



Low Carbon Tameside



Tameside Strategic Partnership
Many Partners, One Direction

Sustainable Use of Resources
Strategy 2010-20



10:10 Pledge

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Foreword

The Challenge

Welcome to the first Low Carbon Tameside Strategy, created by the Tameside Strategic Partnership (TSP) to achieve sustainable use of natural resources in Tameside. The launch of this strategy follows the Partnership's agreement to sign up to the national 10:10 campaign to reduce our emissions by 10% during 2010/11.

The Strategic Partnership is facing a major challenge. We are working together to create a thriving community, economy and environment in Tameside in a time of resource constraints and increasing demand for services due to the economic downturn. Added to this, we need to adapt the way we operate to deal with increasing fuel costs, finite natural resources, and a changing climate. With the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment, many of our organisations also face a significant financial incentive to reduce our carbon emissions – we are in a race to save energy, natural resources, money and the environment.

We will deliver a solution to this challenge by working together to make the best possible use of the borough's human, financial, physical and natural resources. We are committed to delivering services to local people in the most efficient and effective way, in order to bring lasting social, economic and environmental improvement to Tameside, without any risk to quality of life for future generations.

Our Commitment

TSP members are committed to working together to achieve our vision for Tameside in a sustainable way. Working with the people and businesses of Tameside we will reduce our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, reduce pollution, reduce waste and protect our buildings, landscape and green spaces. We will create a high quality and healthy environment and develop the capacity and skills of local people and organisations to help each other. Together we will respond to the changing climate.

Within our own organisations we will create a culture where our impact on carbon reduction and the environment are considered in all policy decisions and business activities. Environmental priorities will be embedded within our key strategies and priorities, contributing to delivery of the Tameside Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-19. We will meet or exceed the requirements of environmental legislation and regulations, and will provide clear and accessible information on our performance. Where necessary we will work with our City Region partners to lobby government and its representatives to promote the environmental interests of Tameside and the subregion.



Councillor Kieran Quinn
Chair of the TSP



Peter Martin
Vice Chair of the TSP



Dr Tim Riley
Vice Chair of the TSP



10:10 Pledge

1. Low Carbon Tameside – Goal & Priorities

Tameside Sustainable Community Strategy

The Tameside Strategic Partnership (TSP) brings together organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors across Tameside, to work together to improve quality of life for local people. Our vision for the borough is set out in *My Tameside*, the Sustainable Community Strategy for Tameside:

Our Vision

Tameside is a great place to live - we will make it even better. It will continue to be a borough where the people who live here feel at home, are able to get involved in the life of the community, where they can contribute to a prosperous local economy, feel safe and healthy, and take active responsibility for their environment.

To achieve this vision, the organisations of the Partnership work together towards six aims, agreed through consultation with local people:

- Supportive Tameside
- Prosperous Tameside
- Learning Tameside
- Attractive Tameside
- Safe Tameside
- Healthy Tameside

The Vision for an Attractive Tameside

At the annual conference of the Tameside Strategic Partnership in 2008 delegates described the Tameside they would like to see in 2017. For the theme of Attractive Tameside some of their responses were:

- “Tameside has a Zero Carbon footprint, there is a tree on every corner and built up areas are complemented by open spaces”
- “Recycling rates are 100%”
- “All parks and open spaces have green flags or pennants”
- “Tameside is champion of the International In Bloom competition”
- “Tameside has an integrated transport system with a tram system extending across the borough”
- “Good quality roads are easily maintained as a result of low car usage and the large number of people cycling”

The TSP Vision for Attractive Tameside is:

“We want Tameside to be a place that is clean, green and an attractive place to be for everyone. We are determined to pass onto future generations a better quality of environment than we inherited.”

Low Carbon Tameside Goal

The Low Carbon Tameside Strategy has been developed by members of the TSP Sustainable

Use of Resources working group in response to this vision. The Strategy sets out the actions that Group members will take over the next three years to achieve the Goal of:

“A greener, healthier, more attractive Tameside – kept safe for future generations.”

Low Carbon Tameside Priorities

To build this sustainable future for Tameside and deliver the Low Carbon Tameside Goal, we recognise the need to focus our activity on four Low Carbon Tameside Priorities:

Reducing our environmental impact

- To make more efficient use of energy and natural resources, and tackle fuel poverty
- To reduce carbon emissions and develop a strategy for adapting to climate change
- To reduce the impact of transport on our highways, reduce reliance on the car and encourage people to make more use of sustainable ways to travel, e.g. cycling and walking
- To raise awareness of our impact on the environment amongst local people and businesses, and encourage a more sustainable approach to everyday life
- To support Tameside’s businesses, organisations, community groups and residents in the transition to a low carbon economy
- To adopt a sustainable approach to procurement and economic growth

2. Low Carbon Tameside - Targets

To achieve each of the Low Carbon Tameside Priorities a series of themed action plans have been created, and associated targets have been agreed. Low Carbon Tameside action plans and targets are supported by relevant plans and targets within the Corporate Plans of each of the organisations of the TSP, and in each of the TSP Thematic Partnership Agreements, in order to ensure that progress is made across the area. Progress towards each target is monitored each quarter by the Sustainable Use of Resources Group, and reported to the Carbon Reduction Panel and (annually) to TSP Board. Tameside's Local Area Agreement (LAA) includes several National Indicators relating to the environment, and delivery of the Attractive Tameside priorities:

Attractive Tameside Aim	Low Carbon Tameside Priority	LAA Measure		Baseline	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Promoting environmental sustainability	Reducing our environmental impact	NI 192	Percentage of household waste recycled / composted	24.38% in 2006/07	35%	40%
Promoting environmental sustainability	Reducing our environmental impact	NI 186	Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the local authority area: (a) Tonnes per capita (b) Percentage reduction	a) 5.9 tonnes per capita in 2005	(a) 5.4 (b) 7.94% of which 3.61% to be from local initiatives	(a) 5.2 (b) 11.92% of which 5.42% to be from local initiatives
Improving the attractiveness of the borough	Making Tameside more attractive	NI 195	Improved street cleanliness: litter	10 in 2006/07	8	7
			Improved street cleanliness: detritus	14 in 2006/07	9	8
			Improved street cleanliness: graffiti	4 in 2006/07	4	4
			Improved street cleanliness: fly-posting	0 in 2006/07	0	0
Improving the attractiveness of the borough	Making Tameside more attractive	Local 7	Number of Green Flags & Pennants	12 in 2007	15	16

Low Carbon Tameside includes joint targets agreed by the Strategic Partnership to measure progress towards our goal. The Low Carbon Tameside Targets are underpinned by individual targets for each organisation, tailored to reflect the current state of progress within that organisation.

Attractive Tameside Aim	Low Carbon Tameside Priority	Low Carbon Tameside Target		Baseline	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Target
Promoting environmental sustainability	Reducing our environmental impact	Low Carbon 1	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions by partner organisations	36303 tonnes (Jan-Dec 2009)	10%	20%	30%
Promoting environmental sustainability	Reducing our environmental impact	Low Carbon 2	Percentage increase in waste recycled / composted by partner organisations	452 tonnes (Jan-Dec 2009)	10%	20%	30%
Promoting environmental sustainability	Reducing our environmental impact	Low Carbon 3	Percentage reduction in water consumed by partner organisations	196366 litres (Jan-Dec 2009)	10%	20%	30%
Improving the attractiveness of the borough	Making Tameside more attractive	Low Carbon 4	Number of sites achieving 'Tameside Green Space' award for attractiveness and cleanliness	0	10	20	30
Improving the attractiveness of the borough	Protecting our natural world	Low Carbon 5	Number of sites achieving 'Tameside Green Space' award for nature conservation	0	10	20	30
Promoting environmental sustainability	Developing Community Champions	Low Carbon 6	Number of local 'Low Carbon Tameside Community Champions'	0	50	100	150

Delivering Low Carbon Tameside

With its combination of environmental, social and economic priorities, Low Carbon Tameside contributes to several of the Sustainable Community Strategy aims. Its main focus is on delivery of Attractive Tameside, and the priorities of Improving the attractiveness of the borough and Promoting environmental sustainability. It draws together the aims of several major local and subregional strategies that affect our environment, including the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan, Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Action Plan, Greater Manchester Multi-Area Agreement, Tameside Local Development Framework, TSP Engagement Strategy, Tameside Countryside Strategy, Tameside Green Space Strategy, Tameside Health Inequalities Strategy, Tameside Economic Masterplan and Tameside Air Quality Action Plan.

