

# Sustainable Trafford

A strategy for the transition to a low-carbon future in Trafford

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**Photo: *The families who received clean-burning wood stoves and solar hot water systems under the award-winning Old Trafford Renewables Project.***

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## Foreword – Leader of the Council

Planet Earth is the home and garden of the human species.

The unique conditions which favour life on Earth protect us from the inhospitability of space, and the productive bounty of the planet's biosphere sustains us and enables us to thrive as a part of that biosphere.

Individuals and families need a home to live in and protect us from the elements, but also a garden in which to grow our food and to enjoy the diversity and beauty of nature.

However, as a species we cannot 'move house' – the Earth is the only home we have, and so we must live with the consequences of the changes we make to it, and the way we treat it.

Sustainability is about 'good housekeeping', which means looking after the fabric of the house, keeping the garden full of a diversity of wildlife to enjoy and making the most productive use of our food-growing areas. Doing these things means that we can continue to enjoy our life on Earth and preserve it for our children and future generations.

However – on a global scale we are in the process of concreting over the planetary garden to make roads and car parks, and exploiting carbon deposits such as oil, coal and gas for fuel and energy.

Fossil fuels are our inheritance, the 'family silver'. They are capital, not income - but we are busy spending these family savings on a shopping spree like there is no tomorrow. Our 'income' comes from the sun and from the natural productivity of the Earth. As we destroy the environment around us with our fossil fuel party, this 'hangover' means that our income falls as well as our savings.

Our fossil fuel 'savings' will eventually run out, and when they do, the danger is that our remaining planetary 'income' will not be enough to support us, and our home will be 'repossessed' - it has happened before in geological history!

Good housekeeping is about conserving our fossil fuel 'savings' for a 'rainy day', and maximising our income by living sustainably - harvesting renewable energy from the sun and the elements, learning to produce food without fertilisers made from fossil fuels, and making sure there is an abundance of species in the garden for our enjoyment and to make sure the fruits are pollinated and the bee hives are full of honey.

This strategy for a 'Sustainable Trafford' details how the council intends, through informing personal choice and exercising leadership, to safeguard the borough of Trafford, which is our home, for ourselves and for our children, whilst bringing us a higher quality of life, which comes from a higher quality relationship with our local and global environment.

*Cllr Susan Williams*  
**Leader of the Council**

# 1. Sustainable Trafford

## **Good Housekeeping - Challenge and Opportunity**

Trafford Council is a leader in community-based initiatives to tackle environmental problems, with a long history of successful partnership working to achieve award-winning outcomes, and some of the highest quality green spaces in the UK.

However, we are always looking for opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in the borough. The new ways of looking at how we live which come with the sustainability agenda offer a unique opportunity: the chance to re-capture the traditionally strong community spirit in Trafford and time-tested values which put family, relationships, education, skills and hard work at the heart of what we do. The adoption of this Sustainability Strategy gives an opportunity to replace the ethos of ever-increasing consumption with a realization of the value of our heritage, and the need to conserve it for future generations.

The council also recognises two major challenges which threaten the sustainability of Trafford:-

- Climate change
- Resource depletion

‘Sustainable Trafford’ aims not only to deal with the twin problems of climate change and resource depletion, but to achieve an altogether higher quality of life in the borough, doing more with less, and reclaiming the traditional and time-tested values which made communities strong in the past and will do once more in the future.

The tools are already with us – the UK is historically designed around market towns surrounded by farms and woodlands growing food and fuel, and that geographic model remains underneath the veneer of more modern times.

The necessary response to both challenges is a transition for Trafford to low-carbon, renewable energy usage and the efficient and sustainably managed use and conservation of local resources, utilising the opportunities presented by new skills and new industries which the council is keen to support.

The very same partnership working which Trafford has employed in the past will now be used to tackle these two major challenges, and to achieve the transition to a low-carbon Trafford. The transition programme, for which this Strategy provides a framework of action, is called ‘Sustainable Trafford’.

Of course Trafford does not exist in a vacuum, and every part of the UK and every country in the world needs to make this transition – so we are most definitely not alone, and we can draw on the experiences and knowledge of others.

## **Climate Change**

It is recognised that climate change is happening and that the impacts will be severe. It is now almost universally accepted that man is responsible for creating the problem.

Increasing levels of carbon dioxide which is in the Earth's atmosphere due to the burning of 'fossil fuels' (coal, oil and gas), and other 'greenhouse gases' such as methane (a by-product of landfill sites), reduce the amount of the sun's heat which goes back into space, and thus increases the surface temperature of the planet. It has been suggested by climate scientists that the global temperature rise should be limited to a maximum of 2<sup>0</sup>C if at all possible, the level beyond which there exists an increasing risk of 'runaway' global warming

Although it is not possible to link specific weather events to climate change, general patterns of change have been identified by climate scientists, including the increasing frequency of extreme weather events. Recent months and years have seen a surge in these extreme events across the world, from the inundation of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, to the European heatwave of 2003 which killed an estimated 35,000 people, to the catastrophic floods across large parts of the UK and Africa in the summer of 2007. Scientists now estimate that there is a significant possibility that as early as 2020 the North Pole will be entirely devoid of summer ice, which raises the spectre of the inundation of coastal areas around the world as global sea levels rise to accommodate extra freshwater from the melting polar ice caps.

The UK is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, which aims to keep concentration levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere below 550 parts per million (ppm), in an attempt to limit the worst effects of climate change. To this end, the UK Government has set a goal of a reduction in national carbon emissions of 60% by 2050 on a 1990 baseline. The Government has also indicated that local government is expected to play a major role in delivering these emissions reductions.

Trafford Council is committed to tackling the carbon emissions which are the main cause of human-induced climate change. In addition, the borough is also preparing for life in the future with the effects of climate change, which the planet is already committed to due to historical carbon dioxide emissions which remain in the atmosphere.

## **Resource Depletion**

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the plentiful and seemingly infinite supplies of fossil fuels which powered the Industrial Revolution and provide the energy to power our global technological civilisation with international trade and communications will not be able to continue to do so for very much longer.

Although there are still vast reserves of oil, coal and gas left under the ground, extracting them is becoming increasingly expensive as they are found in areas of the world which are more remote and inaccessible than ever before.

Oil discoveries peaked in the 1970s, and although increasingly sophisticated technology is being employed to maximise the amount of oil recoverable from existing reservoirs, the net effect of improvements in extracting technology is to accelerate production rates which in turn accelerates the decline and exhaustion of the great oil fields of the world. In other words, the faster we can extract the oil, the sooner it will be gone.

When it comes to supplies of oil, natural gas and coal, the most important factor to consider is not how much remains under the ground, but how fast it can be extracted and delivered to the market to meet demand at a price that people and industry can actually afford. All fossil fuel reservoirs, be they oil, gas or coal, follow a predictable pattern of production, starting and ending their lives with low production flows, and reaching a peak, or maximum production rate, at around the point when half the recoverable oil, gas or coal has been produced. It is the timing of this 'production peak' which is important, as when it is reached, employing new technology to increase production rates only serves to make the production decline that much steeper on the other side of the peak.

A growing body of evidence suggests that the world has already reached 'peak oil', and 'peak gas' and 'peak coal' will not be far behind. Spiralling energy prices and supply shortages in increasing numbers of countries around the world are signs that the world is entering an era of energy scarcity.

Even renewable resources such as timber, water, soil and marine resources need to be managed effectively if they too are not to suffer depletion and permanent damage.

## 2. Introduction

The term 'Sustainability' has come into common use as shorthand for 'Sustainable Development'<sup>1</sup>.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) covers four main areas:

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

Sustainability is the ability for social and economic life in Trafford to go on indefinitely without degrading the local or global environment, and for the quality of life in the borough to increase through improving communities and services using sustainable resources.

In this way, sustainability is as much about protecting income streams which fund council services and ensuring that the staff who deliver these services have the resources and working environment they need as it is about mitigating climate change and reducing waste and pollution. The bottom line is that sustainability is all about resource efficiency and 'doing more with less'.

The traditional role of a council is that of the community leader – to demonstrate by example how residents in the borough can and should behave to ensure a strong and vibrant local community.

As one of the larger users of energy in the borough, this means demonstrating to residents and businesses not only that cutting carbon emissions to mitigate climate change is possible and desirable, but that it has a direct financial reward in the form of lower utility bills.

In this way, the council tax paid by residents can be targeted to help residents and businesses to help themselves, through awareness-raising and educational programmes which enable homeowners, schools and businesses to access funding streams which are available to improve the energy efficiency of homes, cut utility bills and tackle fuel poverty and global warming.

