community and recreational facilities	Provide guidance and advice on appropriate community and recreational facilities for incorporation into all housing development areas	Satisfaction with facilities measured through resident satisfaction surveys	Open Spaces Officer, Parks and Recreation Officer, Forward Planning Team	Ongoing action
3	Work to maintain the council's areas of open space to a high level of cleanliness, safety and attractiveness	Parks and play areas maintained to a high standard	Carry out a review of grounds maintenance to ensure that this service is operating efficiently and effectively	User satisfaction evaluated through questions posed to the Citizens' Panel	Parks & Recreation Officer	December 2005
4	Promote the appropriate consideration of all aspects of design, function and character in open spaces	Excellent quality play areas which contain appropriate and well maintained equipment	Continued implementation of the agreed five-year playground improvement programme, which will lead to a better quality of playground provision for the District	User satisfaction evaluated through questions posed to the Citizens' Panel	Parks & Recreation Officer	To be completed 2008

Street Scene

Our Vision:

The street scene is what we see whenever we step out of our front door: the townscape, buildings and the views between them. It includes the roads, pavements and street furniture. We want to live in a clean environment which is free from litter, fly-posting, offensive graffiti and fly-tipping. We want our environment to be clean and enjoyable for those who live, work and visit Winchester District.

- 1 To achieve this we need to:
 - make sure all departments and other agencies work together to keep the environment tidy and free of all forms of litter, fly-posting, graffiti and fly-tipping on public land
 - work with our partners and residents to ensure litter is minimised and to ensure that we can respond quickly to any problems relating to our street scene
 - work to make sure the street scene throughout District is as safe, accessible for all residents and attractive as possible, recognising the different needs of the urban and rural areas of the District
 - seek opportunities to enhance the street scene with planting, sculpture, art, appropriate street furniture and other means where this is suitable to the area
- 2 All of us, whether we live in Winchester Town or in the countryside, come into contact with the street scene every time we leave our homes. It includes the streets, paths and street furniture on the high street or in our open spaces. For the rural areas in our District, where there might not be any pavements, the street scene can also include the ditches and verges by the road-side and the hedgerows.
- 3 The quality of these areas has a major impact on our lives. It affects our sense of well-being and how we feel about the places where we live. It can also affect how safe we feel when we leave our house. For example, effective street lighting in urban areas can help make people feel safe when they are out at night, and well-maintained pavements can help those with walking difficulties feel confident when they leave their homes.
- 4 The street scene throughout the District also gives a sense of identity to the areas in which we live. We want to ensure that the street scene in our District is appropriate for the area. The street scene in Winchester Town is very distinct from the look and feel of our rural villages, which will also be different from the very remote and sparsely populated rural areas of the District.
- 5 This chapter regards street scene as principally referring to the areas around where people live, and their main areas of work. The corridors along major roads in the District are not included here, nor are the buildings, although it is recognised that these make a significant contribution to the street scene.

What we currently do

- 6 Residents want their street scene to be clean, safe, attractive and accessible. We have a key role to play in coordinating services that affect the street scene to improve the local environment.
- 7 The City Council is responsible for many activities to look after our street scene, involving several different departments and our external contractor SERCo.
- 8 We clean and remove litter from main city streets several times a day, and other local shopping areas and litter 'black spots' receive extra attention on a regular basis. All roads throughout the district are swept according to a schedule, with more attention being given to those most heavily used. A litter 'hit squad' can deal with problems at short notice, such as fly tipping and spillages. We also provide services to ensure that the street scene is kept free of other elements which detract from the street scene, such as dog fouling, graffiti, fly posting and fly tipping.
- 9 We are responsible for grass cutting in public areas, and liaise with Hampshire County Council over grass cutting in areas of their responsibility.
- 10 We provide and co-ordinate a number of other services which affect the street scene. Through the District's Community Safety Partnership, we are responsible for community safety, and run a network of CCTV cameras in Winchester Town and Bishop's Waltham which help increase personal safety and reduce the fear of crime, as well as protect public and private property which make up our street scene.
- 11 The City Council is responsible for the maintenance of our own tree stock and liaising over the protection and maintenance of other trees. These all link with our street scene to form our public space, and it is our responsibility to ensure these areas are 'liveable'. These elements of our public space are discussed in separate chapters ('Open Spaces' and 'Tree and Hedgerows').
- 12 We are the principal sponsor of 'Winchester in Bloom', part of the larger 'Britain in Bloom' horticultural campaign. Winchester in Bloom takes part in the annual Southern England in Bloom competitions, and supplies and maintains hanging baskets and other floral containers for businesses within the city. Winchester in Bloom also runs its own local competition for businesses and local residents in the District. Local committees run their own 'In Bloom' competitions in Bishops Waltham and Denmead, which the City Council assists by offering advice.