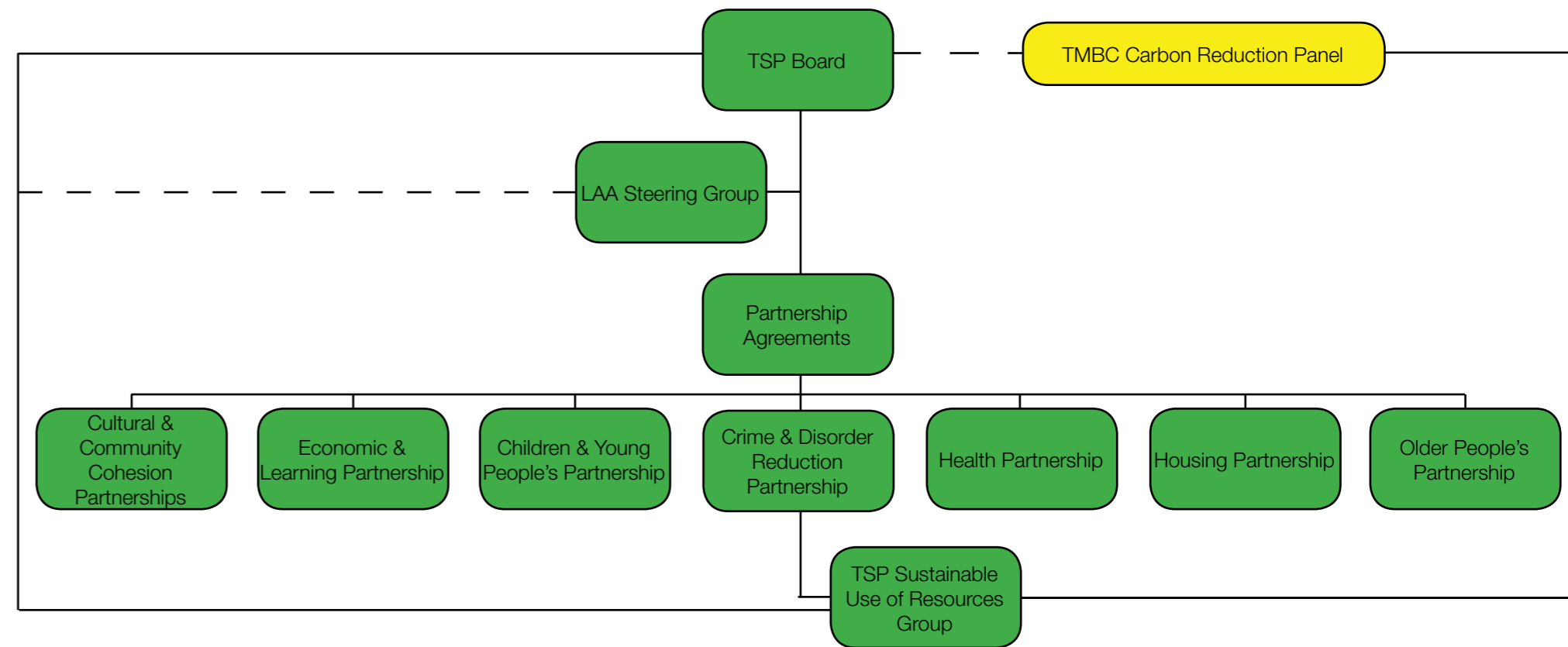
Sustainable Use of Resources Group

Delivery of Low Carbon Tameside is the responsibility of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources working group, established by TSP Board in March 2009 as part of its Joint Commitment to Sustainable Use of Resources. The group involves Tameside Council, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue, Greater Manchester Police, Tameside & Glossop Primary Care Trust, Tameside General Hospital, Pennine Care, Tameside College and Tameside Third Sector Coalition (T3SC). Progress by the

group is reported directly to both the Strategic Partnership Board and the Council's Carbon Reduction Panel.



TSP Structure



3. The Borough of Tameside

The borough of Tameside lies to the east of Greater Manchester, stretching inland from the urban hub of Manchester to the moors of the Peak District. Tameside shares borders with Oldham, Manchester, Stockport and the Derbyshire Borough of High Peak. Tameside is well connected to the region and beyond by the M60 and M67 motorways and quality rail links to Manchester and Yorkshire.

Figure. 2 Tameside Borough



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Tameside's population

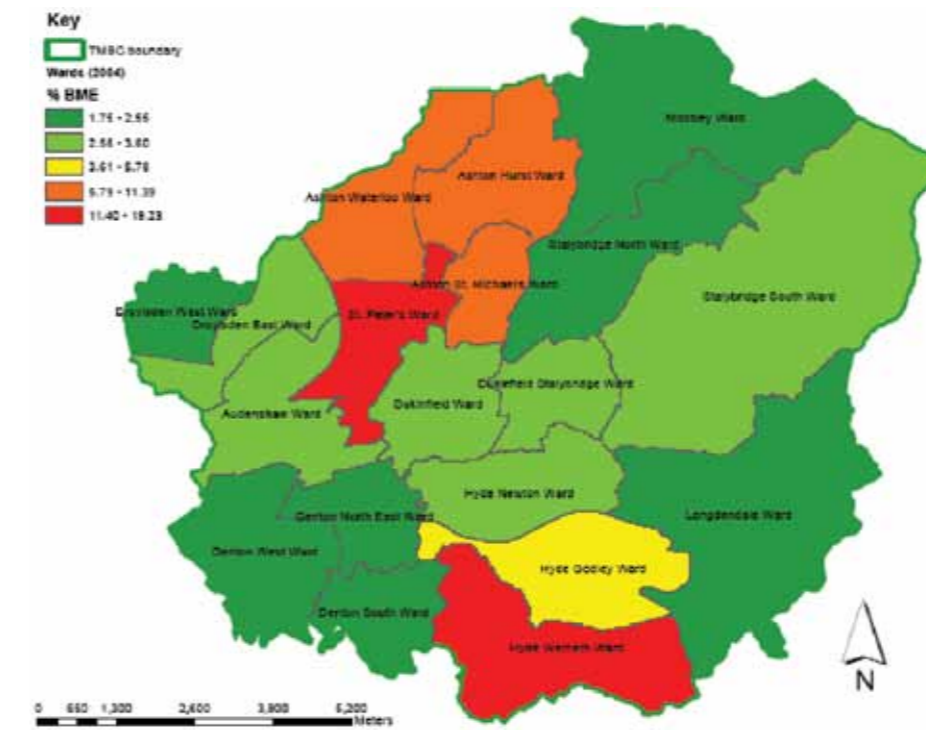
In 2006 the population was estimated by the Office of National Statistics ¹ to be 214,400. This is a rise from the figure of 213,043 recorded in the Census of 2001. It is predicted that Tameside's population will continue to grow and by 2029 it will have risen by 8% since the Census in 2001. Over the next 25 years the older population (60+) is set to increase in Tameside, a trend that is mirrored nationally. Currently it is estimated that 49% of Tameside's population is male and 51% is female.

¹For the mid-year population estimates (2006), ONS revised the methodology for calculating them using a new method of accounting for migration.

Ethnicity in Tameside

The Office of National Statistics provided estimates of ethnic groups for local authority areas for 2004. The estimates show that in 2004 the black or minority ethnic (BME) population in Tameside stood at 6.5%. This represents a slight increase of 0.22 percentage points on the 2003 estimates. There is a smaller proportion of BME population in Tameside than in Greater Manchester as a whole, but the BME population is larger than in Stockport, Wigan and Salford. The largest non-white ethnic group in Tameside is Asian (4.4%), and predominantly includes people of Indian (1.5%), Pakistani (1.5%) and Bangladeshi heritage (1.3%).

