UDP STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC POLICY CONTEXT

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

1.1 This strategy provides an overview of the main aims and objectives of planning policies in Merton within a south west London context. It takes account of current national planning policy guidance and sets this within a strategic context.

1.2 It provides a framework for strategic policies in Part I of the Plan, and for detailed planning policies in Part II. It also provides a land use and transport framework for other Council strategies and decisions and those of partner organisations. It is therefore a means of influencing a wide range of organisations to help achieve the aims of the UDP.

A VISION FOR MERTON IN 2016: THE REGIONAL AND LONDON CONTEXT

1.3 A key aim of this Strategy is to produce a more sustainable pattern and form of development and activity in Merton by the year 2016. The vision for a future Merton has to be set in the context of regional and strategic aims and objectives that provide a framework for Merton's Strategy.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL PLANNING STRATEGY

1.4 Regional planning guidance from SERPLAN outlined a sustainable development strategy for the south east region. This strategy has been taken forward into Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9). The strategy has at its core the objective of promoting an urban renaissance. The main Development principles are:

▲ urban areas should be the main focus for development.

▲ Greenfield development should only take place after alternatives have been considered, and should have regard to the full social, environmental and transport costs of location.

▲ sufficient housing should be provided for all who need to live and work in the region, to avoid social exclusion and pressure for housing in adjoining areas.

▲ housing development should be more sustainable with a better mix of sizes and types.

▲ access to jobs, services and leisure should be less dependent on long distance movement and there should be increased ability to meet normal travel needs through safe walking, cycling and public transport with reduced reliance on the car.

▲ transport investment is more closely aligned to the spatial strategy

▲ London's world city role and the South East's international connections should be enhanced as the basis for enhancement of the regions attractiveness in Europe and the world.
better use should be made of the region's natural resources, its capacity to deliver essential water, energy and minerals, and its capability to handle its waste.

the environment (heritage, landscape and bio-diversity) should be protected and enhanced.

THE GLA LONDON PLAN

1.5 As indicated in the Preface, the London Plan provides the Spatial Development Strategy for London and sets out strategic planning policies. At the time of preparing this UDP the London Plan was at an early stage of preparation and therefore it was not taken into account when preparing the UDP strategy. Nevertheless, references have been made to the Draft London Plan as appropriate.

1.6 It should be noted that once the London Plan is adopted the guidance in RPG3 will be superseded by the London Plan.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR LONDON PLANNING AUTHORITIES 1996 (RPG3)

1.7 This Guidance is the statutory strategic planning guidance for Merton's UDP and provides an important framework for the UDP Strategy and development of planning policies. It sets out key planning objectives which Merton's UDP should take into account. The key objectives in RPG3 are to:

- promote London as a world city, recognising its role as a world class business, commercial, educational and heritage centre.
- maintain and enhance the competitiveness of business, including encouraging manufacturing, services, tourism, culture and the arts.
- encourage a pattern of land use and provision of transport that minimises harm to the environment and reduces the need to travel, especially by car, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
- promote urban regeneration, particularly in areas requiring physical improvement or the enhancement of employment opportunities, within the objectives for the South East region as a whole.
- enhance the vitality, viability and character of town and other local centres as shopping and community facilities that are accessible to all.
- maximise housing provision in London, consistent with maintaining environmental quality, to meet the changing needs of the population.
- maintain and improve the natural and open environment including the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and areas of national and international significance including the River Thames.
- improve the quality and attractiveness of London's urban environment to benefit those who visit, live, work and do business in London.
facilitate the development of transport systems which are safe and efficient, and which contribute to the achievement of competitiveness, regeneration and environmental quality.

seek to improve air quality, to reduce waste, pollution and the use of energy, and to encourage recycling.

THE LONDON PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE’S (LPAC’S) 1994 ADVICE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR LONDON

This Advice, although not statutory, reflects the views of London Planning Authorities and has in part been incorporated within RPG3. The former LPAC’s 4-fold vision for London forms a part of RPG3. The four elements of the vision are shown below and have the following aims:

A Strong Economy
London should be a city extending its roles as a Capital and world city, making a unique contribution to its region, the UK, Europe and the world. It should have an economy with a regenerated and broadened base, and strengthened business, manufacturing, arts, culture and entertainment, creative, education, and tourism industries. To support its economic roles, London should possess efficient, high quality, well-maintained infrastructure, particularly for public transport, combined with improved national and international air, rail and sea links.