Working in partnership

- 13 In addition to our direct services, we work with other organisations to ensure the best possible standards for the street scene.
- 14 Hampshire County Council is an important partner particularly in the maintenance of the streets, roads and pavements in our District. It is the Highway Authority for our District, and so has responsibility for maintaining our roads, streets and pavements to a good condition. We want to work closely with the County Council in improving roads and pavements throughout the District to ensure the safety of our residents. Hampshire County Council is also responsible for the street lighting in the District, working in partnership with the Parish Councils who set their own level of street lighting as appropriate to their

area. As the Winchester town area is unparished, the City Council is responsible for setting its level of street lighting.

- 15 We also need to work effectively with private organisations, including fast food companies, bus companies and the Winchester City Centre Partnership. We can work with businesses and chambers of commerce throughout the District to make sure litter such as fast food litter is minimised and removed as quickly as possible. We also wish to improve how we work with bus companies and parish councils over the cleansing and maintenance of bus shelters, which form an important aspect of the street scene all over the District.
- 16 Lastly, we need to work in partnership with our residents to educate and raise awareness of the need to reduce litter from a variety of sources, such as the litter from cigarettes in our streets. We also want to find out residents' opinions on how safe and attractive the street scene in and around where they live is and what we can do to improve it.

Links to other plans

- 17 The City Council currently contracts out the majority of the services which look after the street scene to SERCo. A key document is our contract with SERCo, aspects of which will be reviewed to ensure we are meeting this strategy's aims.
- 18 The Community Safety Strategy forms an important link, recognising the role that a pleasant and clean street scene can play in managing the crime and fear of crime.
- 19 Neighbourhood Design Statements, Village Design Statements, Parish Plans and the Winchester District Local Plan are important to the street scene as they will guide any development in the area, and ensure elements of the street scene such as road and footway design, street furniture and signage are in keeping with the feel and look of the area.

What will we do to meet our aims?

- 20 Although we currently undertake a lot of work to help make sure our street scene is safe, attractive and clean, we can still improve the coordination of our services.
- 21 The action plan sets out what we will do to improve the street scene in the District. We will also clearly set out our service standards and responsibilities on our website for residents.
- 22 We will ensure better communication between our departments and Hampshire County Council to reduce signage and street furniture clutter throughout the District, and ensure signage and furniture is suitable to the area. This will also include looking at ways of increasing accessibility for all visitors and residents by working with businesses and organisations such as the Chambers of Commerce to address the issue of sandwich boards, bollards and other potential pavement obstacles.

Action Plan for Street Scene						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
1	Make sure all departments work together to keep the environment tidy and free from all forms of litter, fly-posting, graffiti and fly-tipping on public land	Improvement in the quality of street scene throughout the District	Establish clear leadership of the street scene, by appointing a Member and an officer who will have responsibility for overseeing all work relating to the street scene aims. Priorities for the street scene assessed on appointment of lead Member and officer	Level of residents' satisfaction will be measured through questions posed annually at the Citizens' Panel and the three yearly tenant's survey	Cabinet to allocate a Member Chief Executive to allocate an officer	March 2005 Head of Health and Waste Management designated as officer lead
2		Closure of gaps in provision for maintenance of street scene, and clear understanding of responsibilities and accountabilities across Council departments and our partners	Establishment of an officer group (including Hampshire County Council and SERCo). Aim of group to share best practice, review policies, share budgets and agree a consistent approach to contract management and service provision	Level of residents' satisfaction will be measured through questions posed annually at the Citizens' Panel and the three yearly tenant's survey	Director of Health & Housing	Group has already met and will continue to meet regularly

Action Plan for Street Scene						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
3	Work with our partners and residents to ensure litter is minimised and to ensure that we can respond quickly to any problems relating to the street scene	A clean, safe and well maintained street scene throughout the district	Review cleansing and maintenance schedules covered by the contract with SERCo. Ensure the schedules are up-to-date and fully integrated, including grounds maintenance and litter bin emptying throughout the District	Level of residents' satisfaction will be measured through questions posed to the Citizens' Panel and the three yearly tenant's survey	Head of Health & Housing Management	Review complete by March 2005
4	Work with our partners and residents to ensure litter is minimised and to ensure that we can respond quickly to any problems relating to the street scene	Reduction in littering at unauthorised travellers' encampment areas	Liaise with the County Gypsy officer over approaches that will work to reduce litter left at unauthorised travellers encampments	Once approaches agreed upon, measures to gauge their effectiveness will be set	Head of Health & Housing Management	Approach agreed by July 2005
5		Reduction in litter throughout the District, and quicker responses to complaints regarding cleanliness	Coordinate litter reporting mechanisms to Customer Service Centre, linking to Neighbourhood Wardens and Litter Hit Squad and involving Parish Councils. Work closely with Winchester Litter Pickers, fast food restaurants etc. to remove litter	Level of residents satisfaction will be measured through questions posed at the Citizens' Panel and the three yearly tenant's survey	Director of Health and Housing and Director of Community Services	To be undertaken as part of set up of Customer Service Centre by July 2005