Figure. 3 Ethnicity within Tameside

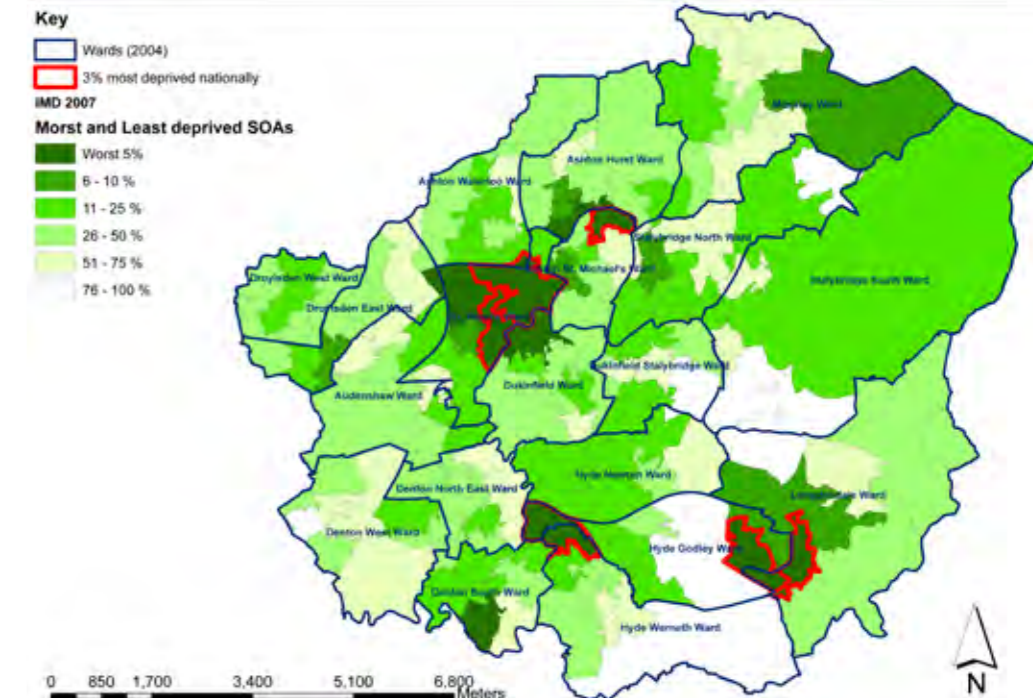


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Source: ONS, Census 2001

Deprivation

Figure 4 above shows the distribution of the most deprived areas in Tameside. The Index of Multiple Deprivation suggests the most deprived areas of Tameside are within central Ashton, Hattersley, Denton South and parts of Hyde, but there are also pockets of relative deprivation within all Tameside's towns.

Figure. 4 Deprivation in Tameside 2007



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Source: ONS and DCLG Deprivation in Tameside

Tameside's climate (1971-2000)

Climate is defined as the average weather that a place experiences, measured over a 30-year period. Weather for Tameside is measured via the Met Office weather station at Manchester Airport. The area is classed as having a temperate maritime climate, which means we generally have cooler summers compared with other places across the globe, and milder winters. Rainfall is fairly light, but regular throughout the year. Our average annual rainfall (806.6 mm) is actually lower than the UK average annual rainfall (1126.1mm).

Figure. 5 Tameside's Climate 1971-2000

Weather data for Tameside													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Average high °C	6.9	7.3	9.5	11.9	15.7	18.0	20.3	20.1	17.1	13.5	9.6	7.6	13.2
Average low °C	1.5	1.6	3.1	4.5	7.4	10.1	12.3	12.1	10.0	7.2	3.9	2.3	6.4
Sunshine (hrs)	49.6	67.0	95.2	138.9	188.8	172.5	183.8	170.5	127.2	97.7	60.6	42.8	1394.5
Rainfall mm	71.5	51.8	64.0	49.1	53.8	88.8	59.5	70.9	69.9	88.0	81.9	81.4	806.6
Avg. rainy days (Rain over 1 mm)	13.6	10.1	12.1	10.5	10.1	11.5	10.0	11.0	11.3	13.2	13.6	13.4	140.4
Air frost (days)	9.4	8.9	4.5	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	4.9	7.6	38.3
Wind speed at 10m (knots)	9.4	9.2	9.3	8.4	8.1	7.4	7.0	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.3	8.9	8.2

Source: Met Office weather station at Manchester Airport, Climate averages 1871 - 2000

Changes in climate are measured for the UK Government by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (www.ukcip.org.uk), based at Oxford University and funded mainly by the Department for Food & Rural Affairs. The programme was set up in 1997 to co-ordinate scientific research into climate change, and to help organisations adapt to the changes forecast. Five sets of climate projections have been published since 1997, the latest in 2009.

UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09)

The 2009 Projections provide forecast data for a range of scenarios, with different levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions: low, medium and high emissions. They are able to provide forecast changes in temperature and precipitation (rain, hail and snow) by season or month, and for a variety of 30-year periods. The projections don't say what the weather will be like, but they do forecast how likely it is that we'll get a certain change in temperature or a change in precipitation that falls within a certain range. For Tameside, the UKCP09 medium and high emissions scenarios project

the following approximate changes in climate over the periods 2040-2069 (2050s) and 2070-99 (2080s):

Table 3. Climate Change forecasts for Tameside

Tameside:	Change with Medium emissions for 2050s			Change with High emissions for 2050s		
	Very unlikely to be less than	Central Estimate	Very unlikely to be more than	Very unlikely to be less than	Central Estimate	Very unlikely to be more than
Temperature (increase in degrees C)						
Annual mean temperature	1.4	2.3	3.4	1.6	2.6	3.8
Mean temperature - winter	1.2	2.1	3.2	1.3	2.3	3.5
Mean temperature - summer	1.1	2.4	3.9	1.2	2.6	4.3
Mean daily maximum temperature - summer	1.1	3.0	5.6	1.4	3.4	6.0
Mean daily minimum temperature - summer	1.0	2.4	4.1	1.2	2.7	4.5
Precipitation (%)						
Annual mean precipitation	decrease 5.1%	decrease 0.2%	increase 5.1%	decrease 5.6%	decrease 0.0%	increase 6.0%
Annual mean precipitation - winter	increase 2.9%	increase 12.6%	increase 24.8%	increase 2.6%	increase 12.7%	increase 25.7%
Annual mean precipitation - summer	decrease 31.9%	decrease 14.3%	increase 4.9%	decrease 33.7%	decrease 14.6%	increase 6.0%

Tameside:	Change with Medium emissions for 2080s			Change with High emissions for 2080s		
	Very unlikely to be less than	Central Estimate	Very unlikely to be more than	Very unlikely to be less than	Central Estimate	Very unlikely to be more than
Temperature (increase in degrees C)						
Annual mean temperature	2.0	3.3	4.8	2.6	4.1	6.0
Mean temperature - winter	1.6	2.9	4.4	2.1	3.4	5.2
Mean temperature - summer	1.8	3.4	5.5	2.3	4.3	6.8
Mean daily maximum temperature - summer	1.8	4.3	7.6	2.4	5.4	9.4
Mean daily minimum temperature - summer	1.6	3.4	5.8	2.2	4.3	7.2
Precipitation (%)						
Annual mean precipitation	decrease 6.2%	decrease 0.3%	increase 6.2%	decrease 7.8%	increase 0.4%	increase 9.5%
Annual mean precipitation - winter	increase 2.7%	increase 15.3%	increase 32.5%	increase 8.6%	increase 24.6%	increase 47.2%
Annual mean precipitation - summer	decrease 38.2%	decrease 17.5%	increase 4.7%	decrease 45.7%	decrease 22.2%	increase 3.2%

Source: UK Climate Projections 2009

What could it mean for Tameside?

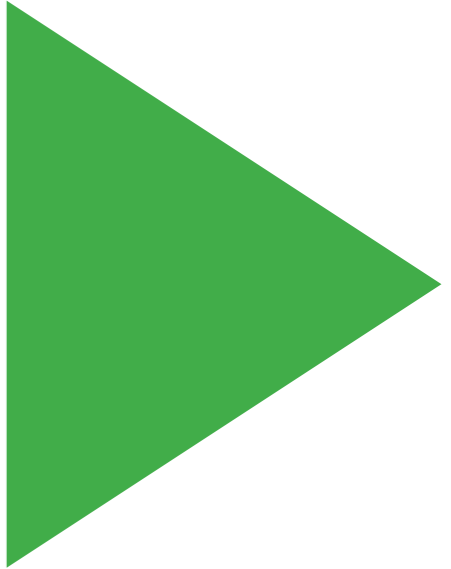
Climate change could affect Tameside's buildings and infrastructure, plant and animal life, and our people. We're likely to face a higher risk of flooding, which could cause soil erosion, affect the foundations of our buildings, destroy habitats, contaminate watercourses, and damage people's homes and livelihoods. There could be more risk to people's health from heat exhaustion and pollution, especially for vulnerable people, and more risk to natural 'carbon sinks' such as the peat moors, due to fire. If global temperatures continue to rise, there is likely to be less water available, making it harder to grow food, and so the price of fuel, food and consumables is likely to increase. People may well migrate from the tropics to areas under less stress.