The money spent on bills which can be saved by energy efficiency and other sustainability measures can substantially increase a household's disposable income, which is then recycled into the local economy to give extra benefits to local businesses.

But most of all, sustainability is about the interdependence of society and the fact that any actions must be undertaken by one and all in order to succeed. To address sustainability in the borough effectively, all sectors of society must be included, and working with the voluntary and social enterprise sector, as well as private business and industry will become increasingly important as time goes on. It is recognised however that some sectors may require more immediate attention and present greater opportunities for making a significant short-term impact than others. The council cannot succeed operating alone, and strong and integrated strategic and operational partnerships will be essential if desired outcomes are to be achieved.

In leading by example, and enabling others to do the same, the council accepts the responsibility which rests with every organisation in the borough, from the smallest bungalow or terraced home to the largest industrial company on Trafford Park – a responsibility which includes every member of staff and every elected member of the council.

### 3. Reasons for Sustainability

There are three main areas in which sustainability is important.

#### 3.1 Why Does Sustainability Matter to the Council?

The council's **Community Strategy ('Trafford 2021')** aims to implement climate change and environmental sustainability policies.

Trafford Council is a signatory to the **Nottingham Declaration** on Climate Change and the North West Climate Change Charter, which recognises opportunities in three areas arising from tackling climate change:-

- Environmental
- Social
- Economic

**Corporate Social Responsibility** and community leadership. The council has a duty to ensure adequate energy supplies in the borough, and a responsibility to encourage local businesses to make the most of economic opportunities which arise due to climate change and energy security issues.

#### 3.2 Statutory Requirements

Climate change and sustainability policies will be a main focus of the Audit Commission's **Comprehensive Area Assessment** after 2008, and will incorporate four main sustainability indicators:

**Carbon emissions reduction from local authority operations**

**Per capita carbon emissions for the borough**

**A fuel poverty indicator**

**Adapting to climate change**

The Government's proposed **Carbon Reduction Commitment** emissions trading scheme, which will include local authorities will come into force in 2010.

The **Home Energy Conservation Act (1995)** requires local authorities to act to reduce 'greenhouse gas' emissions from all domestic properties in the borough.

### 3.3 Environmental Factors

National UK targets for 'greenhouse gas' emissions reduction (60% reduction from 1990 baseline by 2050) under the **UK Climate Change Strategy** are required to be implemented locally also. Trafford borough currently emits a total of around 2.2 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, so needs to make cuts of around 1.3 million tonnes by 2050.

**Depletion of UK and world fossil fuel resources**, plus closure of UK electricity generating capacity over the next few years, means more risk of energy supply interruption and rising prices, which affects council business and private businesses and industry, as well as residents, in Trafford Borough, through higher energy bills and possible loss of operational capability.

The **UK Sustainable Development Strategy** focuses on four main areas of activity, which are reflected in this strategy:

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

It should be noted that 'Environmental Enhancement' refers not only to the natural environment, but also to the historic environment. Apart from its importance for the quality of life of Trafford's residents, the historic environment is also a key component of tourism and what makes Trafford an attractive location for new investment.

Embracing low carbon technologies will also help Trafford businesses to tap into an area which is currently estimated at around £20 million and employing around 600 people nationwide, but which is growing rapidly.

The number of companies offering solar photovoltaics has grown from 15 to 50 in the last three years, and other low-carbon technologies are seeing similar growth.

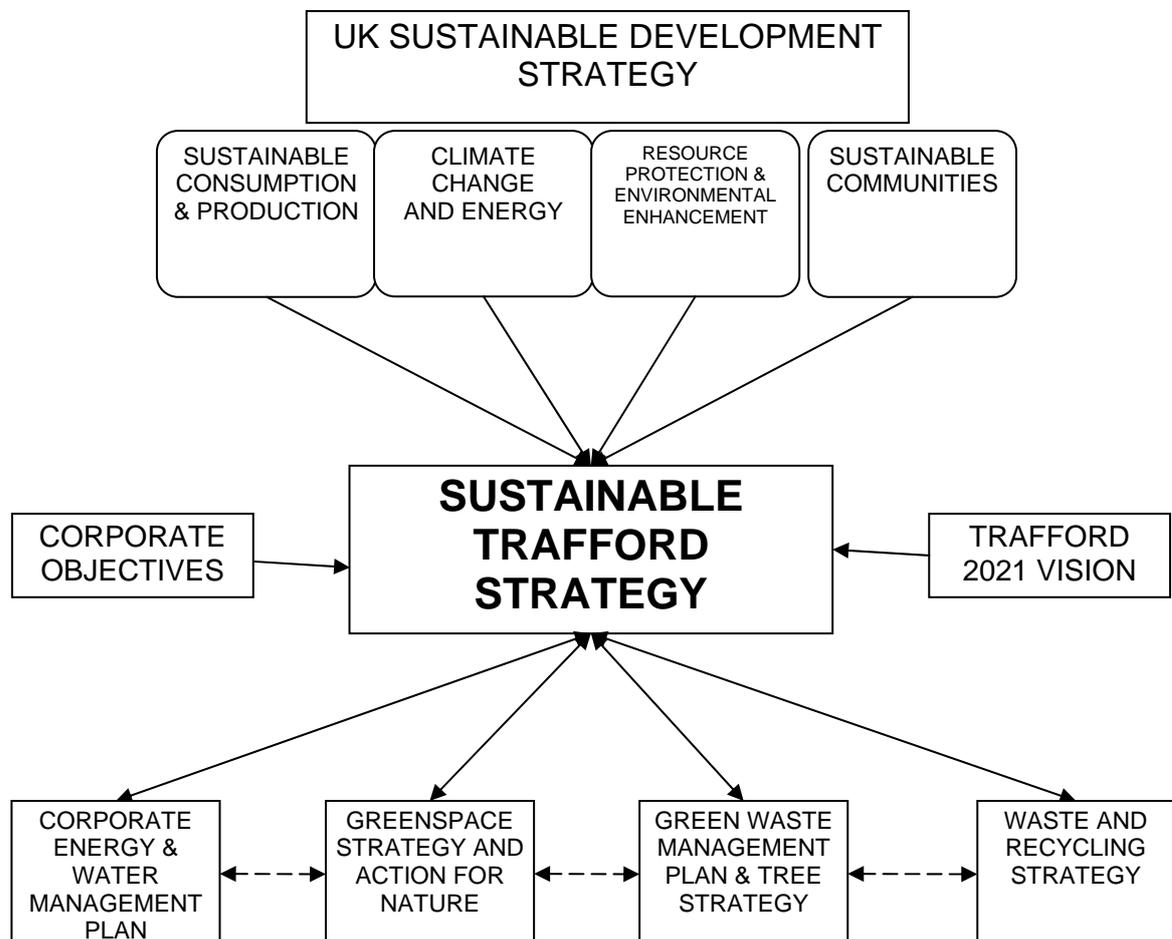
Successive British Prime Ministers have stressed the economic opportunities associated with the transition to a 'Low Carbon Economy', and as one of the main homes for industry and business in the UK, Trafford should take advantage of these new opportunities to maintain its status as a desirable place to set up for new innovative businesses.

#### 4. How Does Sustainability Fit In?

Trafford already has many action plans and strategies which address sustainability in some way, formulated by individual service areas. The council's Energy and Water Management Plan will address carbon emissions from the council's own estate, and the Trafford 2021 Sustainable Community Strategy details sustainability actions targeted for residential neighbourhoods, and aims to reduce carbon emissions in Trafford by 30% through partnership working. The council also has strategies in place addressing Greenspace, trees and green waste, and recycling. The Action for Nature in Trafford action plan addresses the council's Biodiversity Duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

However, to date there has been no over-arching strategy for Trafford to inform, co-ordinate and learn from existing initiatives. Moreover, there is also a need to prioritise and effectively target limited council resources, which applies not only to the council's own estate but also to the authority's leadership role with businesses and residents.

This 'Sustainable Trafford' strategy will fulfil that role, providing a bridge between the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and individual service area plans in Trafford, and providing a framework for Sustainability in Trafford as a whole.



## 5. Partnerships for Sustainability

Although the council has invested in two full-time staff members dedicated to sustainability, the scale of the challenge to raise the profile of sustainability across the borough means that partnership working is essential to delivery of sustainability initiatives.

**Residents and Businesses** in the borough are the council's first and foremost partners in tackling sustainability. Without their co-operation in Trafford, sustainable solutions would be impossible to implement.