Action Plan for Street Scene						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
6	Work to make sure the street scene in the District is as safe, accessible and attractive as possible	A responsive 'on the ground' service to liaise with residents over cleanliness and maintenance issues	Provide a Neighbourhood Warden service in Stanmore and Highcliffe initially, which will act as a key reporting mechanism.	Wardens set individual targets which will be monitored regularly. Effectiveness of scheme and communication between wardens and departments reviewed December 2005	Director of Community Services	Wardens in place by December 2004 Will have a continuous impact
7		The street scene throughout the District is visually enhanced and anti-social graffiti is discouraged	Work in partnership with Police and Probation Service on project to clean up graffiti and, if appropriate, use surface for community art project.	Project to be reviewed December 2005 to evaluate its success. Resident's perceptions of graffiti in the District assessed through regular questions in Citizens' Panel	Community Safety Officer	Ongoing project
8	Work to make sure the street scene in the District is as safe, accessible for all residents and attractive as possible, recognising the different needs of the urban and rural areas of the District	Improved street scene throughout the District through appropriate street furniture and signage and with regard to whether the area is considered rural or urban	Review communication between Council departments and with Hampshire County Council to reduce signage clutter in the District and ensure it is appropriate to the area	Resident's perceptions of the street scene in the District assessed through regular questions in Citizens' Panel	Team leaders in Engineering, Planning and Landscape, along with input from Hampshire County Council and Parish Councils	Group to be set up by March 2005

Action Plan for Street Scene						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
9	Work to make sure the street scene in the District is as safe, accessible for all residents and attractive as possible, recognising the different needs of the urban and rural areas of the District	Improved street scene throughout the District, contributing to feelings of safety	Review working between the City Council, Parish Councils and bus service providers to clean and maintain bus shelters	Resident's perceptions of the street scene in the District assessed through regular questions in Citizens' Panel. Complaints regarding bus shelter cleanliness to be monitored through new Customer Service Centre	Head of Health and Waste Management	On going
10	Seek opportunities to enhance the street scene with planting, sculpture, art, street furniture and other means	Improve our street scene by undertaking projects, which visually enhance the local environment	Undertake a scheme to improve the visual quality of subways adjacent to Winchester station	To be confirmed on commencement of scheme	Arts & Community Officer	Date to be confirmed
11			Landscaping and environmental improvement through planning conditions and environmental improvement grants	Level of residents' satisfaction will be measured through questions posed at the Citizens' Panel and the three yearly tenant's survey	Director of Development Services	Continuous

Countryside

The environment in Winchester District is enriched by the high quality countryside around us. There are many areas of landscape which are recognised and valued both nationally and locally for their special character and cultural and ecological value, including the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Forest of Bere and the Itchen, Arle, Dever and Meon Valleys. We want to protect and enhance this countryside for residents and visitors alike, whilst also ensuring that we support a diverse and prosperous rural economy.

- 1 To achieve this we need to:
 - ensure that our strong countryside policies in our Local Plan are continuously upheld
 - encourage community involvement in protecting and enhancing the countryside
 - work with conservation organisations to ensure that our countryside is protected, managed and maintained appropriately
 - seek opportunities to work with landowners, residents and developers to enhance the countryside's visual quality and biodiversity
 - help to make sure responsible and appropriate access to the countryside is maintained and promoted in partnership with Hampshire County Council
- 2 The quality of the environment in which we live is important to us for many reasons, including its recreational value and its contribution to the local economy through tourism. We are fortunate in Winchester District to live in an area containing a large proportion of countryside with a complex combination of contrasting landscapes, land uses and activities. This chapter focuses on the countryside aspect of the District's rural areas. Further important rural issues will be picked up in our Economic Development Strategy and our Social Inclusion Strategy.
- 3 There are numerous pressures on our countryside such as the need for development and the conflicting aspirations that different groups have for the countryside. Changes which are necessary to sustain a prosperous and multi-purpose countryside must be carefully managed.

What we currently do

- 4 Our natural environment is valued and many features are protected by national and local designations, with over a quarter of the District falling within the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We have a statutory duty under the Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000) to have regard for the purpose of enhancing and conserving the AONB area. The District includes two National Nature Reserves (NNRs), 20 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and over 500 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The Itchen Valley is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Just over half the area covered by SSSIs within this District is considered to be in a favourable condition.
- 5 The Winchester District Local Plan is the principal document which sets out how we intend to manage change in the countryside. Alongside providing for the

economic and social needs of those who live in rural areas, the Local Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the character of the countryside and its natural resources, for local people and visitors.

- 6 Through the proposals in the Local Plan, certain constraints will be put on development in the countryside. Areas of particular importance in the countryside such as the AONB, SSSIs, SINC's and Historic Parks and Gardens will also be subject to specific policies in our Local Plan. Development likely to harm a SSSI or a SINC will not be permitted unless the reasons for development clearly outweigh the harm to the special nature conservation value of the site.
- 7 To protect the countryside, the Local Plan also currently designates Local Gaps of countryside to preserve the separate identities of settlements which are at risk of merging together. These complement the Strategic Gaps designated by the Hampshire County Structure Plan, which ensure that there are substantial breaks between major built-up areas in the County. Due to changes to the planning framework of the region, the County Structure Plan will be superseded by the South East's Regional Spatial Strategy, and the Local Plan will be superseded by the Winchester District Local Development Framework (LDF). This will mean that aspects such as Strategic Gaps will be considered in the LDF in the future.