On a more positive note, Tameside could see less demand for heating in cold weather, and more opportunities for tourism and outdoor leisure activities as temperatures rise. It is thought that many plants and wildlife in the North West will be able to adapt to the degree of temperature increase projected, although some species may be lost from high ground. At the same time, more new species may move in to the area.



10:10 Pledge

Reducing Our Environmental Impact



4. Energy Consumption & Supply

Most energy that people use in their homes and at work comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas. Sources of these fuels are in limited supply. As North Sea gas stocks fall, energy will have to be sourced from elsewhere. Fuel prices are likely to rise, and a secure alternative supply must be found.

Burning fossil fuels contributes to emissions of the methane, nitrogen dioxide and carbon dioxide 'greenhouse gases', which many scientists believe are contributing to climate change. If emissions continue to increase at current rates, it's thought that the average global temperature may increase by up to 6°C by the end of the century. An average global increase of more than 2°C would seriously affect weather and health, and would have a dangerous impact on the Earth's plant and animal life. To keep increases below 2°C global emissions would need to start falling by 2020, and be at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050. Energy consumption is responsible for over half of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions, and 13% of emissions are due to energy consumption in homes².

National policy

The UK Government is committed to cutting levels of carbon emissions by 18% on 2008 figures, by 2020 (a reduction of one-third on levels in 1990). The aim is to produce 40% of the UK's electricity from low carbon sources by this time, and 30% from renewable sources

such as wind, water and solar power, or biomass, which produce little or no greenhouse gas emissions. The National Health Service is committed to achieving at least a 10 per cent reduction in emissions by 2015 compared to 2007 levels, and at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. Government funding is planned to help households become more energy efficient. This is important in Tameside where 20,020 households³ are living in fuel poverty, spending more than 10% of their total income on heating, lighting and hot water.

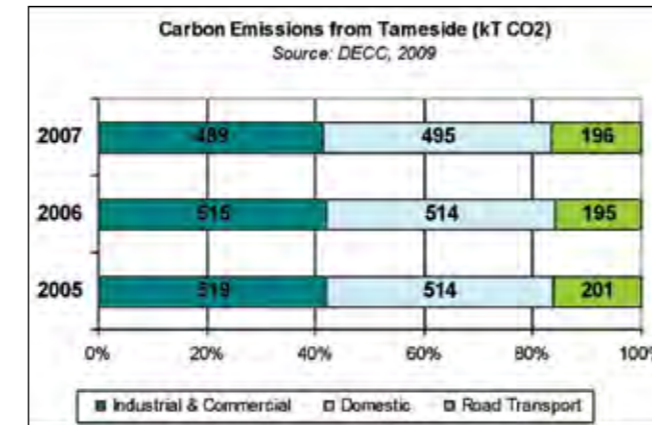
Where are we now?

Data for 2007 published recently by the Department for Energy & Climate Change shows that Tameside was responsible for 5.5 tonnes of carbon emissions per capita population in that year, down from 5.8 tonnes per capita in 2005.

Between 2005 and 2006 emissions in Tameside reduced by less than 1%. Over the following year to 2007 emissions reduced by 4%. This shows the size of the challenge we are facing to achieve an 18% reduction in emissions on the 2008 figures by 2020.

The greatest contribution towards emissions in 2007 came from Domestic emissions (495 kT CO₂)⁴, followed by Industrial & Commercial emissions (489kT CO₂). The most significant sources of Domestic emissions were Domestic gas (277 kT CO₂) and Domestic electricity

(207 kT CO₂). The largest sources of Industrial & Commercial emissions were Industrial & Commercial electricity (286 kT CO₂) and Industrial & Commercial gas (118 kT CO₂).



²The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

³National Energy Action, February 2008

⁴kT = kilo tonnes

Where do we want to be?

The members of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources Group will lead the way in reducing energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels across Tameside. We aim to at least meet the Government's target for an 18% reduction in carbon emissions on 2008 levels by 2020. If possible we will exceed this figure. In order to achieve such a transformation in our rate of change, we agree that all partner organisations will pledge themselves to the 10:10 challenge during 2010.

- By April 2010 we will establish baseline figures for energy consumption and agree a target reduction of 10% in carbon emissions by every member of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources Group over the financial year 2010/11.
- We will continue to work to achieve an 18% reduction in emissions on 2008 levels by 2020.
- We will work together with individuals, community groups, organisations and businesses to reduce per capita carbon emissions in Tameside, achieving a 5.2 tonne / 11.92% reduction in emissions by 2012 against the 2005 baseline.
- We will work with residents, businesses and organisations across Tameside to boost the use of renewable and low-carbon sources of energy.

- We will work with developers and landlords towards the Government target for all new homes and schools to be zero carbon by 2016 and all new business premises to be zero carbon by 2019.
- We will ensure that all social housing in Tameside achieves the Decent Homes Standard in 2010, and will investigate potential sources of funding to enable social housing to go beyond the Standard in terms of energy efficiency
- We will work with private sector landlords to raise awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency and sources of advice and funding available. In the longer term we will establish an Accreditation Scheme for private landlords, with a view to including criteria for energy efficiency.



5. Water Conservation

People and animals need clean, fresh water to drink, and to keep clean and healthy. People also need water for growing crops and creating goods. But water is a finite resource and must be carefully managed. As the global climate changes, sea levels are predicted to rise, but fresh water shortages across the globe will increase, leading to migration away from areas under stress, and more competition for supplies in other areas. The Environment Agency estimates that by 2050 the population in England and Wales may increase by as much as 20 million, whilst available water supplies could fall by between 10-15% compared with now ⁵.

National policy

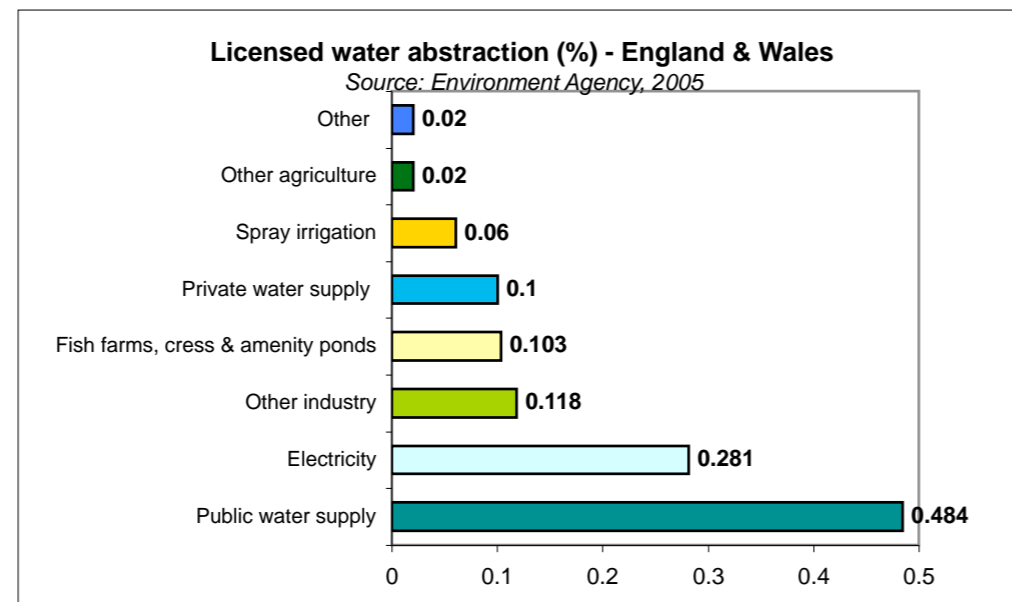
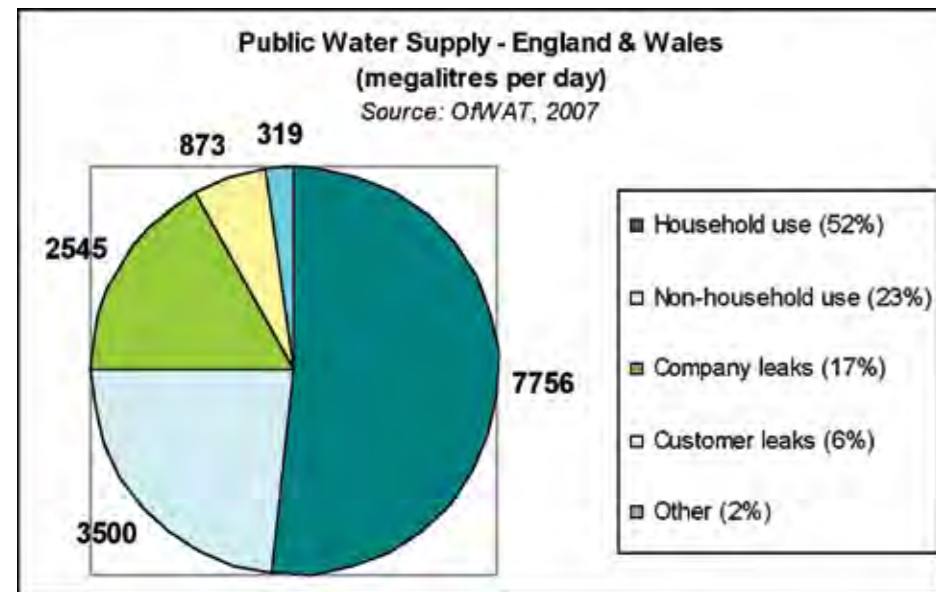
Future Water is the Government's water strategy for England. It recognises the need to balance the provision of clean water in rivers and lakes, and the efficient supply of water to homes and businesses, with the protection of future supplies and the need to adapt to climate change by reducing emissions and managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. This means working to reduce demand whilst maintaining the quality of our water, and improving efficiency in water use, e.g. through the use of rainwater harvesting.