**Action for Sustainable Living** is a charity operating in Old Trafford and now expanding operations into the rest of Trafford. As the name suggests, AfSL deliver bespoke sustainability advice to householders through home visits and community initiatives. AfSL were our partners in the award-winning Old Trafford Renewables Project, which saw homes in the area receive solar hot water systems and clean-burning wood stoves free of charge to tackle fuel poverty and carbon emissions. The council is extremely fortunate to have such a partner working in the borough and is almost unique in the country in this respect. AfSL are not the only community partner in Trafford however; another example would be Faiths4Change, an organisation funded by the North West Development Agency who aim to deliver sustainability initiatives using the strong inter-faith connections in the borough.

**Red Rose Forest** is an important strategic partner, fulfilling a number of functions from provision of a local 'carbon offset' scheme to working closely with the Greenspace and Sustainability Service on tree management and wood production strategy.

**Groundwork** works with the council to deliver the **Local Strategic Partnership's** environmental agenda, as well as advice programmes to businesses on energy and waste reduction. Aims include the reduction of carbon emissions and waste in the borough, as well as environmental improvement objectives.

The **Trafford Park Carbon Management Project** is a consortium of companies on Trafford Park who are looking to reduce their carbon emissions through a partnership run by consultancy firm Quantum, the Carbon Trust and RWE Npower. The project has been running for around 12 months and has so far identified the potential for carbon emissions cuts of around 15% in participating companies.

**Altrincham Farmers' Market** is a good example of the council encouraging the local production and consumption of food. This helps to reduce 'food miles' and encourages a healthy diet. Potential exists for local farmers to produce energy crops for biofuels as well as food.

**Trafford Housing Trust** is the Registered Social Landlord now owning the council's old housing stock; around one in every ten homes in Trafford is owned by Trafford Housing Trust. Although there are other social housing

providers in the borough, THT is by far the largest. THT is currently developing its own Sustainability Strategy, and as such as an important partner of the council.

Trafford has its own web portal and pledge campaign called '**Trafford Is My Planet**', part of the 'Manchester Is My Planet' (MIMP) initiative which aims to change attitudes to climate change in the conurbation. The council will continue to lead on a number of the MIMP projects such as 'Greening the Town Halls' and the Manchester Energy Co-operative/ESCO<sup>2</sup> project.

Working with the 'Third Sector'<sup>3</sup> will be essential for the delivery of sustainability initiatives going forward.

Not only does the 'Third Sector' possess the skills and know-how to implement sustainability projects, but is key to accessing funding streams which are not available to the local authority.

The council can contribute 'in-kind' assistance such as sites on council-owned land for projects operated by social enterprises, staff time, meeting rooms to progress projects and other assistance. In return, the 'Third Sector' can provide the organisation and expertise, and access the funding to deliver successful projects which fulfil the council's social and economic objectives.

## 6. Case Studies

### 6.1 Case Study – Trafford Council

Many flagship sustainability projects have already been delivered in Trafford, all of which can be replicated and have much potential for development.

The **Old Trafford Renewables Project** saw six households in Old Trafford receive solar hot water systems and clean-burning wood stoves at no cost (see front cover photograph), thanks to Trafford Council in partnership with National Energy Action and Action for Sustainable Living. The project aims to reduce Fuel Poverty and carbon emissions simultaneously, and is a pilot project from which the principles can be applied elsewhere in the borough. The project won the Energy Institute’s Renewable Innovation Award. Although only a small-scale pilot project, it has shown what is achievable with simple but high-impact measures.

**Stamford Brook** housing development aims to achieve a large scale (700+ houses) development using traditional construction techniques but demonstrating, on a commercial basis in partnership with two volume house builders under the guidance of the National Trust, how much higher standards of sustainable production can be achieved.

In addition to the exceptionally high levels of airtightness that have been achieved and the approach to sustainable drainage the scheme also demonstrates a comprehensive approach with integrated affordable housing, water use minimisation measures, sustainably sourced products, masterplanning (including e.g. orientation to maximise solar gain), waste minimisation, community woodland using native species to support biodiversity and the restoration of Sinderland Brook to its original course along with a flood plain which has reduced the risk of flooding not only to the new houses but to existing houses also. This local exemplar development continues to draw on local expertise.

**Navigation Primary School** boasts a sustainable building design including solar hot water systems and a wind turbine, which provide low-carbon and low-cost hot water and electricity to staff and students.

**Woodheys Primary School** sports solar photovoltaic panels and vegetable beds, as well as a curriculum which is centred around sustainability and energy efficiency in particular. Woodheys won this year’s Ashden Award for Energy Efficiency, and the prize was presented to them by Nobel Prize winner Al Gore, of “An Inconvenient Truth” fame.

In common with other local authorities, Trafford has established ‘**walking buses**’ to enable school children to get to and from their place of education safely and healthily. Walking buses encourage fresh air and exercise, as well as reducing carbon emissions and traffic congestion associated with travel to and from school in the rush hour.

## **6.2 Case Study – Barnsley Council**

Barnsley Council has already achieved large reductions in carbon emissions from its own estate through the use of biomass for heating, and are on target to reach its 60% carbon emissions reduction target for 2050 by 2010.

Econergy, an ESCO<sup>2</sup> surveyed Barnsley for tree waste, and identified the potential for at least 1,000 tonnes of wood per year which could supply three 500 kW boilers. South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, which receives funding from four local authorities, believes that a further 45,000 tonnes of wood could be supplied from existing forestry each year. In addition, 1,300 hectares of short rotation coppice have been planted. The new demand for biomass<sup>4</sup> created by Barnsley MBC has helped to form a wood fuel supply chain, supporting the active management of woodland and preventing wood from going to landfill. Barnsley MBC expects a total of 20 jobs to be created as a result of the projects.

One installation is a 500kW Fröling wood-chip boiler at the Smithies Lane Depot, which belongs to Barnsley Council. This boiler was installed in early 2006 to heat the depot and supply hot water to 450 council employees, in place of two coal boilers which were in urgent need of replacement. It uses an estimated 150 tonnes of wood-chip each year. An oil-fired back-up boiler was installed to maintain continuity of service during the installation.

Wood-chip boilers are also being installed in new buildings, instead of gas; including the high-profile 'Westgate Plaza One', which will become the Barnsley MBC civic headquarters and house about 700 employees. Under the first phase of this development, a 500kW boiler has been installed, which can use either wood-chip or wood pellets. The boiler will heat the Westgate complex by day and will supply heat to thermal storage vessels in the nearby central library by night. This will maintain an even load and will displace 275 kW of off-peak electrical heating. A further phase is planned, and this will link to a civic centre heating scheme which will supply the Town Hall as well. Barnsley MBC has convinced the private developers of the Westgate Centre to plan for continuing biomass use after the 25-year Council tenancy expires. They have therefore provided only a 50% back-up gas boiler, rather than 100% back-up which they originally planned.

## **6.3 Case Study – Timber Recycling In Manchester**

Timber Recycling in Manchester (TRiM) is an organisation based in East Manchester which exists to recycle and reuse waste timber generated in the city region.

TRiM has been operational for around three years and provides not only a valuable re-use and recycling facility for timber, but also provides employment and training opportunities for unemployed and otherwise socially excluded people, as well as wood fuel for homes in the area from off-cuts.

TRIM is affiliated to the National Community Wood Recycling Project, a grant-funded organisation which has a goal of setting up 20 local facilities by the end of March 2008. NCWRP has agreed to conduct a feasibility study of how a community wood recycling project, taking tree waste from the council's tree operations as well as used timber, could operate within Trafford. TRIM is likely to be a partner in such a project.

As well as providing quality timber and training and employment opportunities, any wood recycling project in Trafford would also produce log fuel (from off-cuts) for use in clean-burning wood stoves in the borough, and wood chip fuel for use in council buildings where biomass boilers have been installed.

#### **6.4 Case Study – Bury Council**

In the case of Bury Council, the council entered into a partnership with British Gas to improve the energy efficiency of around 2,500 homes in East Bury, which had been identified as a deprived area of the borough with high levels of fuel poverty.

The council committed more than £300,000 to the project, which received 100% match funding from British Gas giving an investment of over £600,000. Under the scheme, all council properties and private homes in East Bury received loft insulation, cavity wall insulation (where appropriate), low energy light bulbs, energy efficiency advice and other measures such as reflective radiator panels, all completely free of charge to residents.