Working in partnership

- 8 Our role in protecting, maintaining and enhancing the countryside also involves a great deal of partnership work in order to access the appropriate expertise for our area.
- 9 The City Council owns a small amount of countryside in the District, which is managed by our Parks and Recreation team. We also have a statutory responsibility to manage a SSSI that is in our ownership (St Faith's Meadow). Hampshire Wildlife Trust (HWT) has provided a management plan for the area, funded by a Planning Grant. HWT also manage Winnall Moors on our behalf.
- 10 We work with various community groups, parish councils and voluntary groups in order to assist and support the maintenance of areas of the countryside which we do not own. We also work closely with national agencies such as the Environment Agency and English Nature, as well as the Countryside Agency and the body which will supersede it to look at wider issues affecting the District's countryside.
- 11 As 40% of the AONB covers our District, the City Council part-funds an AONB officer, and is a key member of the Joint Advisory Committee which oversees the AONB. We have a duty to prepare a management plan for the AONB which we have done in partnership with Joint Advisory Committee. The City Council also has two Members who sit on the Forest of Bere and Eversley Joint Members Working Group.
- 12 The City Council is also working in partnership with other local authorities, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and English Nature as part of the Itchen Navigation Steering Group. This group, with a project officer funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is putting together a bid to restore parts or all of the Itchen navigation which runs through Winchester District. This has the

aim of greatly improving access along the towpaths of the navigation and will also benefit for the biodiversity of the area.

The proposed South Downs National Park

- 13 A public inquiry is currently underway to look into the creation of a South Downs National Park. This will include the area currently designated the East Hampshire AONB, as well as a northwards and westwards extension of the AONB.
- 14 The City Council objects, in principle, to the proposals for the designation of a South Downs National Park, as it considers this designation and the administrative arrangements associated with it are neither desirable nor necessary. Should the National Park be created, there will be implications for the countryside and the Council's role in its protection and maintenance that will need to be addressed.

Links to other strategies/plans

- 15 The Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment identifies distinctive 'Landscape Character Areas' across the whole District, each with its own key characteristics and strategy on how the landscape should be managed. This is important for the countryside as it sets out to conserve, restore and enhance the character of the District's landscape.
- 16 The Winchester District Local Plan contains sets of policies which aim to protect the countryside generally from inappropriate development. There are specific policies relating to specially designated sites and Historic Parks and Gardens in the District, protecting them against detrimental development, and ensuring any harmful effects of development are mitigated.
- 17 Village and Neighbourhood Design Statements, Parish Plans and Conservation Area Appraisals also enable local people to play a part in looking after and enhancing their local areas of countryside. Conservation Area Appraisals define the special and distinctive character of a designated conservation area. Village and Neighbourhood Design Statements are produced by communities to identify local character and set out design guidance to help guide new development. A Parish Plans is a document prepared by a community, which describes how the community sees itself developing over the next few years, and will include environmental as well as social and economic concerns and issues. All of these will examine the look and feel of the villages and towns which are set in the countryside of the wider District. The City Council will also assist Parish Council and community groups who have prepared a Village Design Statement update them to comply with the Local Development Framework, which will replace our Local Plan.
- 18 The County Structure Plan is produced by Hampshire County Council, and sets out policies and major proposals to guide new development, improve the transport system and conserve the natural and built environment. With the migration nationally to regional spatial strategies, we will work to the sub-regional spatial strategies which cover the Winchester District, and have regard for their implications for the countryside.
- 19 The Interim South Downs Management Plan, prepared by the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and the Joint Advisory Committee for the AONB, sets out

policies and major actions within the area in order to protect, conserve and enhance the special qualities and features of the South Downs AONB.

- 20 The Economic Development Strategy is being formulated by the City Council and will include examination of the different uses for the countryside. This will make sure that whilst the countryside is cared for and protected, those who live in the rural areas can still share a vibrant and prosperous economy.
- 21 The Biodiversity Action Plan being drafted for the District by Hampshire Wildlife Trust will be important in identifying habitats in the countryside which need restoring and particular protection. This will be ready at the beginning of 2005.

What will we do to meet our aims?

- 22 As we live in a District with a great deal of countryside, we cannot be complacent about maintaining and protecting it. In a survey of our residents, 25% considered that the quality of the natural environment had deteriorated. Their key concerns with the natural environment were more litter and mess, more noise, loss of land to development and fewer birds and wildlife¹.
- 23 We want to make sure that all areas in our countryside which have been recognised as having a special significance are protected from malicious and negligent destruction, and so we will lobby for those who destroy SINC's to face the same penalty as those who destroy SSSIs. We will also look to work through our partnerships to offer incentives for landowners to manage these areas appropriately.
- 24 Addressing these concerns involves work linking to other chapters in the environment strategy and ensuring that we continue to work in partnership with specialist organisations to meet our aims and develop our action plan. Meeting these aims also places a duty on the City Council to manage its own land in countryside areas appropriately and to a high standard, either through direct action by the Council or through working in partnership.