Where are we now?

Reducing consumption

Environment Agency data indicates that average water consumption in England and Wales has remained at 150 litres per person per day (1 tonne per person per week) over the last ten years, despite improvements in the efficiency of appliances and methods for conserving water. Given the increase in population over this time, the overall amount of water consumed by households has grown whilst industrial use has declined. Household consumption now accounts for 52% of total water consumption in England and Wales, and the public water supply for 48% of water abstraction.

⁵Water Resources Strategy for England & Wales, 2009



Quality of supply

The quality of water in Tameside is good, and organisations from all sectors work together to maintain standards. Tameside has 39 sites with private water supplies, which were regularly tested for quality during 2008/09, and no problems were identified. The water supply at one local industrial plant is tested each quarter, and last year water quality at this plant met the required standard in three out of four tests. The source of the problem was identified, and cleansing procedures were reviewed. Just two local businesses were temporarily disconnected from the mains water supply due to non-payment of bills, and underwent a temporary voluntary closure, working with Environmental Health until supplies were restored.

Where do we want to be?

The members of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources Group will lead the way in reducing water consumption across Tameside. We aim to achieve at least a 10% reduction in water consumption by 2012. If possible we will exceed this figure.

- By April 2010 we will establish baseline figures for our own water consumption and agree a joint target reduction of 10% in consumption by every member of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources Group over the financial year 2010/11.
- We will work together with individuals,

community groups, organisations and businesses to reduce water consumption in Tameside as part of 10:10, working to achieve a 10% reduction in consumption by local households and businesses.

- We will continue to work with utilities companies, residents and businesses to maintain the quality of Tameside's water supply.
- We will assess the risks to our water supply arising from climate change, and implement actions to reduce and manage them.



6. Waste & Recycling

To minimise our impact on the environment, we need to reduce the amount of waste we create, and ensure that as much as possible is reused or recycled. This includes household waste as well as waste created by industrial and commercial processes. Current rates of waste production are unsustainable.

Most waste we produce is still sent to landfill, amounting to nearly 2,000 kilos (the weight of two cars) per person per year. To encourage councils to reduce waste sent to landfill the UK Government has introduced the Waste Levy.

According to DEFRA, most waste (by weight) comes from the Demolition & Construction sector (32%), followed by Mining & Quarrying (30%) and Industry (13%). According to the Environment Agency,⁶ public sector waste accounts for 5% of all Commercial and Industrial waste, equivalent to 3.4 million tonnes.

National Policy

In 2007 the Government published *Securing the Future*, the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, and the England Waste Strategy. Both documents highlighted the need to reduce waste and the economic benefits that this might bring. Government policy adopts the Waste Hierarchy, with prevention of waste as the preferred option and disposal to landfill as the least favoured.

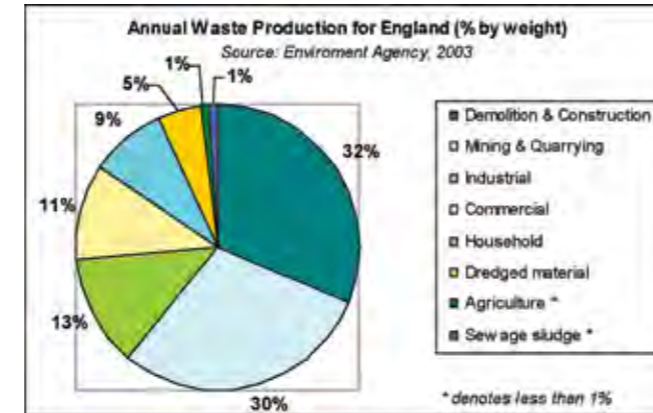
Where are we now?

Tameside Council collects household waste and Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Agency deals with its disposal, along with waste from eight other Greater Manchester councils. A £3 billion Private Finance Initiative was signed in 2009 to create state of the art waste disposal and recycling facilities for Greater Manchester, including the extraction of energy from food waste.

The 2000/10 recycling rate for Tameside was 33.71%, compared with 28.78% the previous year. Over the year we saw a reduction in waste sent to landfill of 7475 tonnes, bringing us a rebate on our Waste Levy which has been set aside to fund community projects approved by local Community Panels.

Managed collections have been rolled out across Tameside, and we currently collect paper (including cardboard and tetrapak cartons), garden waste, glass, plastic bottles and drinks cans. With the new waste facilities across Greater Manchester we will also be able to recycle food. In conjunction with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) we are promoting the use of home compost bins to recycle waste. 458 bins were sold through the scheme in 2008/09. A study has been carried out to see if households in flats can be included in managed collections. Even where

this is not possible, recycling facilities are being made available for residents' use.



⁶Commercial & Industrial Waste Survey 2002/03

Where do we want to be?

The members of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources Group will lead the way in reducing waste sent to landfill across Tameside. We aim to achieve at least a 10% reduction in residual waste sent to landfill and a corresponding improvement in recycling by 2011. If possible we will exceed these figures.

- By April 2010 we will establish baseline figures for our own recycling and waste production, and agree a joint target reduction of 10% in residual waste created by every member of the TSP Sustainable Use of Resources Group between 2010 and 2011.
- We will work together with residents to further increase recycling rates across the borough, achieving a 50% improvement by 2012 against the 2009/10 baseline.
- We will further expand the products eligible for household recycling as capacity is extended within the new Waste contract.
- We will work with local businesses to reduce the amount of packaging used for goods, and increase the proportion of packaging that can be recycled.
- We will work together to identify markets for goods recycled in Tameside.



7. Air Quality & Transport

Access to reliable, affordable and safe transport for everyone is necessary to ensure our continued economic growth, but our current reliance on the car comes with economic, environmental and health costs. Increasing car use, especially for journeys that were once made by other means has led to serious problems of congestion and air pollution, particularly in urban areas.

Despite improvements in air quality since the 1950s, poor air quality still reduces life expectancy by an average of 7-8 months and people with existing heart or lung conditions are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that the UK spends £20 billion per year on the health costs attributable to air pollution.

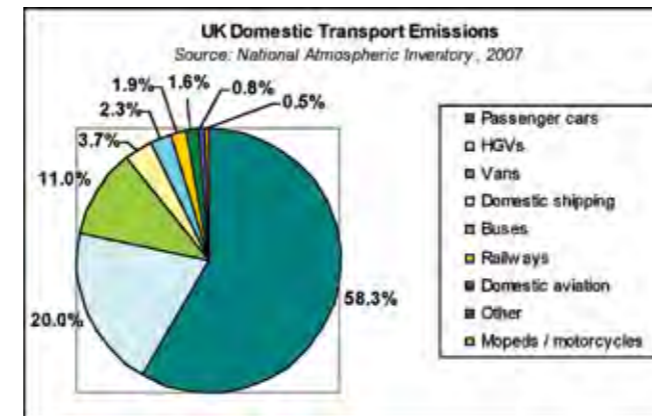
Air pollution also affects the natural and built environment causing the acidification of soils and the erosion of buildings. The long-term aim of European policy is to eliminate levels of pollution that have a detrimental effect on people, animals and the environment around us.

All councils are required by law to assess air quality against national standards and take action in areas where these standards are unlikely to be met. As well as the economic and health costs, vehicle exhausts currently account for 21% of domestic greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. This represents an increase of 12% since 1990. It is now estimated that 92% of transport emissions come from domestic road transport⁷.