For 12 months Bury also offered residents of East Bury a grant to cover the installation costs of microgeneration equipment which homeowners wanted to install – around 50% of the normal cost. The microgeneration grant saw the installation of 15 solar hot water systems in East Bury over 12 months.

These two initiatives, along with ongoing borough-wide awareness-raising activities and the investment in the Bury Metro Energy Show House for residents to visit, has resulted in a reported improvement of 23.77% in the energy efficiency of homes in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury since 1996 under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA 1995) data reported to DEFRA, as well as substantially raising the disposable income of some of Bury's lowest income households.

## 7. Sustainability in Trafford Council

As an essential aspect of Trafford's community leadership role, we must lead by example and first get our own house in order with *good housekeeping*. Additionally, reduction of carbon emissions from local authority operations is one of the new performance indicators under the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

In August 2006 we signed both the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and the North West Climate Change Charter, acknowledging the council's responsibility to tackle Climate Change.

Sustainability issues in Trafford Council's own estate comprise five separate areas:

*Council Buildings and Services*  
*The Council's Role as a Planning Authority*  
*Greenspace*  
*Procurement*  
*Waste and Recycling*

## **7.1 Council Buildings and Services**

### **Where We Are Now**

As a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and the North West Climate Change Charter, Trafford Council has taken on a responsibility to reduce carbon emissions from our own buildings and operations.

However, an equally pressing reason to reduce the council's energy and water use is rising energy prices – as fossil fuel resources become more scarce and UK electricity generating capacity falls short of demand, the council's rising energy bill will erode money available for front-line services.

The council currently spends around £3 million on energy, generating around 24,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the operation of around 180 buildings including town halls and offices, around 100 schools, 6 leisure centres and other community buildings.

In 2006, the council approved an Energy and Water Management Plan. One action point in the plan is that all new council buildings will in future conform to the BREEAM 'Excellent' standard.

### **Where We Would Like to Be**

The council's Energy and Water Management Plan has a target of reducing carbon emissions from the council's estate by 15% by 2011.

The council should also achieve a situation where the financial savings from energy efficiency projects are recycled back into sustainability initiatives.

## **7.2 The Council's role as Planning Authority**

### **Where We Are Now**

'Energy Considerations in New Development' - Trafford Unitary Development Plan, Adopted June 2006, states, "The Council will seek and promote developments that maximise energy conservation and efficiency and the use of renewable energy, and minimise the emission of greenhouse gases." (Policy D13)

As previously mentioned, there are already a number of exemplar developments in Trafford.

The housing development at Stamford Brook has achieved very high energy efficiency standards through the use of super-insulation, and a sustainable drainage system has been incorporated through the restoration of a stream to its original course.

Navigation Primary School boasts solar hot water and wind turbine systems to provide renewable energy to staff and students.

The council office building at Sale Waterside achieved the BREEAM 'Very Good' standard.

Action for Nature in Trafford (ANT), the local Biodiversity Action Plan document, was published in 2005 following two years of discussions between the council and partners from the community. The plan lists Sites of Biological Importance and other Local Nature Conservation Sites in the Borough and sets up a framework of action, targets and monitoring to protect/enhance them.

### **Where We Would Like to Be**

Through the new Local Development Framework the council will pursue measures within its Development Management Policies in the Core Strategy to assist in achieving the following:-

All new housing developments in Trafford to be of a low or zero carbon design, with at least one zero-carbon community in the borough.

All new developments over a certain size in Trafford to incorporate a proportion of renewable energy generated on-site, as detailed in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Council-owned sites which are suitable for renewable energy generation to be developed to generate income for the council and clean energy for Trafford.

The council will seek to protect and enhance the natural environment, using monies accrued under 'Section 106' to fund sustainability projects in the borough, mandated by appropriate Supplementary Planning Guidance.

## 7.3 Greenspace

### Where We Are Now

Currently, Trafford's green spaces require funding to maintain and generate little if any income as such. Greenspace includes playing fields and school grounds, city parks and countryside areas such as the Bollin and Mersey Valleys and Dunham Park.

Tree operations in the borough, both by the council and the private sector, currently generate an estimated 125 tonnes of waste wood annually (source: Red Rose Forest), from around 330 trees, currently disposed of by various means such as chipping and spreading on plant beds, landfill and composting.

The National Environment and Rural Communities Act gives every local authority a "Biodiversity Duty", which Trafford is committed to upholding. Biodiversity is essential for resilience in ecosystems and communities, and Trafford's Action for Nature action plan addresses the need to preserve and enhance biodiversity in the borough. The action plan can be downloaded from [www.actionfornature.co.uk](http://www.actionfornature.co.uk).

### Where We Would Like to Be

Trafford will reduce generally unsustainable aspects of Greenspace operations such as the use of peat, pesticides and bedding plants which use peat in their cultivation.

Peat is a fossil substance in that it is the product of photosynthesis (carbon capture) of former times. Its use, instead of compost, is therefore to add to the 'fossil fuel' problem. Its consumption also causes the destruction of peatland habitats which support special communities of plants and other wildlife, and needs to be transported long distances from where it is cut to be used in Trafford.

Pesticide use may damage helpful insects such as honeybees, and generally reduce insect diversity.

Trafford's green spaces also have a critical role to play in tackling climate change and providing sustainable resources for the council, residents and businesses in the borough. Green spaces fix atmospheric carbon, absorb noise and dust from traffic, and provide amenity and health benefits. Many of these benefits, however, are not quantifiable and cannot be reduced to bare financial statements.

The maintenance of parks and open spaces is recognised as being crucial to tackling potential drought and flooding problems, as dry parks do not absorb heavy rainfall, but well maintained parks can help prevent flooding. The harvesting of wood from trees in the borough will become an increasingly

valuable source of sustainable fuel and quality timber for building and woodworking.

As such, Trafford's green spaces should continue to be valued for the essential ecological services that they provide. Income for the maintenance of green spaces can be generated from sales of wood and wood products and carbon credits from tree planting for carbon storage.

Wood produced in Trafford, which is a currently wasted resource, can be processed into quality timber (to be used in training and employment programmes for disadvantaged sectors of the community). It can also be processed into wood fuel which can provide affordable low-carbon warmth for homes in the borough and also in community buildings such as leisure centres.

As well as the council's own estate, major partners in the borough such as Manchester United Football Club have expressed a desire to begin using wood chip fuel for their sites, so it is in the council's financial interest to explore the potential for maximising wood production in the borough under a broad strategic energy security partnership with other large organisations.

Red Rose Forest estimate that if current woodlands in the borough are correctly managed, they could yield around 2.5GWh of energy from around 1000 cubic metres of wood per annum, which could potentially at least double to around 5GWh of energy or more if long-term management and production plans are put in place.

Through utilisation of our local resources, and with ongoing energy efficiency (especially the disposal of time expired buildings such as Trafford Town Hall), as much as 10% of our energy could be sourced from these managed wood resources. A strategy to practically deliver this long term resource is now being developed.

The table below shows current heat demand in different facilities in the council's carbon baseline and carbon emissions associated with gas usage, which could be eliminated through the use of wood chip fuel. Potentially up to 100% of leisure centre facilities could be heated with biomass from existing woodland in the borough.

	<b>Gas used (GWh)</b>	<b>Annual CO2 emissions</b>
<b>Council buildings (293)</b>	21 GWh	4100 tonnes
<b>Schools (96)</b>	38 GWh	7200 tonnes
<b>Leisure centres (6)</b>	6 GWh	1100 tonnes
<b>Total (395)</b>	<b>65 GWh</b>	<b>12,400 tonnes</b>

Given Trafford's unique opportunity to accommodate more trees, a programme to increase woodland coverage in the borough for both sustainability and a long-term source of fuel is now being developed. There is also much scope for proactive woodland management, in particular the thinning of young plantations such as Dainewell Woods and parts of the

Mersey Valley. Care needs to be taken, however, to assess the habitats proposed for tree planting – they may already be valuable for biodiversity in their own right.

## **7.4 Procurement**

### **Where We Are Now**

Although some aspects of sustainability such as local supply are currently taken into account in corporate purchasing decisions, the weighting given to these factors is generally very low, and Trafford has no overall Sustainable Procurement Policy.

To date, the council has purchased 'green' electricity (generated from renewable sources and supplied by one of the major utility companies) to run its own estate. Although 'green' electricity is more expensive than ordinary 'brown' electricity, it is exempt from the Climate Change Levy and so to date it has been 'cost neutral' to the council.