A Good Quality of Life
London should nurture safe and healthy communities, places for people to enjoy living, working and visiting. It should have a high urban quality, based on the conservation and improvement of its green and built environment. London should possess good quality transport and other infrastructure. It should be a city where the best of its cultural and built heritage is cherished and the worst improved and where new development contributes to the overall improvement of the environment in its widest sense, recognising that quality counts and quality pays.

A Sustainable Future
London should be a city that strives to be more environmentally sustainable. It should be a place where the sometimes conflicting demands for development and transport infrastructure, arising from London’s regional, national and international roles, are balanced with the need to protect and pass on its environment to future generations in an improving condition.

Opportunities for All
London should be a city where the potential of all who live here is recognised and realised. It should be a place that strives to ensure equitable access for its people to homes, work, leisure and recreation, infrastructure and transport facilities, health, education and training. London’s most important resources, its people and its communities, are too valuable to be misused or wasted.

1.9 To achieve this vision for London, the former LPAC has identified 20 key objectives that provide a framework for strategic planning policies in London. These objectives are:
(i) Enhance London's, national and world city roles by maintaining and improving regional, national and international transport links.

(ii) Facilitate economic revival on a broader economic base and achieve an increase and greater diversity in employment.

(iii) Regenerate areas of community disadvantage and decline, particularly in inner and east London.

(iv) Maximise the participation of all Londoners in the Capital's future.

(v) Provide access for all to employment, homes, recreation and leisure, and transport, and strengthen education, training and health facilities.

(vi) Make London a safer and more secure city in which to live, work and visit.

(vii) Improve the attractiveness of central London as a world business and commercial centre.

(viii) Enhance the vitality and viability of town centres, and nurture a broad range of business, community, cultural, civic and public facilities, accessible by public transport.

(ix) Ensure appropriate provision of tourist accommodation and facilities throughout London.

(x) Encourage and support the arts, culture and entertainment.

(xi) Optimise London's contribution to meeting its own housing needs and those of the region.

(xii) Provide affordable and accessible homes in good residential environments.

(xiii) Reduce the amount of travel and dependence on the car, improve public transport, making walking and cycling more attractive, and make adequate provision for the movement of goods and materials.

(xiv) Enable the River Thames and waterways to fulfil their hydrological, transport, open space, urban quality and ecological roles.

(xv) Safeguard and improve London's heritage, including its buildings, conservation areas and archaeological remains.

(xvi) Maintain and improve the quality of London's public realm, its places and spaces, the wealth of activity taking place in them and provide sport and leisure facilities to support them.

(xvii) Protect and improve the quality of the green environment.

(xviii) Recycle under-used and derelict land and buildings.

(xix) Ensure that the needs for waste disposal, building aggregates and energy are met in an environmentally sustainable way.

(xx) Reduce the pollution of London's environment and minimise the use of scarce resources, especially by reducing the adverse effects of transport and encouraging fuel efficient modes.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THEMES, OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

BACKGROUND

1.10 During the 1990s there has been a growing recognition of the importance of sustainable development. This concept was brought to prominence at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The Bruntland Commission defined sustainable development as: development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Since 1992 the UK Government has gradually introduced new planning guidance which reflects this concept and advises local authorities how to apply the concept in their communities.

1.11 This guidance has included recent planning policy guidance notes, new regional and strategic planning guidance, 1998 DETR advice, ‘Opportunities for Change’, and the better practice guide, ‘Planning for Sustainable Development’. A revised UK strategy for sustainable development was published in 1999. Also relevant is new guidance on integrating sustainable development into Best Value prepared by the Local Government Association in 1998.

1.12 Merton Council welcomes this new guidance and has taken a leading role in applying the concept of sustainable development locally. The Council has approved a Local Agenda 21 Action Plan and in preparing this UDP the Council has linked with the Local Agenda 21 process to ensure consistency.

1.13 To ensure that Merton’s UDP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development aims locally the Council published in September 1998 a Sustainability Appraisal of the 1996 Adopted UDP, and this has provided a framework for reviewing the Council’s planning policies. The preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal was greatly influenced by Merton’s LA21 Action Plan and incorporates a number of common aims and targets. The UDP Sustainability Appraisal sets out the Council’s agreed sustainability criteria and objectives for planning policy in Merton. These are shown in Table 1.1 and provide a framework for policies in the reviewed UDP. Accordingly, UDP policies have all been assessed for their consistency with these criteria and objectives.