National Policy

The 2007 UK Air Quality Strategy aimed to reduce the impact on life expectancy from air pollution by an average of 5 months by 2020. It reported that significant improvements had been made and air quality objectives had been achieved in over 99% of the UK, resulting in avoidance of an estimated 4,200 premature deaths and 3,500 hospital admissions. However, objectives have not been met for particulates, ozone or nitrogen dioxide. The Government is encouraging people to choose alternative ways to travel, and to increase use of public transport, whilst investing in improvements to infrastructure. At the same time the Transport Act 2000 required local transport authorities outside London to create and update 5-year Local Transport Plans to improve local transport. It also introduced the ability to charge for road use to manage demand, although this option was rejected by the residents of Greater Manchester in a public referendum. Under the Local Transport Act 2008 councils were given more powers to improve transport in their area, working with their local Integrated Transport Authority. Tameside is one of the ten Greater Manchester councils working towards the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan 2006-2011. The next Plan is currently being prepared by the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority in partnership with the ten local councils.

⁷National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (IPCC categories) 2007



Where are we now?

Tameside has over 30 air quality monitoring sites, including three continuous monitoring stations, situated across the borough. Where areas are identified that are not likely to meet national standards for air quality, an Air Quality Management Area must be declared and an action plan created. Tameside in conjunction with the other nine Greater Manchester councils, have already identified these areas of poor air quality and declared Air Quality Management Areas and are now working towards improving air quality in general across the entire City Region, through the Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan. The main source of air pollution in our region is from motor vehicle exhaust emissions and so the action plan has been integrated with the Local Transport Plan. Local monitoring data indicates that although background levels of nitrogen dioxide have fallen, concentrations alongside

roads have not. This is a national problem, and DEFRA has applied to the European Union to extend the deadline and review actions to ensure compliance with EU standards by 2015. Tameside's roads have become much safer over the last ten years, but congestion is increasing, and according to the Local Travel Plan, around 58% of trips by car in Tameside last for less than five miles (a journey of approximately 30 minutes by bike), and nearly 25% are less than two miles (equivalent to a 30-minute brisk walk). To reduce congestion, a variety of City Region transport projects have been agreed, and these include the extension of the Metrolink to Ashton-under-Lyne from Droylsden and the Ashton Northern Bypass. Work to improve Tameside's local bus services via Quality Bus Corridors has continued, and bus use on these routes has increased by up to 54%. At the same time, use of local rail services has also increased. Improvements to Stalybridge station have been completed and work has begun at Mossley. Cycle routes in Tameside have been reviewed, and improvements are now under way. All Tameside schools have produced and implemented travel plans to encourage teachers and pupils to change their travel behaviour. The Council is working with local businesses and public sector organisations to help them adopt travel plans.

Where do we want to be?

Tameside will continue to work with the Greater Manchester authorities to reduce air pollution across all areas of the borough. We will continue to work with our local partners, businesses and residents to raise awareness of the impact of vehicle transport on air quality. Along with the other Greater Manchester councils Tameside wants to be in a position where we:

- See a reduction in congestion and traffic on local roads
- Ensure that public transport is accessible to all residents, especially people without access to a car and those experiencing difficulties with mobility
- See an increase in the number of journeys made on foot, by bicycle or on public transport

8. Local Economy & Procurement

In a world of global competition, commercial advantage comes from easy access to a skilled workforce and a reliable supply chain. UK cities are driving our economic success, and are responsible for an estimated 40% of the national economy.⁸ Tameside is part of the pilot Manchester City Region, a legal entity set up by the ten Greater Manchester councils and Government to work together to improve economic prosperity of the area and compete with the leading cities across the world.

Increasing prosperity has brought significant benefits across much of the globe, but also significant environmental costs. In order to conserve natural resources and reduce emissions, we must prevent the waste of resources within our own operations, and encourage others to do the same. This means setting standards for the goods and services we procure, to minimise waste of resources and harm to communities and the environment.

National Policy

National policy focuses on sustainable economic growth, balancing economic needs with environmental and social benefits. With the 2007 Review of Sub National Economic Development & Regeneration, Government devolved responsibility for the local economy to Regional Development Agencies and local councils. In the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan the Government set out how it intends to

reduce carbon emissions through a low carbon economy, and achieve secure energy supplies for the future. The 2005 UK Sustainable Development Strategy raised awareness of the need to consider the environmental impact of the goods and services that we buy: *“Sustainable consumption and production is about achieving more with less. This means not only looking at how goods and services are produced, but also the impacts of products and materials across their whole lifecycle.”*

A Flexible Framework for sustainable procurement has been introduced by the Sustainable Procurement Task Force (SPTF) to enable local authorities to improve their performance. In response to the Task Force proposals, the Local Government Association and Innovation & Development Agency published the Local Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy in November 2007.

Greater Manchester has benefited from new policies to encourage joint work across an economic area in the form of Multi-Area Agreements linking economic development to transport, land and housing policy development. The latest development has been the introduction of the City Region pilot programme, and the development of a single subregional economic strategy for Greater Manchester, based on the evidence of the Manchester Independent Economic Review

(MIER). Tameside lies close to the heart of the Manchester City Region, and is well placed to benefit from its economic growth.

Where are we now?

The four priorities of the Tameside Economic Masterplan are to increase skills, increase employment, increase enterprise and to attract investment. In the ten years up to 2008, the Tameside economy boomed, and unemployment was lower than in other parts of Greater Manchester. However there were still areas of the borough with high levels of worklessness. People in Tameside are more likely to be employed in manufacturing than in other sectors and this has made us more vulnerable to the recession. Tameside people are less likely to have qualifications than those from many other districts, and this makes it harder to find work. During the recession, the unemployment rate increased faster in Tameside than it did elsewhere in Greater Manchester, although it is now in decline.

In response to the recession and the need to consider our impact on the environment, the major public and private sector employers in Tameside have signed up to Tameside Works First, and are committed to increasing opportunities for local companies. Within the first year of the programme, over £12 million has been spent through Tameside Works First, on over 860 contracts. The TSP Sustainable

Use of Resources Group has established a working group to look for ways to improve local procurement through joint action. Tameside came second in the North West in the Most Enterprising Place in Britain competition, thanks to the work of local Business Support services and the innovative Tameside Business Family. Local employers and public sector partners have been invited to join the national 10:10 campaign to reduce emissions. Groundwork has worked with local businesses to identify over £1 million of savings through energy efficiency measures.

Recycling in Tameside has grown over recent years, and the Council has made efforts to find ways to recycle the household waste it collects into new products. Recycled plastic is converted into street furniture which is bought by Council departments for use in Tameside’s parks, cemeteries and streets. Glass is ground into sand and aggregate which the Council sells on to companies involved in shot blasting and drainage. To reduce the use of quarried aggregates and improve health and safety during construction, kerbs made from lightweight recycled material are used to build and refurbish some of Tameside’s paths and roads. Tameside and Stockport Councils are working together to recycle waste from the construction of roads.

Where do we want to be?

Despite the recession, Tameside is committed to supporting the transition to a low carbon economy, and to ensuring that sustainable local businesses are able to offer well paid jobs to highly skilled residents. We will continue our work to establish opportunities for joint sustainable procurement to reduce our impact on the environment and achieve savings. To achieve our aims we will:

- Support local businesses to reduce their negative impact on the environment, whilst increasing profitability and competitiveness
- Support the development of the low carbon economy in Tameside, ensuring that local companies benefit from Greater Manchester’s designation as a Low Carbon Economic Area for the Built Environment
- Stimulate an environment in which enterprise can grow and ensure that local people are able to benefit
- Promote sustainable procurement and sign up to the Flexible Framework
- Continue to purchase goods from local companies where possible, via Tameside Works First

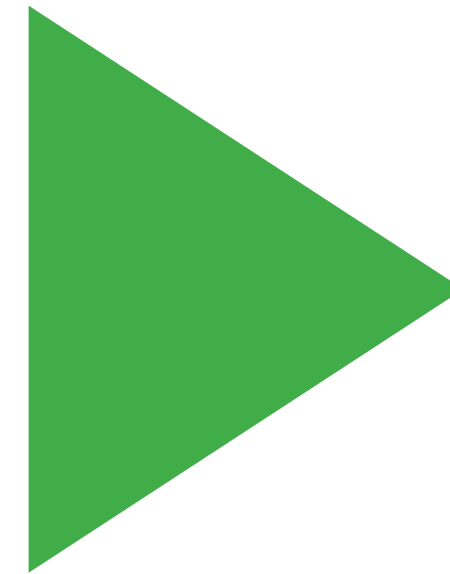


⁸The Future of Urban Transport, Department for Transport, 2009

10:10 Pledge



Making
Tameside
More
Attractive



9. Healthy Green Spaces

The green spaces within our borough, such as parks, playing fields, memorial gardens, playgrounds, allotments and cemeteries, are all areas which help to improve quality of life in Tameside. Green spaces both improve the appearance of the borough and improve people's mental and physical health: they provide areas where families can relax together, or take part in sport or play. Tameside's parks are important spaces for local events that strengthen the links between different community groups. In areas of high density housing, parks and green spaces can provide the main opportunity for people to experience the natural world.