However, the additional cost of 'green' electricity has recently risen, and so the council is now considering other options such as 'khaki' electricity (generated from waste heat).

Trafford does not currently have an official policy on the procurement of sustainable energy, and there are many options available, one of which is for the council to purchase the cheapest electricity ('brown' electricity generated by the burning of fossil fuels), and ring-fence the cost difference with 'green' electricity to fund energy efficiency improvements in the council's building stock.

### **Where We Would Like to Be**

The council should have a comprehensive Sustainable Procurement Policy covering all aspects of council purchasing, including, but not limited to:-

- Recycled paper
- Catering and the staff canteen
- ICT equipment
- Desks and furniture
- Energy

It is also recommended that in addition to the requirement for reports to be signed off by Legal and Finance, strategies and other documents which have significant resource implications should also be signed off by the council's Sustainability Manager.

## **7.5 Waste and Recycling**

### **Where We Are Now**

Last year in Trafford, a total of 92,280 tonnes of household waste was collected and disposed of by the council. Of this, a total of 23,489 tonnes was either recycled or composted – just over 25% of the total.

This means that Trafford is successfully attaining Government targets for recycling, but of course more needs to be done, especially in view of the need to eliminate as far as possible compostable materials from landfill.

### **Where We Would Like to Be**

The council would like to promote the concept of the waste hierarchy, which lists waste management options in order of decreasing sustainability - waste reduction, re-use, recycling/ composting, energy recovery and disposal - across Trafford, so that it becomes common knowledge.

Kerbside recycling collection services need to be enhanced to include cardboard and plastic bottles to meet the council's 34% household waste recycling/composting target in 2009/10.

In partnership with the GM Waste Disposal Authority the council should meet the targets in the GM Municipal Waste Management Strategy, including 50% recycling/composting by 2020.

We will explore the potential for introduction of commercial waste recycling services.

The council will meet the waste reduction targets specified in the Local Area Agreement.

Food waste is a particularly significant contributor to climate change, as its decomposition produces methane, a highly potent 'greenhouse gas'. Prevention of food waste going to landfill must therefore rank as a high priority in any sustainability strategy. Additionally, food waste can be used as a feedstock for power plants generating electricity from methane produced in an anaerobic digestion process.

## 8. Sustainability in Partnership

### 8.1 Industry and Business

In 2005, carbon dioxide emissions from the industrial, commercial and agricultural sector in Trafford reached over 1.2 million tonnes (source: DEFRA). This figure will have risen since that time in tandem with economic growth in the region.

An aim of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, echoed in this strategy for Trafford, is to ensure that economic growth does not result in extra carbon emissions.

The council stands amongst the other major energy users in the borough as a large emitter of carbon dioxide, and so collaborative partnerships with these other major energy users to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and secure energy supplies for the future are responsibilities for the council.

The authority should therefore:

Support private sector initiatives such as the Trafford Park Carbon Management Project.

Work with partners in the borough to deliver educational programmes for businesses such as BREW (Business Resource Efficiency and Waste) programme with Groundwork. The Local Strategic Partnership, along with funding from the North West Development Agency, will engage businesses in the borough to help achieve the target of a 30% reduction in carbon emissions in Trafford's 2021 Vision Sustainable Community Strategy.

Form strategic and operational partnerships with large businesses in the borough such as Manchester United Football Club and Trafford Park companies to address carbon management and energy security issues.

Maintain dialogue with utilities and land owners such as United Utilities and Peel Holdings around energy security issues and opportunities such as hydroelectric power from the River Mersey.

Signpost businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, to advice and guidance which will help them with sustainability. Organisations such as Envirolink will focus on the cost benefits to be gained.

### 8.2 Other Public Services

Establish discussions with other public services in the borough such as the police service, the fire service, and the Primary Care Trust around energy security and low carbon operations.

### 8.3 Homes and Community

An estimated 25% of UK carbon emissions come from domestic homes. There are around 90,000 homes in Trafford, which generated around half a million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2005 (source: DEFRA) – around half of the borough's combined industrial activity. Around 10% of these are housing trust properties and 6% are privately rented.

These homes generate around 45 times as much carbon dioxide every year as the council's own operations, and so tackling energy use in homes in the borough is a high priority, not only from the point of view of tackling climate change and energy security, but also from the aspect of reducing fuel poverty in low income households.

The new performance management framework for local authorities, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), contains four new sustainability indicators:

1. Carbon emissions reduction from local authority operations.
2. Per capita carbon emissions in the borough.
3. A Fuel Poverty indicator.
4. Adapting to climate change.

The council considers tackling carbon emissions from homes and fuel poverty within the borough to be a top priority for this strategy, and it is an area where the council can bring its influence to bear.

National Energy Action estimates that in 2005, 12% of all households in Trafford (around 10,700 households) were in fuel poverty. With the recent rises in fuel prices, it is likely that today this figure is even higher – perhaps as much as 15% or more of all households - and the situation is likely only to get worse as fuel prices rise still further.

The council is currently taking advantage of the Government's Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) legislation (soon to become the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target or CERT), and is working in partnership with British Gas to offer residents a discount insulation scheme under which homeowners can have insulation installed from £250 (for an average 3-bedroom home) which would normally cost around £800 or more, and which also gives a one-off £70 council tax rebate to anyone taking up the scheme. Thermal insulation can have a financial pay-back time of less than 3 years. This scheme is wholly subsidised by British Gas, and costs the Council nothing in the way of subsidy or administration costs. Discussions are also underway to implement a similar scheme for microgeneration measures.

As previously mentioned, Trafford is very fortunate to have a successful and growing partner for delivery of sustainability initiatives in the borough in the form of Action for Sustainable Living (AfSL), and it is in this partnership that Trafford's unique approach to tackling sustainability in the community lies.

## Trafford's Approach

Trafford can meet its obligations under the Comprehensive Area Assessment and go on to become a leading Greater Manchester authority through a strategic partnership with AfSL. AfSL has agreed to promote the council's discount insulation scheme to residents and encourage them to sign up to it under a borough-wide initiative and partnership. This would deliver quantified outcomes in the form of carbon savings, fuel poverty initiatives and educational sustainability programmes.

For full details of the AfSL proposal and other proposals aimed at homeowners in the borough, please see **Appendix A**.

Other actions Trafford can take are the provision of a microgeneration<sup>5</sup> installation grant for householders (or a council tax discount for householders who install microgeneration technology), to encourage take-up of renewable energy technology such as solar hot water systems and ground source heat pumps in the borough. Other authorities are currently running such schemes, e.g. Islington which has committed £3 million to their householder microgeneration grant scheme. Whilst ongoing resources in Trafford are being established to fund such schemes, the council will closely monitor the success of such initiatives with a view to eventually implementing these also.

Trafford should also take a lead on the links between sustainability, local food production and health. The council already provides allotments for local residents to grow their own food, however there is a shortage of allotments and the council will actively seek to identify further plots of land and greenspace near communities which could be used for this purpose. The council will also develop a Food Strategy in partnership with local food producers and encourage residents to grow their own food through community educational programmes delivered by partners such as Action for Sustainable Living.

### 8.4 Schools and Colleges

Trafford's schools currently generate around 9,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually in their use of energy.

Operating educational programmes in schools and colleges will encourage schools not only to cut their own carbon emissions and energy use, but to put sustainability at the centre of the school curriculum through the Citizenship Programme. This is being done in partnership with Action for Sustainable Living under the council's Energy and Water Management Plan, through the Service Level Agreement (SLA) which the council operates with them.

## **8.5 Sports and Leisure**

Trafford's sports and leisure facilities currently generate around 1100 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. However, many of these facilities are dated, and the buildings and heating and lighting systems are inefficient in comparison to the more modern facilities which exist in many authorities.

There may be opportunities to replace some of the existing systems with more efficient, modern ones, or even systems which use low-carbon fuels such as wood chips or wood pellets, although these latter systems are considerably more expensive than their standard gas-fuelled equivalents. However, the extra cost of low carbon systems can be partially met through Government grant schemes such as the Low Carbon Buildings Programme and Bio-Energy Capital Grants Scheme, which can contribute up to 50% of the additional cost.

## **8.6 Transport**

In 2005, road transport in Trafford generated around 402,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (source: DEFRA). It is likely that the level of these emissions has increased significantly since then, along with the economic development of the region.

Good transport networks are central to Trafford's sustainability, facilitating better access and greater mobility. Increased demand for travel on our roads produces unsustainable levels of congestion and pollution and local transport is a major contributor to Trafford's output of greenhouse gases. The effects can be felt at a global level through climate change and at a local level on our environment, our health and our quality of life.