¹ Citizens' Panel Surveys July 2002 and December 2002

Action Plan for the Countryside						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
1	Support and encourage community involvement in protecting and enhancing the countryside	Historical and natural environment enhanced within limited resources	Review and reprioritise our environmental planning grants so that they focus on "landscapes at risk"	Planning grant reserves prioritised to most appropriate use and areas most at threat	Forward Plans Manager	Review of Grants complete by January 2005
2		Residents and partners have a say in how areas in our countryside are managed and protected	Develop Neighbourhood /Village Design Statements and Development Briefs to protect sensitive parts of the environment	Customer-led sustainable targets for the management of the built and natural environment	Forward Plans Manager	On-going work
3	Work with conservation organisations to ensure that our countryside is protected, managed and enhanced. Seek opportunities to work with landowners, the Planning Department, residents and developers to enhance the	Agencies supported in their work relating to the countryside issues in our District. City Council aims for countryside met through partnership working	Establish a partnership, which will bring together all the agencies we work with to look at the countryside. This will also form part of the Winchester District Local Strategic Partnership.	Indicators to measure the improvement of the natural environment to be considered by the partnership, according to information already collected by partners e.g. level of birdsong in the District	Policy Officer with support from Principal Landscape Architect	Partnership to be set up by March 2005

Action Plan for the Countryside						
	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
	countryside's quality and biodiversity					
4	All aims	Improvement in perception of the quality of the environment throughout the District	Establish clear leadership for countryside issues, by appointing a Member and an officer who will have responsibility for overseeing our aims for the Countryside	Levels of resident satisfaction will be measured through questions posed to the Citizens' Panel	Cabinet to allocate responsibility to a Member. Chief Executive to allocate responsibility to an officer	March 2005

Biodiversity

We want to live in a district where plants, animals and their habitats are valued and protected so that we, and generations to come, can enjoy the wide variety of nature that exists across our district.

- 1 To achieve this we need to:
 - protect natural habitats and wildlife, and identify areas where it is important to conserve biodiversity
 - recognise and restore degraded habitats and create new habitats where possible in the district
 - proactively encourage greater biodiversity throughout the district
- 2 Biodiversity refers to the diversity of life and its habitats. Maintaining biodiversity is the only way in which the variety of life on earth will survive in the long-run.
- 3 Biodiversity is important to conserve, restore and increase because we depend upon it for our very existence. Every species of plant and animal, and the ecosystems of which they are a part, has a unique place in the Earth's irreplaceable 'life support system'.
- 4 We are fortunate to live in one of the richest areas for wildlife in England. Winchester District contains a landscape of contrasts and a diversity of habitats which support an exceptional variety of wild plants and animals.

What we currently do

- 5 The area we live in contains many areas of special significance for wildlife and its habitats, including our National Nature Reserves (NNRs), SSSIs, SINC's and our candidate SAC of the Itchen Valley.
- 6 Even outside these specially recognised areas, much of the District has a rich biodiversity. Wildlife and its habitats are found everywhere – in our towns and countryside, gardens, parks, open spaces, ponds and rivers.
- 7 Many wildlife habitats have been lost, so there is a pressing need to conserve and restore the habitats that remain in the District's rural and urban areas.
- 8 In our District there is also a constant requirement for new development. It is important to strike a balance between this and the need to protect various habitats.

Working in partnership

- 9 The City Council is currently a partner of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership, and part-funds the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre based at Hampshire County Council. The information centre brings together information on Hampshire's natural environment and co-ordinates the data held by many different organisations. This means that all key areas for biodiversity in

the area can be identified in order to protect them, and the condition of nature conservation areas can be monitored so as to guide their management.

- 10 We also work closely with groups like the Hampshire Wildlife Trust to seek opportunities where we can work with them to manage a public or privately owned site in order to conserve or restore a habitat. We also seek opportunities to work with private land-owners where possible to protect, maintain and restore important areas for biodiversity.

Links to other plans

- 11 Hampshire's Biodiversity Action Plan has been produced by the Hampshire Biodiversity partnership, and sets out targets and actions for conserving priority habitats and species in the county over the next 5 to 10 years.
- 12 The Local Plan sets out policies on nature conservation which aim to protect SSSIs and SINCs and to ensure that other sites which are ecologically important are protected and any loss to habitat is mitigated.
- 13 The Landscape Character Assessment divides the District up into a series of 'Landscape Character Areas' each with its own key characteristics and strategy on how the landscape should be managed, with implications for the area's wildlife.
- 14 The Itchen Sustainability Study, of which the City Council is a partner, is looking at whether the River Itchen is in a 'favourable condition' and what needs to be done to make sure it attains this designation or remains in this condition with implications for how the wildlife in this area can be conserved and protected. This study will be recommending an interim sustainable management strategy for future water management in the Itchen Valley.
- 15 The Interim South Downs Management Plan also identifies biodiversity targets and policies for the area.

What will we do to do to meet our aims?