There are other benefits to high quality green spaces: run-down public areas encourage anti-social behaviour and can increase fear of crime amongst residents. By contrast, well-designed and maintained parks and open spaces deter vandals. High quality green space can help to attract new businesses to an area, and to boost the local housing market.

Our urban green spaces are essential for sustaining the environmental quality of the borough. Trees and other plants absorb pollutants and carbon dioxide. They help to cool the atmosphere and absorb storm water, reducing the likelihood of flooding.

National Policy

The 2006 Green Spaces, Better Places Taskforce Final Report set out the importance of local parks and green spaces to the health and wellbeing of our communities. The 2009 Marmot review into health inequalities identified the link between high quality green spaces and health and wellbeing, reporting that children in 'greener' areas have a lower Body Mass Index, and that the use of vacant land for growing food can provide access to a cheap and healthy diet and improve physical activity rates.

Through the Local Development Framework, councils are required to assess and plan to meet the needs of the local community in terms of access to open spaces, playing fields and recreational areas. The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises high quality management and maintenance of local green spaces, and has been a key element of the Government's drive to improve the quality of the local environment, especially in urban areas.

Where are we now?

There are 20 parks across Tameside, together with a further 20 smaller gardens and recreation areas. Over 30 playing fields provide sports facilities for around 240 organised teams and 750 tenants take advantage of the Council's allotments located on 20 sites across the borough.

Tameside is justly proud of its parks and green spaces. In 2009 we were awarded £4 million of Heritage Lottery funding for our refurbishment of Stamford Park, including development of a café, community rooms, and information point, restoration of historic planting beds, a new aviary and depot, a new water feature and restoration of the Dingle. Earlier in the year, eleven of our parks and green spaces received Green Flag awards, and four other areas managed by community and voluntary groups received Green Pennant awards.

Many green spaces have recently benefited from improvement works linked to our Tameside in Bloom entries. This competition has seen Tameside achieve the Best Large City in the North West award for the past 5 years, the Environment Award in 2009, the Clean Sweep award for cleanliness in 2005 and 2007 and a special award for horticultural excellence at Stamford Park in 2007. The borough has also been selected to represent the North West in the National Britain in Bloom competition in 2010.

Tameside is currently auditing its green space and developing a Green Space Action Plan to ensure that the needs of local people are met by our parks and other gardens and recreation areas. Several parks have active Friends Groups, and many are used as venues for music and cultural events that bring people

together. Money has been awarded from the Government's Play Builder Scheme to improve children's playgrounds in the borough over a three year period.

For people to enjoy their local open spaces, they need to be clean and safe. Tameside is proud of its achievements in keeping the borough clean: last year we exceeded our national targets for street cleanliness, and were amongst the cleanest places in the country for the third year running. Working with the Tameside Patrollers, the Council has combined an educational campaign for dog owners with enforcement measures in a Dog Fouling Campaign.

To enjoy a happy and healthy life people need to feel safe. Overall Tameside crime rates and crime rates in priority neighbourhoods continue to fall and the figures for June-September 0209 are lower than the same period last year. Perceptions of crime have also improved amongst local residents: in summer 2009 just 42% of residents surveyed thought that crime had risen in the last year, compared with 53% in 2007.

Where do we want to be?

We want to continue to ensure that Tameside's parks and green spaces are managed to a high standard and enjoyed by all members of the community.

- We will work with local residents and

businesses to improve the green spaces of the borough, conserving nature, improving people's wellbeing, and creating a healthy, attractive and safe local environment.

- We will help local people develop the skills and confidence to grow healthy food and plants in a way that makes best use of natural resources.



10. Built Environment & Heritage

The character of Tameside's towns and villages was established early in the 19th Century, and is typified by civic buildings, small terraced houses, market squares, industrial buildings and canals. Although many changes to the built environment have occurred over the years, Tameside's built environment still possesses some of its historic character whilst also embracing modern architecture and design. An understanding of where we've come from is important in creating a sense of community. Each Tameside town has its own sense of identity, shaped by the history of the area. Today this heritage brings cultural, aesthetic, recreational, educational, environmental and economic benefits to local people, and should be safeguarded for future generations to enjoy.

There are increasing pressures on land use for building homes, workplaces, shopping and leisure facilities. It is therefore essential to ensure that development is sustainable and of a design quality that attracts future businesses and investment to the area. The construction of new developments consumes resources such as land, materials, water and energy and produces waste. The form and design of new buildings may also ultimately determine the future demand of energy and water that will be used. Sustainable construction techniques can improve the performance of building projects by reducing waste and therefore reducing costs.

National Policy

In 2007 Sir Michael Lyons published the final report of the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government, describing the role of councils in using their powers and influence to promote wellbeing, namely 'place shaping'. The report identified the responsibility of councils to build a sense of local identity, and balance local economic development with environmental needs. In practice this means balancing the preservation of local identity with developing economic prosperity and protecting the local environment. In the same year, the Planning White Paper called for the Core Strategy of the local development framework to set out how local land will be used in order to achieve the vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the national Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change established that tackling climate change should be at the heart of the planning framework.

Where are we now?

Tameside Council works hard with developers, private and public bodies and the residents of the borough to achieve the highest possible standards in the sustainable construction of new buildings. The Council expects architects and contractors to follow the guidance published in The Sustainable Design and Construction Guide and its commitment to sustainable development is also demonstrated

in environmental sustainability and performance targets contained within local development framework documents, and in the Planning process. The Council gives priority to the use of previously developed land in the most efficient way including the reuse of empty or underused buildings, enabling higher densities where consistent with environmental quality, conserving cultural and natural resources, minimising the need to travel and facilitating the use of public and non-motorised means of transport. Developer contributions made to the Council to compensate for the impact development has on existing roads, schools or local facilities are used to fund facilities or services to the local community and ensure a more sustainable approach to development.

In Tameside we continue to celebrate our rich heritage by commemorating local people and places of historical importance through our Blue Plaque scheme, and restoring historic buildings such as St Lawrence Church in Denton. We have preserved the remains of the former ironworks buildings at Park Bridge Heritage Centre, and reopened Portland Basin Museum within the restored Ashton Canal Warehouse. We have placed war memorials around the borough to remember those that have lost their lives serving their country, and continue to roll out bronze maps and statues across the borough to highlight the history and heritage of our communities.

Where do we want to be?

Tameside will continue to use the Local Development Framework to guide new developments in Tameside. Our aim is to build strong and cohesive communities by celebrating and safeguarding Tameside's industrial and cultural heritage, and finding ways to bring it to life for all local people to enjoy. From developers we want to see:

- Development process that engage local people to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for Tameside.
- High quality, sustainable design approaches that protect Tameside's heritage and provide healthy and energy efficient places to live and work
- Construction practices that combine maximum use of locally-sourced goods and services with minimal adverse impact on local communities and the environment.

Efficient use of our existing buildings is essential if we are to avoid wasting resources. Organisations within the TSP are committed to reducing consumption of energy, water and materials in the operation of their own estate, and to working with each other to make best use of the available space. We are committed to supporting other organisations across Tameside to do the same.





DO&O Pledge

Protecting Our Natural World



11. A Healthy Natural Environment

In the past, many areas of Greater Manchester suffered from large-scale dereliction, including landfill and pollution. This led to a decline in the variety of plants and animals found across the area, but over time restoration work has allowed the creation of attractive landscapes which are helping to increase the diversity of our wildlife. Nevertheless, loss of species remains a local, national and international concern.

The environment in which we live can have affect our health and wellbeing. Poor air and water quality, high emissions and noise from transport, and local pollution problems such as dog fouling and fly tipping can all damage our mental and physical health. A healthy environment can also benefit our health: recent research suggests that income-related inequalities relating to health are less significant in places where people have greater access to green spaces and the countryside. Access to green space can be especially helpful in improving obesity, mental health, circulatory disease and asthma; people living in poorer areas are generally less likely to have good access to green space and are more likely to have poor health.