Public transport allows economic development to take place in a more sustainable way and this is essential if our economy is to continue to grow without compromising the quality of life for residents or damaging the local environment. It is also important for social inclusion as it can help ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared more widely, increasing access, for example to employment opportunities.

Trafford Council recognises the need for integrated transport networks across all modes to deliver better local outcomes, protect the environment effectively and improve the quality of life for everyone.

### **Trafford's Approach**

The Trafford Transport Plan, currently in development, provides a 10-15 year vision and strategy for transport in the borough, setting out the key issues to be addressed and associated priorities for investment. It outlines a framework for delivery of an efficient, high quality and sustainable integrated transport network to serve the needs of local people and the business community. Importantly, the plan seeks to bring together land use, development, housing, sustainability and conservation policies to assist in the preparation of other

strategic documents and contribute the Local Development Framework (LDF) process.

**Our vision is for a sustainable transport network that supports and strengthens Trafford as an attractive, prosperous, vibrant and safe place where people want to live, learn, work and relax.**

Trafford works with the other Greater Manchester councils to identify opportunities to improve public transport provision, including smarter ticketing systems, better bus shelters, priority bus routes, and better bus / rail / Metrolink linkages. The council also supports a smarter choices programme of so-called 'soft measures' including:

- Promotion of travel plans, both with schools and workplaces
- Promotion of car sharing schemes
- Improving the local walking and cycling network
- Health walks
- Cycle training in schools
- Road safety training in schools
- Support for community transport schemes

Trafford currently obtains a degree of Local Transport Plan (LTP) funds in the order of £1.7million annually to tackle key issues such as road safety, congestion, access to services and air quality. This LTP funding achieves certain key local improvements. Since 2005 Trafford Council has committed LTP funding to meeting transport priorities where previously it had been diverted to other council services. Many LTP initiatives are funded at Greater Manchester level reflecting travel flowing across council boundaries and thereby requiring joint funding and cross authority working.

Key actions relating to sustainability are included in the action plan on page 43.

## 9. Appendix A: Sustainability Projects

Trafford Council is making available resources to address sustainability initiatives.

Although individual initiatives can make improvements, it is often more effective to implement a range of initiatives, both funded and 'no cost', which are mutually reinforcing. This holistic approach is the one taken by this strategy.

### **Project 1 – Action for Sustainable Living**

Key indicators: NI186, NI187, NI188

As mentioned previously, the council has a unique opportunity to deliver quality community sustainability projects in the borough, thanks to the ongoing work of highly skilled partners with a proven track record.

Action for Sustainable Living is a charitable organisation which has a successful record of operation in Old Trafford, and which is looking to expand into the rest of Trafford. Their current funding from DEFRA expires in March 2008, and it is looking for financial support so that they it continue and expand its activities in Trafford. Any funding provided by the Council would give AfSL a significant advantage when bidding for further match funding from DEFRA and elsewhere.

AfSL is ideally placed to deliver community sustainability initiatives which will meet outcomes in Trafford's Community Strategy and ensure high performance under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) indicators. It has submitted a proposal to the council to commence in April 2008, which will over an 18-month period deliver:

**Between 30-60 Local Action Groups set up**  
**Over 35000 pledges made and quantified in terms of carbon saved**  
**Involvement of over 600 volunteers in local projects**  
**Working in at least 30 schools networked locally**  
**Creation of at least 5 social enterprises**

AfSL have also agreed to actively promote the council's discount home insulation and council tax rebate scheme for residents, the carbon savings from which will contribute to the new sustainability CAA indicators which will be priorities of the Audit Commission.

In this way, Trafford Council has a good local partner in the form of AfSL to deliver community sustainability initiatives to meet all corporate and social objectives and ensure high scores in the CAA. Without the involvement of AfSL, Trafford is very unlikely to meet its targets going forward, and will fall further behind every year.

AfSL undoubtedly affords a significant advantage to the council and presents the possibility of Trafford Council becoming one of the very best authorities in the country for community sustainability initiatives.

## **Project 2 – Homeowner Microgeneration Grant Scheme**

Key indicators: NI186, NI187

The third funded sustainability project proposal is a scheme to encourage homeowners in the borough to invest in microgeneration equipment for their homes – mainly solar hot water systems, but also air- and ground-source heat pumps. Other microgeneration technologies such as wood burning stoves and solar PV are not considered suitable for this grant scheme, being affordable without a grant and offering less value for money respectively. The council does not consider micro-wind power to be an effective use of resources in Trafford's built-up areas.

The grant scheme could work along the same principles as the Bury Council scheme detailed earlier in this strategy. The homeowner would pay for the equipment and the council grant would cover the cost of installation. This way, the council is not responsible for the maintenance and operation of the equipment. The cost of installation is typically around 50% of the total cost of a microgeneration system.

Alternatively, the council could offer a council tax rebate for householders installing microgeneration equipment, or simply a low-interest loan for microgeneration equipment along with other home repairs and improvements.

There may also be potential for the council to obtain match funding from utility companies for a microgeneration incentive scheme, via the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) mechanism.

## **Project 3 – Top-Up for Council's Discount Insulation Scheme**

Key indicators: NI186, NI187

At present, the discount insulation scheme provided by the council for residents offers cavity wall insulation or loft insulation at £250 (a discount from the normal price of around £800), plus a £70 council tax rebate, which is actually paid by British Gas but given to the householder as a credit to their council tax account.

Other councils running similar schemes have committed funds as an extra subsidy, either to reduce the price of the insulation still further, or to increase the value of the council tax rebate to residents taking up the scheme, as a further incentive to encourage take-up.

The more residents who take up the scheme, the more improvement Trafford will be able to show under the new CAA indicators.

## Project 4 – Biomass Boilers for Leisure Centres

Key indicators: NI185, NI186

Biomass boilers fuelled by wood chip generated from wood harvested within the borough can reduce carbon emissions associated with council activities significantly, as well as contributing to long-term savings in fuel costs.

The capital cost of biomass boilers as compared to standard gas boilers is relatively high, but the whole-life costing of biomass (which takes into account the fuel costs) can be less than the standard gas alternative, if fuel is sourced from council tree operations within the borough.

Additionally, external match funding is available for biomass projects through the Bio-Energy Capital Grants Scheme and the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

Wood chip fuel is 'carbon neutral', and as such can contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets.

An initial feasibility study is being conducted to ascertain whether replacement biomass boilers for Altrincham Leisure Centre would be possible and appropriate. The current boilers at the leisure centre are due for replacement as they have come to the end of their lives, so giving an opportunity to look at alternatives.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Grants</u>
Standard gas boiler	£375,000	£375,000	£375,000	
CHP	£175,000	£550,000	£550,000	
Biomass boiler	£725,000	£900,000	£760,000	£140,000

No detailed costs have yet been ascertained for Altrincham, but for guidance the basic replacement of the gas boilers at Altrincham with similar modern efficient gas boilers will cost (at current prices) approximately £375,000 allowing for the system and control modifications required on the site.

Trafford's Energy Management Team would also recommend that the CHP (Combined Heat and Power) system be replaced at the same time (having failed). To replace this like for like would cost in the order of £175,000 (at current prices).

The additional costs of biomass boilers would be an 'extra over' cost for the supply of the boilers, some additional system modifications, possible additional gas boiler as back up and the construction of high temperature flues. Also the cost of a fuel store, siting, access and size would have to be added.

If feasible and subject to planning approval, these extra costs for Altrincham would probably amount to something in the order of £350,000. However, match funding for 35%-40% of the cost difference may be obtained from Government grant schemes such as the Bio-Energy Capital Grants Scheme or the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, reducing the pressure on the council's own capital programme and so protecting essential funds for core community sustainability projects.

However, the question remains as to whether the installation of equipment such as this represents the best value for money as far as measures to reduce carbon emissions are concerned. Although 'demonstration' schemes such as this project would improve the council's image as well as reducing carbon emissions, it may be that the Marginal Abatement Cost (MAC) of reducing carbon emissions in this way is relatively high compared to, for example, investing the same money in thermal insulation for homes in the borough.

It is therefore proposed that one task for the first year of this Sustainability Strategy will be to assess the MAC for different projects, to determine the best way to assign limited resources for addressing climate change and the Comprehensive Area Assessment indicators.

## **Project 5 – Implementation of a Sustainable Procurement Policy**

Key indicators: NI185, NI186

‘Action Sustainability’ is a consultancy company which is funded by DEFRA to provide guidance and advice to organisations wishing to implement a corporate sustainable procurement policy.