1.14 An updated Sustainability Appraisal has been published with the second deposit draft of the UDP. This report assesses progress made since 1998 and evaluates the extent to which this revised plan meets sustainable development objectives.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Land use</td>
<td>• Land is used efficiently, ensuring the greenfield sites are protected and brownfield sites are re-used.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Minerals and soils</td>
<td>• Minerals are used efficiently.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Soil pollution is limited to levels which natural systems can cope with without damage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Waste</td>
<td>• Waste production is minimised, and, where possible, waste is re-used or recycled.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Waste is managed or disposed as close as possible to the point at which it is generated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pollution from waste is limited to levels which natural systems can cope without damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Energy</td>
<td>• Energy is used efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Energy use is minimised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Renewable energy is used where possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Air, water, noise,</td>
<td>• Air and water pollution are limited to levels which natural systems can cope with, without damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>light</td>
<td>• Water resources are conserved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Noise and light pollution are minimised/reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Natural environment</td>
<td>• The diversity of nature is valued, protected and enhanced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Natural environments are valued for their aesthetic and amenity value as well as for their wildlife value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Built Env and</td>
<td>• The quality of the built environment is maintained/improved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heritage</td>
<td>• Sustainable building materials are used where possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The aesthetic quality of the built environment is enhanced and protected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Basic Needs</td>
<td>• Everyone has available good food, water, shelter &amp; fuel at reasonable cost.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Satisfying work and encouraging economic success
- Everyone has the opportunity to undertake satisfying work in a diverse economy.
- The value of unpaid work is recognised, whilst payments for work are fair and fairly distributed.
- Economic success is encouraged in a context which minimises impact on the natural environment.

10. Health & Safety
- People's good health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments and health services which emphasise prevention of illness as well as proper care for the sick.

11. Transport and access
- Where possible, local needs are met locally.
- Access to facilities, services, good and other people is not achieved at the expense of the environment or limited to those with cars.
- The use of private cars is minimised and non-car transport modes are promoted.
- The need for travel is minimised.

12. Crime
- People live without fear of personal violence from crime or persecution because of their personal beliefs, race, gender or sexuality.

13. Education
- Everyone has available to them the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable them to play a full part in society.

14. Equity and Participation
- All members of the local community have good access to education, health care, work, transport and recreation.

15. Cultural, leisure and social activities
- Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

1.15 In addition to these objectives the Sustainability Appraisal also identifies targets and indicators to measure the performance of the UDP in delivering sustainable development. For the purposes of this Strategy a number of key targets and indicators have been identified and are included in Section 6 of this chapter to monitor the performance of the UDP Strategy. As indicated in the Sustainability Appraisal report these objectives are derived from relevant Government guidance and their scope embraces the main UDP concerns.
INTEGRATION OF UDP STRATEGY WITH COUNCIL AIMS AND STRATEGIES

1.16 There is a growing acceptance that UDPs should be more closely linked with other Council aims and strategies if the UDP is to be effective: it should co-ordinate with and provide a land use/transport context for other Council activities.

1.17 The Government has introduced a range of advice to promote these closer links. This advice has included:


1.18 Promoting sustainable development principles has in particular led to the greater awareness and understanding of the linkages between different Council activities. Sustainable development can only be achieved if it is integrated into the heart of Local Government policy. Sustainable development touches on all aspects of a local authority's activities. It is not just about environmental issues, but is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It encompasses social, economic and environmental goals. It is about seeking to provide safe streets, warm homes and opportunity for people to achieve their potential through education, information, participation and good health, as well as about protecting and enhancing the environment.

1.19 In order for Merton's UDP to assist in the process of delivering sustainable development locally it integrates with other services and activities of the Council and other organisations and, in turn, they should integrate with the UDP process.

1.20 The Government is introducing a duty of Best Value in local government and recognises that Best Value should achieve economy, efficiency, effectiveness and integrate with sustainable development. The Government is also promoting Community Plans and encouraging Council's leadership role in developing a vision for the area. The Local Government Act 2000 gives local authorities a duty to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas.
1.21 It is in this context that this Strategy seeks to link with, and add to, other Council aims and strategies and those of other organisations. Many of these strategies and plans have a much shorter timescale than the UDP and are not subject to the same procedural requirements, including public consultations. The most important linkages and areas where co-ordination has been undertaken within the Council include:

(i) The draft Strategic Plan provides the over arching context for the Plan and two strategic themes, Regeneration and, A Safe, Green and Healthy Borough, are of most relevance to the UDP. The UDP strategy contributes towards the annual review of the five year strategic plan. Merton’s Community Planning process has involved the publication of the 6 strategic themes updated from the Community Regeneration Strategy and at least two themes outlined in the Draft Strategic Plan need to be strongly reflected in the UDP. The Best Value duty requires the publication of a Local Annual Performance Plan, which will inform and involve local residents in the setting of local priorities and standards. The Council has prepared a Community Strategy in accordance with Local Government Act requirements.