- 16 We are currently working towards the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the District. This will provide a framework for future actions to manage areas of important for the District's wildlife and its habitats. The plan will identify the key species and habitats in the area which need to be restored or protected, and will build on Hampshire's (BAP) as well as national plans.
- 17 The action plan is being drawn up by Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and will allow us to co-ordinate our work towards preserving and maintaining the District's biodiversity. It will also set out a more comprehensive action plan which will allow us to fulfil our aims for the District.
- 18 The Hampshire Wildlife Trust's BAP will form the action plan for this chapter of the Environment Strategy. Once the action plan is in place, the City Council will work through its partnerships to deliver the actions and improvements set out in the BAP.

Trees and Hedgerows

Our Vision:

Winchester District is fortunate to have a large amount of tree and hedge cover which greatly enhances our environment. We value trees in appropriate places, and want to ensure that they are protected and maintained. We also want to ensure that all new development in the district has the same benefit from trees that all other areas have, as fitting for the site of the development.

- 1 To achieve this we need to:
 - work with Parish Councils to ensure trees and hedgerows are protected and maintained in the wider district
 - ensure that departments work together to protect, maintain and increase tree and hedge cover on private and public land
 - ensure new and replacement tree and hedge planting is suitable to the area
 - ensure that all new developments take full account of the need for high standards of landscape proposals and appropriate tree cover
 - raise awareness within the council and amongst public and private organisations that trees are important to the environment for shelter, shade and controlling pollution amongst other things
- 2 Trees are an important natural asset and contribute much to the quality of our urban and rural environment. In addition to enhancing the street scene and landscape, trees act to filter noise, light and dust and play an essential role in the ecological system. They also provide an important habitat for birds and other wildlife, are a key feature in our landscape and form a vital part of our cultural heritage.
- 3 Unfortunately, they also can also cause our residents problems when they are not well maintained and managed. Leaf fall on pavements and roads throughout the district can become a slipping hazard, and overhanging branches can reduce visibility on roads. We will work towards managing and maintaining the District's trees to avoid these problems.

What we currently do

- 4 We are responsible for the maintenance and management of all trees on Winchester City Council land, including those in parks, gardens, playgrounds, verges and on housing estates. This includes addressing branch overhang where the trees is sited on public land and removing leaf, fruit and berry drop which can cause a hazard on pavements.
- 5 We have a responsibility under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the retention of trees in the District. We can issue Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), which aim to protect trees that make a significant contribution to local amenity and character.
- 6 We also give regard to trees and hedgerows in a wider context. We advise that new planting comprises native species of trees where this is appropriate. We

also guard against dramatic changes to the skyline in the District, which can occur when large trees are removed because of, for example, new development.

- 7 Hedgerows form a special feature of the landscape in our District. They are also vital for biodiversity, forming an important habitat for a variety of species. It is important that we encourage planting of new hedgerows as well as promoting their responsible management. In 1997 new regulations also came into force to protect important hedgerows, in particular hedgerows which are more than 20 metres long or which meet another hedgerow at either end. This legislation means that it is now against the law to remove many countryside hedgerows without permission from the City Council.
- 8 Tall hedges in the District can be a source of distress for residents, especially when they block out a view or natural light. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 gives local authorities like Winchester City Council an active role in resolving disputes over these hedges. The date that the legislation giving local authorities this role has been delayed, but it is hoped that it will come into force at the beginning of 2005.

Working in partnership

- 9 To ensure the trees in our District are appropriately maintained, protected and cared for, we work in partnership with other organisations to meet the aims of this strategy.
- 10 We currently participate in a Tree Warden Scheme, which is organised by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust in conjunction with ourselves and Parish Councils. Tree wardens are involved in gathering information, local liaison, practical projects and protecting trees in their parishes.
- 11 We also work with Hampshire County Council who, as the Highways Authority for our area, is responsible for looking after trees and shrubs on the highway.

Links to plans

- 12 Many areas in our District are designated as Conservation Areas, which are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest. Policies guiding our planners in protecting trees and hedges in Conservation Areas are found in the Local Plan. Most trees in Conservation Areas are protected and notification is required before these trees can be legally felled or work undertaken on them.
- 13 Village Design Statements will also play a part in informing us of natural features such as trees and hedges which help define the feel of an area. Village Design statements are produced by communities to identify local character and set out design guidance to help guide new development.
- 14 The Landscape Character Assessment divides the District up into series of 'Landscape Character Areas' each with its own key characteristics and strategy on how the landscape should be managed. This document is important as the assessment describes important features of the landscape, including trees and hedges, and states how they should be protected to retain the character of that area.

- 15 The Forestry and Woodlands Framework for the South East is a publication which sets out how the South East should increase the contribution made by trees, woodlands and forestry to the sustainable development of the region. Our Tree Strategy will pay regard to the themes and priorities set out in the framework.

What will we do to meet our aims?