Action Sustainability has given an approximate quote to deliver a solution for Trafford. This would include 1.5 days of workshops and three days of consultancy, resulting in an integrated sustainable procurement policy for the council.

Alternative ways of achieving sustainable procurement in the council have been investigated, in particular the ISO14001 standard, which is a pre-cursor to the EMAS Environmental Management System.

ISO14001 would require the cost in staff time as detailed below:

**EMS Project Leader / Management Representative (current Sustainability Manager) – 3 days per month over 12 months of project implementation; 3 days per month on system administration and audit coordination and reporting in operational phase**

**Project Team members (6 officers) – 2 to 3 days per month each in the 7-month development phase**

**Internal Auditors (12 personnel) – 1 day each total training and 2 practice audits in the development phase; 48 days per annum in operational phase, based on audits twice per annum of 6 divisions and subdivisions, each audit taking 2 days for 2 auditors. The Council should maintain a team of 12 trained auditors, and so 4 days per annum are required for each individual.**

Although other authorities such as Oldham have decided on ISO14001 as the best way to achieve their environmental goals within the council, Trafford considers that the consultancy service offered by Action Sustainability to provide a Sustainable Procurement Strategy for the council offers better value for money.

Action Sustainability’s clients include:

- E.On UK
- Kent County Council
- Kingsmead School, Cheshire
- Kirklees Metropolitan Council
- NHS Trusts Cornwall
- Northumberland County Council

A final possibility is that the council's own Service Improvement Team may be able to write a Sustainable Procurement Policy in-house, and this possibility is currently being investigated.

## **Project 6 – Research Funding for Energy and Water Management Plan**

Project 6 recognises that the council's Energy and Water Management Plan will require funding to establish where sustainability improvements can be made in the council's buildings to reduce energy and water use.

### **Summary of Projects**

If implemented together, these projects could:

Save more than 450 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually from leisure centres.

Help achieve the Council's target of a 15% cut in carbon emissions from council buildings by 2011.

Cut participating householders' fuel bills by hundreds of pounds each.

Save several thousand tonnes of direct carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Strengthen the local economy.

Strengthen homeowners' confidence in microgeneration technologies.

Cut thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide in the supply chain.

Improve the council's score under the CAA.

Implement a Sustainable Procurement Policy within the council.

Significantly increase woodland cover in the borough as both a carbon sink and as a longer-term sustainable energy and materials resource.

The key to project selection must be a balanced approach which will target available funds most effectively to meet the full range of performance indicators under the Comprehensive Area Assessment. Whilst large capital projects such as biomass boilers may go some way towards meeting one of the indicators, it may be that other projects, such as community initiatives, may offer better value for money whilst addressing some of the other indicators. A properly balanced and reasoned approach is necessary to deliver best value.

## **Project 7 – Woodland Management to Maximise Wood Fuel Resource**

Three options currently exist for developing the council's wood fuel resource.

- 1. Establish a skeleton Woodlands Team** to manage the trees in the borough for wood production.
  - a. Two members of staff for six months of the year would cost approximately £25,000 plus another £25,000 for other costs, making a total of £50,000 annually.
  - b. The management scheme would probably take five years to break even, and ten years to begin turning a profit.
  - c. Before the management scheme could commence, a full survey would need to be carried out to establish the extent of the resource, planting areas etc:-
    - i. Survey equipment including GIS, a database and two operative members of staff would cost around £14,000 for the equipment and £30,000 for the staff members, giving a total of £40,000 for one year only.
  - d. After completing the survey, other issues which would need to be addressed before commencement of management would be:-
    - i. Identification of conservation areas
    - ii. Identification of specialist habitats and biodiversity issues
    - iii. Sites of Special Scientific Interest
    - iv. The political and social implications of a wood production programme
    - v. Felling licences
  
- 2. A targeted project for Trafford Park.**
  - a. Use some of the available Section 106 monies to fund a survey of Trafford Park to identify planting sites – would cost maybe £20,000 although some of the work could be done voluntarily by a student as a project.
  - b. Use the remaining £40,000 or so of currently available funds to pay for planting of trees. Around 160 trees could be planting using this money.
  
- 3. Replacement trees for parks.**
  - a. Currently trees removed from parks should be replaced in a 2:1 ratio. However, this does not currently happen due to under-funding.
  - b. Section 106 monies could be used to re-introduce replacement of trees removed from parks.
  - c. Around 240 trees could be planted using £60,000 of S106 money.

## 10. Appendix B: Action Plan

The following tables detail proposed actions which will be taken to achieve the outcomes described in this strategy. Consultees are invited to comment on these proposed actions.

N.B. The numbering of each action plan corresponds to the sustainability theme earlier in this document.

### 7.1 Council Buildings and Services

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
Energy efficiency & microgeneration in council buildings	Building Services	Energy & water management plan (See Appendix A)	Audits 2007/8 Works 2008/9 onwards	Not yet started	15% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005/6 by 2011	Building services manager
Biomass to be incorporated into boiler replacement programmes	Building Services	Energy & water management plan (See Appendix A)	At least one installation by 2011	Not yet started	15% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005/6 by 2011	Building services manager
Integration of carbon management & accounting into service delivery plans	Finance		2009/10 onwards	Discussions initiated	Will prepare the Council for CRC emissions trading scheme in 2010	Sustainability Manager / IBU
Introduce confiscation of unauthorised devices	Building services / ICT	Energy & water management plan	2008/9 onwards	Discussions initiated	15% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005/6 by 2011	ICT
Establish partnership / facility for wood fuel production	Greenspace and sustainability / building services	Waste & recycling strategy / tree strategy / greenspace strategy / energy & water management plan	2009/10 onwards	Discussions initiated	15% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005/6 by 2011. Possible revenue for council	Sustainability Manager / Greenspace / Red Rose Forest / Corporate partners e.g. MUFC
Enable home working for staff where appropriate	All	Energy & water management Plan	2009/10 onwards	Discussions initiated	15% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005/6 by 2011	Sustainability Manager / Human Resources / ICT / Asset Management
Establish solid waste management plans for each building	Waste & recycling	Waste and recycling strategy	See <b>Waste and Recycling Strategy</b>	In progress	Reduction in waste from council buildings	Waste Manager

## 7.2 The Council's role as Planning Authority

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
A survey of existing renewable energy installations in the borough	Planning / Trafford 2021	Trafford 2021	2008/9 onwards	Discussions initiated	Baseline indicator for LSP Environmental Action Plan; recognition for residents and businesses	Sustainability Manager / Strategic Planning
Development of a SPD on renewable energy in new developments	Planning	Trafford 2021	2008/9 onwards	Discussions initiated	"Merton Rule" type planning policy requiring 10% or more on-site renewable energy in new developments	Strategic Planning / Building and Development Control
Target dates for all new housing to meet code for sustainable homes to be brought forward	Planning	Trafford 2021	UK Gov't: Level 3 – 2010 Level 4 – 2013 Level 6 – 2016  Trafford – 2 years in advance	Discussions initiated	Minimisation of carbon emissions from new housing developments	Strategic Planning / Building and Development Control
Identification of council-owned sites for renewable energy generation, tree planting, community sustainability projects and low carbon housing	Planning / Asset Management / Finance	Trafford 2021	2008/9 onwards	Discussions initiated	"Green" energy generated by the council and supplied both direct to council buildings and into the national grid; low carbon communities	Sustainability Manager / Strategic Planning / Asset Management / Greenspace / Red Rose Forest / development partners