In Tameside no built-up area is more than 1.5 kilometres from accessible countryside, meaning that local people can have everyday contact with the landscape and the natural world. Our countryside is rich in wildlife. As well as the valleys of the Rivers Tame, Medlock

and Etherow, Tameside has three country parks, eight nature reserves and a fine canals network. A number of sites in Tameside have been designated for their nature conservation interest. Three sites, the Hollinwood Branch Canal, Huddersfield Narrow Canal and Boar Flat on the eastern moorlands, have been given national statutory protection as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and over 50 sites have also been designated as Sites of Biological Importance (SBI).

All Councils within Greater Manchester are working closely together on the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (GMBAP). The plan highlights nationally threatened species and habitats, to which conservation efforts need to be targeted. Many of these occur in Tameside, including species such as water vole, brown hare and skylark, and habitats such as upland oak woodland and ancient species rich hedgerows. In order to foster a greater local awareness and ownership amongst Tameside's residents, it is recognised that there is a need to produce an area Nature Conservation Strategy specific to Tameside, highlighting local priorities and objectives.

National Policy

The Marmot Review in 2009 concluded that *'how people use green spaces will directly and indirectly benefit health and wellbeing, especially for lower socio-economic groups. Proximity to, and time spent in, the natural environment*

has a strong positive impact on factors such as the number of health complaints, perceived general health, stress, blood pressure, mental health and rates of recovery from surgery. The presence of green space also has indirect benefits, by encouraging physical activity, social contact and integration, and play; by improving air quality; and by reducing urban heat island effects.'

Natural England has carried out research into the likely effect of climate change on different types of landscape. These four 'Character Area' studies have been used to identify ways to help preserve the natural environment under a changing climate, such as:

- A**
- Improving the health and resilience of existing habitats
- Ensuring that habitats include a wide range of microclimates and the widest possible variety of species, especially trees.
- B**
- Pollarding trees regularly to protect them from storm damage
- Providing shade and drinking water at recreation sites.

In 2008 Natural England published The State of the Natural Environment which reported that England's wildlife had become less varied over the last 50 years, and our landscapes and ecosystems remain under threat. Increasing

temperatures are putting pressure on coastal saltmarshes and further inland species are moving northwards and to higher places. The report noted some successes, for example in slowing the decline of farmland birds, improving the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and in reintroducing species such as the red kite. To conserve habitats and strengthen the diversity of the species they support, Natural England works towards four strategic outcomes:

- A healthy natural environment
- People inspired to value and conserve the natural environment
- Sustainable use of the natural environment
- A secure environmental future

The NHS published a summary of the likely health effects of climate change in 2008, based on the pattern of hotter drier summers, milder wetter winters and more frequent extreme weather forecast by the UK Climate Impacts Programme. These include:

- Fewer cold-related winter deaths
- More heat-related summer deaths
- More food poisoning and insect borne diseases
- More sun burn and skin cancer as people spend more time in the sun.

Climate change also presents a challenge to the diversity of species in Tameside and beyond. If

global average temperatures increase by more than around 2 degrees Centigrade, the impact of this warming could be significant.

Where are we now?

Working with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Tameside's Countryside Service manages all Council-owned countryside sites in the borough. We have achieved the UK Woodland Assurance Standard for the management of 17 of our woodland sites, and of our 55 Sites of Biological Importance 24% have been judged to be in positive management in the first year of a new national indicator. We are aiming for a 5% increase in the proportion of sites judged to be in positive management year-on-year. Our Biodiversity Plan has been produced, and a Biodiversity network is in the process of being established. A new Countryside Strategy is about to be published, with the key themes of:

- Physical access
- Recreation, health & wellbeing
- Engaging people
- Biodiversity
- Landscape
- Historic environment

Where do we want to be?

We are committed to ensuring that all communities in Tameside have easy access to high quality spaces that provide opportunities

for play, relaxation, participation in activity, and enjoyment of the natural world. We will look for ways to increase the number of people able to grow their own plants and food to promote physical activity and a healthy diet. We will investigate further the likely impact on health of climate change in Tameside, and take steps to reduce the risk through changes to our local area and our way of life.

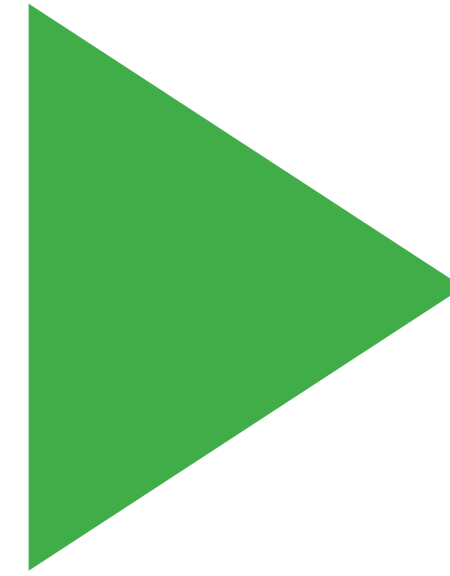
We intend to be in a position where Tameside's natural environment is a major asset to the borough, valued and enjoyed by all groups within the community, well-managed and safeguarded for the future, especially in the face of a changing climate:

- Priority species and habitats will continue to increase in extent, health and connectivity and the damaging impacts of non-native species will be reduced.
- More people from a wide range of backgrounds will enjoy the countryside and get involved in its care and management.
- The distinctive character and 'sense of place' of Tameside's countryside will be maintained and conserved through interaction between nature and the people who live and work here
- We will provide more opportunities for people from all communities to use the countryside for exercise and recreation, to improve their health.



DO:O Pledge

Developing Community Champions



12. Engaging Local People

Sustainable development is “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” We know that our current way of life is too resource-intensive to be sustainable: it’s been estimated that if everyone on Earth lived as we do in the West, the natural resources of three Earths would be required. To make the changes to our patterns of consumption and production necessary to redress the balance, action from both Governments and individuals is required.

A key aim of this strategy is for members of the TSP to work in partnership with the people of Tameside to engage all communities in reducing their carbon footprint. As we do this we will provide opportunities for people to increase their skills and knowledge, and extend their social networks. We want to establish local Community Champions within Tameside’s neighbourhoods, who can encourage others to adopt the necessary change.

National Policy

Act On CO2 is the official Government campaign to engage people and businesses in saving money, energy and emissions. 10:10 is an independent campaign that aims to do the same. People and organisations are asked to pledge to reduce their carbon emissions by 10% during the year 2010, and members of the TSP have committed to undertake the challenge.

Where are we now?

There is already much activity in Tameside to encourage people to change their way of life, and reduce their energy consumption. For example, the Council is working with local schools, businesses and other organisations to create Travel Plans to help reduce use of cars. New investment has been made in cycle paths and public transport infrastructure to help people use other means of transport. Members of the TSP are at varying stages in the creation of Travel Plans and car-sharing schemes to reduce car use by employees travelling to work, and some have reviewed and improved the efficiency of their fleet.

Through Britain in Bloom, local people have become involved in improving the local environment, and we have a growing volunteer force engaged in protecting our countryside and green spaces. New premises at Hyde Park also help to promote social and micro enterprises, such as the “Haggle ‘n’ Barter” concept, which encourages people to grow and barter their own produce in exchange for items from other people.

Local campaigns have been carried out to raise awareness of the need for energy efficiency and improved recycling, and to help people to make informed choices are key to achieving sustainable development. National Campaigns run by organisations such as Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the

Energy Saving Trust underpin many Tameside campaigns.

Educating our children about environmental and social responsibility is essential to ensuring that our future generations are educated and prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. The Government launched the Sustainable Schools Framework in 2006 with its aim to ensure that all schools are sustainable schools by 2020. The majority of schools in Tameside are engaged on the Eco Schools initiative, a scheme that guides schools on their sustainable journey and provides a framework to ensure that environmental issues are embedded into the heart of school life.

Where do we want to be?

Members of the TSP are committed to working together and with local people to help them reduce their carbon footprint and change their way of life. We will agree the messages that need to be promoted, and identify how each of our organisations can support the overall campaign.

- We will engage local people in reducing Tameside’s carbon footprint through a joint communications campaign to promote Government initiatives and funding sources, and the need to reduce emissions
- We will work with local residents to establish a network of Low Carbon Tameside community champions

- We will engage local businesses in reducing their carbon footprint through the establishment of a Low Carbon Network and by promoting sources of advice and funding to enable them to make any necessary changes