- 16 Although we already take account of the trees and hedgerows in our District through our planning function and through the maintenance of Council-owned trees, there is still much that we can do to meet our aims.
- 17 We also recognise that there are risks associated with our responsibility to care for trees in our District, particularly in ensuring that they are appropriately maintained.
- 18 Our principal action to achieve our aims will be the creation of a Tree Strategy. This will form the action plan for this chapter of the Environment Strategy. The Tree Strategy will include looking at the possibility of a presumption in favour of planting female trees so that asthma-aggravating pollen can be limited and reviewing how we share our expertise with our parishes by working with Parish Councils and other groups to share responsibility for their area's trees. The Tree Strategy will be drafted by our Landscape Team, with the first draft being developed by the end of January 2005.

Environmental Protection

Our Vision:

Pollution not only affects our environment for those living here presently, it can also have a long term effect on the environment of generations to come. We want to live in an environment which is pleasant for all who live, work or visit here. We want to live and work in a district which is free from all types of pollution whether on the land, in the air or in water, including noise and light.

- 1 To achieve this we need to:
 - to achieve our statutory recycling rate for household waste of 36% and in the longer term 40% by reduction, recycling and composting
 - ensure the Air Quality Management Area action plan is implemented successfully and measures to improve air quality throughout the district are considered
 - work with residents to raise awareness of all types of environmental pollution, and how to prevent it
 - work with partners and other agencies to prevent or reduce levels of all forms of environmental pollution
 - recognise how trees and other forms of landscape proposals contribute to the control of pollution in our District
 - encourage the promotion of cigarette smoke free work places and consider the creation of cigarette smoke free zones throughout the District
- 2 Protecting our local environment from pollution is of concern to everyone. This pollution can come in many different forms and affect all aspects of our lives.
- 3 Air quality is an issue of concern for all of us. Air pollution can come from a number of sources. As well as car fumes, bonfire smoke can also be very irritating and cause a great deal of distress to those who are exposed to it.
- 4 Local people in our District are increasingly seeing disturbance from noise as an issue. In addition to domestically generated noise, noise from aircraft, traffic, fireworks and military activities have been identified as particular concerns.
- 5 Light pollution can also affect our residents, and in particular those living in small villages, and so street lighting schemes need to pay regard to safety as well as the desires of local residents and their Parish Councils to avoid an excess of street lighting.
- 6 Other types of pollution such as contaminated land and water pollution may be less evident in our everyday lives, but can be just as harmful to our local environment now and in the future.

What we currently do

- 7 As a City Council, we provide an environment protection team as a specialist service. It is part of the City Council's Environment Health Service which was awarded a Charter Mark for the third successive occasion in April 2003.

This service covers noise control, air quality, contaminated land, recreational water and radiation sampling. We have a statutory duty to investigate all complaints of nuisance and to take appropriate enforcement action.

- 8 We have two air quality monitoring stations in Winchester town centre. These consist of a background site at Lawn Street near Friarsgate and a roadside site in St George's Street. We also have a number of nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes monitoring air quality at ten sites throughout the district. We plan to have new displays at our main reception, the car park office at Friarsgate and at Mottisfont Court belonging to Hampshire County Council. In addition, real time data will be available by the end of 2004 on the Internet.
- 9 Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK has been reviewing air quality in their area by measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years. If a local authority finds an area where national air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare it an Air Quality Management Area. Winchester's town area has been designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and we are developing an action plan to look at what options are available to improve air quality.
- 10 We also recognise the impact that second-hand cigarette smoke has on our residents' health. Following the success of our Clean Air Pub Awards scheme which has been running since March 1996, we will be working with the Smoke Free Hampshire partnership to set up the Smoke Free Eating & Dining Award scheme.
- 11 Smoke from bonfires and chimneys is also a form of pollution, and Environmental Protection Team respond to complaints about excessive smoke from these sources, and aim to raise awareness about restraints on bonfire and chimney smoke through marketing and campaigns.
- 12 We deal with all aspects of noise control including the investigation of complaints about noise from domestic, industrial, commercial or agricultural sources. If noise is intrusive or excessive, the City Council has the power to impose fines or confiscate equipment.
- 13 Water quality throughout the District is monitored for contaminants in two ways. Mains water is monitored by the local water companies. There are also over 140 private water supplies in the District, serving approximately 2000 residents. These are monitored by routine sampling to ensure that work is undertaken for any failures.
- 14 The City Council also actively promotes recycling, waste minimization and composting through education and promotion. Through the introduction of these schemes the amount of recyclable materials collected has steadily increased and the recycling rate currently achieved is 17%.
- 15 The City Council provides a range of options for its residents to dispose of recyclable materials including:
 - provision of a fortnightly kerbside collection service to all households
 - provision of shared communal facilities at flats
 - a network of 60 'bring' sites mainly for glass

- 16 The City Council manages contaminated land in our District, with a duty to identify, prioritise and manage sites in our area which are contaminated.
- 17 As well as protecting the District from the effects of pollution, the Environmental Protection team seeks to inform residents about the effects of pollution and how to prevent it through marketing events, leaflets and information on www.winchester.gov.uk to provide advice to our residents.