### 7.3 Greenspace

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
Establish wood recycling facility	Greenspace / Sustainability / Regeneration	Comprehensive Area Assessment	2008/9 onwards	Feasibility Study currently being commissioned	Facility producing affordable wood fuel for homes; quality timber; quality wood products; FSC accreditation for Trafford; training and employment opportunities for socially excluded groups	Sustainability Manager / Action for Sustainable Living / Greenspace / Timber Recycling in Manchester (TRIM) / National Community Wood Recycling Project (NCWRP)
Development of plan for wood production in the borough	Greenspace / Sustainability	Tree Strategy / Greenspace Strategy	2007/8 onwards	Discussions initiated	Production of timber and wood fuel for use in Trafford; revenue for the Council	Sustainability Manager / Greenspace / Red Rose Forest
Carbon offset scheme to plant trees and install microgeneration locally	Greenspace / Sustainability	Greenspace Strategy	2006/7 onwards	Scheme set up and operational	Reduction in carbon emissions from domestic properties; reduction in fuel poverty; increase in tree numbers	Sustainability Manager / Red Rose Forest / Action for Sustainable Living
Compile study of the profile of different types of land in the borough as carbon sinks	Greenspace / Sustainability / Planning		2007/8 onwards	Discussions initiated	Implications for habitat protection, public protection, planning	Sustainability Manager / Greenspace
Study of changes required to adapt to climate change	Greenspace / Sustainability / Planning	Comprehensive Area Assessment	2008/9 onwards	Not started	Implications for all council operations and services	Sustainability Manager / Greenspace
Install rainwater capture and irrigation equipment in parks and green spaces	Greenspace / Sustainability / Planning	Comprehensive Area Assessment	2009/10 onwards	Discussions initiated; included in Longford Park bid	Adaptation to climate change – flood and drought prevention	Greenspace / Sustainability Manager
Increased use of biofuels for council machinery	Greenspace / Energy Management	Energy & Water Management Plan	2007/8 onwards	Possibilities currently being researched	Reduction in carbon emissions from council activities	Building Services Manager / Greenspace
Implement "Park It In Neutral" for council parks	Greenspace / Sustainability	Greenspace Strategy	2007/8 onwards	Being researched	'Carbon neutral' parks operations; external funding opportunities	Greenspace / Preston MBC / Sustainability

## 7.4 Procurement

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
Implement Sustainable procurement policy	Procurement / Service Improvement Team / KPMG	See Appendix A	2008/9	Discussions initiated	Will produce a Sustainable Procurement Policy for the council and tackle carbon emissions in the supply chain	Sustainability Manager / IBU / Procurement

## 7.5 Waste and recycling – Local Area Agreement targets:

Outcome	Indicator	Baseline (05/06)	Target (07/08)	Target (08/09)	Target (09/10)	3-year Target without Stretch
Reduction in the percentage of municipal waste landfilled and increase in the percentage of municipal waste recycled	Tonnage of 'bulky' waste	12929	12500	12250	12000	n/a
	%age landfilled	80.4%	75%	73%	71%	
	Increase in %age recycled	19.6%	25%	27%	29%	
Reduction in the percentage of municipal waste landfilled and increase in the percentage of municipal waste recycled	%age of household waste recycled	21.77%	26%	28%	34%	30%
		19,960 tonnes	23,950 tonnes	25,850 tonnes	30,500 tonnes	27,500 tonnes
Reduction in the percentage of municipal waste landfilled and increase in the percentage of municipal waste recycled	Recycling tonnage collected in Old Trafford / Gorsehill area by EMERGE recycling	544 tonnes collected	600	700	800	800

## 8.1 Industry and business

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
Identify the largest energy users in the borough	Sustainability		2007	Some of the largest energy users already identified	Engage with large energy users in strategic energy security partnership	Sustainability Manager / Carbon Trust / Quantum / RWE Npower / MUFC / PCT etc
Energy Security Partnership	Sustainability / Energy Management	Energy & Water Management Plan	2008	Discussions initiated with MUFC; other public services such as police, fire, PCT to be included	Reduction in carbon emissions in the council and major partners; security of fuel supply	Sustainability Manager / Building Services Manager / partners in the Borough (initially MUFC)

### 8.3 Homes and Community

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
Discount insulation & council tax rebate scheme for residents	Regeneration / Sustainability	Trafford 2021 / Home Energy Conservation Act <b>See Appendix A</b>	2007/8 onwards	In place and operational	Reduction in carbon emissions from domestic properties; reduction in fuel poverty	Sustainability Manager
Partnership with Action for Sustainable Living	Regeneration / Waste & Recycling / Sustainability	Waste and recycling strategy / Home Energy Conservation Act / Trafford 2021 <b>See Appendix A</b>	2007/8 onwards	In place in Old Trafford; looking to expand into the rest of the borough	Reduction in carbon emissions from domestic properties; reduction in fuel poverty; increased recycling rates; strengthened local economy	Sustainability Manager / Action for Sustainable Living / Waste & Recycling
Microgeneration grant for householders	Regeneration / Sustainability	Trafford 2021 / Home Energy Conservation Act / Air Quality Strategy <b>See Appendix A</b>	2008/9 onwards	Not started	Reduction in carbon emissions from domestic properties; reduction in fuel poverty	Sustainability Manager
Incorporation of energy efficiency and microgeneration into home improvement loans	Regeneration / Air Quality / Sustainability	Trafford 2021 / Air Quality Strategy / Home Energy Conservation Act	2008/9 onwards	Discussions initiated	Reduction in carbon emissions and nitrous oxide from domestic properties; reduction in fuel poverty	Sustainability Manager / Air Quality Section / Regeneration Section
Development of "Trafford is my Planet" website and resource page	Sustainability	Trafford 2021	2006	Completed and regularly updated	Reduction in carbon emissions across the borough; raised awareness of climate change issues	Sustainability Manager / Senior Sustainability Officer
Renewables in Trafford Working Group	Planning / Sustainability	Trafford 2021	2006 onwards	Group meets regularly, includes private housing developers and social landlords	Limit carbon emissions from new developments; assist developers with low carbon projects	Sustainability Manager / National Trust / Redrow Homes / Other Housing Associations
Development of Community <b>Energy Descent Action Plan</b> and <b>Food Strategy</b> under "Sustainable	Sustainability	Trafford 2021	2010/11 onwards	Initial discussions underway	Energy and food security for the borough; general awareness of climate change and resource	Sustainability Manager / Action for Sustainable Living / Senior Sustainability Officer / local farmers and businesses

Trafford" initiative					depletion issues	
Achieve a 20% improvement in energy efficiency in homes in the Borough under HECA	Regeneration / Sustainability	Trafford 2021 / Home Energy Conservation Act	2010	Initiatives proposed in this strategy	Reduction in carbon emissions from homes in the borough; reduction in fuel poverty	Sustainability Manager / Action for Sustainable Living

## 8.4 Schools and Colleges

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
Integration of carbon management into schools operations and curriculum	Sustainability / Energy Management / Education / Greenspace	Energy & water management plan	2008/9 onwards	An element of energy & water management plan / Action for Sustainable Living proposal	Reduction of carbon emissions from schools' operations; education in carbon management for students	Sustainability Manager / Citizenship/PSHE Advisory Teacher & Participation Officer / Building Services Manager / Action for Sustainable Living / Greenspace

## 8.6 Transport

ACTION	SERVICE AREA	PLAN / STRATEGY	TIMESCALE	STATUS	OUTCOME	OWNERSHIP
All Schools in Trafford have a Travel Plan	Transport	Trafford 2021	2009	46 out of 110 schools currently have travel plans	Reduction in carbon emissions associated with school travel	Transport Strategy and Road Safety Manager
Development of an SPD for developer contributions to highway and public transport schemes	Strategic Planning	Trafford 2021	2007	Adopted	Provide the necessary transport infrastructure to cater for additional travel demands due to housing and employment developments	Strategic Planning Manager
Trafford council staff travel plan	Transport	Trafford 2021	2008	In development	Reduction in car use for travel to work for council employees	Transport Strategy and Road Safety Manager
Resident green badge parking scheme	Transport	Trafford 2021	2009	Discussions initiated	Reduction in carbon emissions from cars in the borough. Reduction in numbers of high emissions vehicles.	Sustainability Manager / Parking Services
Introduce mileage allowance for staff cycling	Transport	Trafford 2021	2008	Discussions initiated	Reduction in car use for council business	Transport Strategy and Road Safety Manager
Interest free loans for purchase of cycles by council staff	Transport	Trafford 2021	2008	Discussions initiated	Reduction in car use for travel to work and council business	Transport Strategy and Road Safety Manager

## 11. Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

<sup>1</sup> Brundtland Commission Report 1987: *"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

<sup>2</sup> ESCO – Energy Services Company: a company which sells heat, light and other 'energy services' rather than energy itself (gas, electricity)

<sup>3</sup> Third Sector – The voluntary and social enterprise sector. A social enterprise is defined as "a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for share holders"

<sup>4</sup> Biomass – Renewable organic materials, such as wood, agricultural crops or wastes, and municipal wastes, especially when used as a source of fuel or energy. Biomass can be burned directly or processed into biofuels such as ethanol and methane.

<sup>5</sup> Microgeneration – The generation of zero or low-carbon heat and power by individuals, small businesses and communities to meet their own needs by means of technologies such as solar panels, biomass heating systems, wind turbines or ground- and air- source heat pumps.