Working in partnership

- 18 To make sure that our District is protected from the effects of all types of pollution, we work closely with several other organisations.
- 19 The Environment Agency is a key partner in ensuring the District is protected from various types of pollution as well as the effects of flooding. They are responsible for maintaining and improving the quality of surface and groundwater in England and Wales. The Agency aims to reduce the risk of water pollution wherever possible, and to ensure that it gets cleaned up if pollution occurs. The Agency works with us to reduce the risks to people and the natural and built environment from flooding. Inappropriate development should be discouraged in areas at risk of flooding and policies in our Local Plan seek to manage development in such areas.
- 20 We work with the water companies who cover the District, to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of good quality water for the area's needs.
- 21 In order to tackle the important issue of reducing waste and increasing recycling, the Council is a full member of Project Integra, the partnership of local authorities set up to provide an integrated waste management service for household waste in Hampshire. The partnership is tackling waste minimisation and aims to increase recycling to meet the target of 50% overall by 2010 of which 40% will be through kerbside collections and bring sites. We will also develop and implement a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in partnership with Project Integra.

Links to other plans

- 22 The [Contaminated Land Strategy](#) is a key document laying out how we will identify and manage areas of contaminated land in our District.
- 23 The [Project Integra Business Plan](#) sets out our waste management strategy for the year, coordinated through the partnership of authorities. Our work towards how we manage waste and recycling will also be linked to the [Hampshire Material Resources Strategy](#) which aims to achieve a step change in the way we perceive and use natural resources in Hampshire.
- 24 The positioning of telecommunications masts can be of great concern to our residents, and the [Local Plan](#) sets out our approach to applications to erect these masts.
- 25 The City Council is currently developing our [Air Quality Action Plan](#) to address the AQMA in Winchester town centre. This will be a key plan to reduce air pollutants in this area.

What will we do to meet our aims?

- 26 We want to continuously improve our service, adopting new initiatives to work towards reducing the negative effects of pollution for our residents and future residents. This will include working closely with partners to campaign on issues including the laying down of quieter road surfaces on major roads and motorways throughout the District.
- 27 We also want to develop a more coordinated approach to informing our residents of all these issues, offering help and advice on how to reduce pollution and nuisances and to whom to report any incidents.
- 28 Improving our waste collection and recycling services to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill is a key priority for the City Council. Winchester District's Local Strategic Partnership, of which the City Council is a member, has also identified business recycling and commercial waste as one of its "Big Issues" to be tackled in partnership.
- 29 Fortnightly kerbside recycling is already available throughout the District and the Council is developing proposals for a new approach to waste collection and recycling. A pilot will start in October 2004 in certain areas of the District, where households will still put out their bins every week, but one week it will be recyclables and Garden Waste - the next it will be household refuse.

Action Plan for Environmental Protection

	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
1	Ensure the Air Quality Management Area plan is implemented successfully and measures to improve air quality throughout the District are considered	Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) removed. Reduction of pollution so all areas of the District meet national standards of acceptability.	Develop and implement an Air Quality Action Plan. Reduce AQMA pollution levels to meet national standard requirements Develop performance indicators to monitor traffic levels with partners	Removal of AQMA from Central Winchester due to reduced pollution levels	Head of Health and Housing Management	Action plan started in April 2004, for final approval and submission to DEFRA by May 2005
2	Work with residents to raise awareness of all types of environmental pollution and how to prevent it, targeting those whose behaviour contributes to environmental pollution Work with partners and other agencies to prevent or reduce levels of all forms of environmental pollution.	Reduction in number of problems over noise pollution and other neighbour type disputes in the District	Trial mediation service in a pilot area for Council tenants in partnership with Winchester Mediation for minor nuisance and other neighbour type disputes and noise pollution. Roll this out for whole District if pilot is successful and funding is obtained	Pilot will be reviewed Autumn 2005, along with service level agreement held with Winchester Mediation	Team Leader – Housing Management with Team Leader – Environmental Protection	Pilot to end Autumn 2005, extended if successful

Action Plan for Environmental Protection

	Aim	Desired Outcome	Actions	Success Measures	Responsible	Next Key Target Date
3	Encourage the promotion of smoke free work places in the District and consider the creation of cigarette smoke free zones in Winchester town.	Strengthen our work to encourage the smoke free restaurants and pubs in the District	Participate in "Smoke Free Hampshire" partnership by running awards for totally smoke free pubs/restaurants in the District Maintain a watching brief of on other local authorities who are looking to achieve cigarette 'smoke-free' status	Increase in number of smoke free pubs/ restaurants in the District	Environmental Health – Commercial Team Leader	Start in January 2005
4	Achieve our statutory recycling rate for household waste of 36% and in the longer term 40% by reduction recycling and composting	Increase the rate of household recycling in the District and reduce the amount of waste going into landfill	Introduce a pilot scheme in October 2004, which will encourage waste reduction, recycling and composting by collecting refuse one week and recycling and garden waste the following week. The pilot will run for a period of 12-18 months and be evaluated	Recycling rates for the pilot areas and customer perception of the trial to be reviewed	Director of Housing and Environment	Pilot to finish March 2006