(ii) The Community Regeneration Strategy, “Stepping Stones to Success” developed regeneration themes outlined in the UDP. The Council’s three strategic aims underpin the development of a planning strategy and strategic planning policies in Part 1 of the UDP. The UDP also has regard to policies to regenerate town centres and other areas as part of “stepping stones”, in order to develop these strategic aims in a land use context. Of the 8 cross Borough programmes those covering environmental and street scene improvements, business retention and growth and linking the environment and economic development are reflected most strongly in UDP policies.

(iii) The Council adopted a Strategy to Address Poverty in Merton. This sought to maximise household income, improve access to services and promote social inclusion. A Priority Action Area was identified in the east of the Borough and this has been developed as the Neighborhood Renewal Strategy. The Strategy links with regeneration, community safety, equal opportunities and health initiatives, which the UDP supports.

(iv) The main implication of the emerging Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for the UDP is that the enactment of the Crime and Disorder Bill 1997 requires the Plan to include policies which have regard to community safety and in particular to achieve an improvement in the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit the Borough by a reduction in crime and the fear of crime.

(v) Merton’s Community Care Plan, 1998-2001, a 3-year Plan up to and including 2000 underpins the UDP Community Services policies. The land use implications of the assessment of community care needs are reflected in policy.

(vi) The Children’s Services Plan, 1997-2000 is also reflected in the Community Services policies.

(vii) Merton’s LA21 Action Plan 1996 has helped inform the preparation of the UDP Sustainability Appraisal. In turn the UDP Strategy reflects LA21 aims. In future a revised LA21 strategy is to be submitted to Government. The Government’s sustainability targets and other guidance on sustainable development will need to be taken into account, and will eventually be reflected in Best Value Service Delivery.
Merton’s Housing Strategy 2001-2004, contains strategies to meet housing needs, which are reflected in the UDP. Housing targets from emerging Strategic Advice will in turn underpin the preparation of a revised private sector housing strategy, including stronger policies for the achievement of affordable housing.

Recent Government initiatives have brought stronger focus to the existing close relationship between land use and transportation planning. This is reinforced by the New Deal for Transport - Better for Everyone, White paper 1998. This has led to the preparation of Local Transport Plans that in London will be co-ordinated by the GLA.


The Council has a duty to prepare a Waste Management Plan that needs to integrate with planning policy for waste and associated environmental concerns.

It should also be noted that the Council will be required to produce an Air Quality Management Plan, a Transport Plan and a Traffic Reduction Plan in association with other policy initiatives being pursued by central Government. In addition the recent White Paper on the NHS envisages a new duty of partnerships between local authorities and the health service in the preparation of Local Health Improvement Plans from 1999 to improve health and healthcare. These Plans will clarify the future land use development requirements of health providers. As and when these requirements are confirmed they will also need to be taken into account in the co-ordination process.

Mechanisms and processes to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the UDP are outlined in the final section of this Strategy and elsewhere in the Plan.

A STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH WEST LONDON

The structural framework for strategic planning in London is set out in RPG3 and relevant aspects for South West London are set out in this Section of Merton’s UDP Strategy. Merton Council recognises that achieving the objectives of this Strategy and strategic policies requires close co-operation and co-ordination with strategic planning bodies and with adjoining local authorities.

In South West London the main strategic planning framework is provided by the London Wandle Valley Partnership, which includes the Boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Sutton and Croydon and partner organisations. Strategic Planning Guidance for London, RPG3, supports the continuation of this body to implement a planning and regeneration framework for this area.

To co-ordinate planning policies in the Wandle Valley area, a Planning and Transport Framework was agreed in 1997 by the constituent Boroughs. Merton Council wishes to develop this Framework and update it to provide a more effective sub-regional framework for UDPs and investment in the Wandle Valley Partnership Area. To complement the Planning and Transport Strategy for this area the Boroughs have also developed a Wandle Valley Regeneration Strategy, which was agreed in November 1998. This will be implemented through Action Plans with partner organisations.
1.27 RPG3 outlines a strategic framework for London’s development and regeneration, which should provide the framework for new development, growth and regeneration activity. The key components of that framework which affect South West London include town centres, the Wandle Valley Corridor and London’s waterways. RPG3 identifies the Wandle Valley as one of a number of regeneration corridors in London. Areas for Community Regeneration (the former LPAC, Strategic Advice 1999) can provide an integrated and consistent basis for making bids for resources.

TOWN CENTRES

1.28 RPG3 advised that town centres are a key feature of London’s structure. They should provide the focal points around which civic life and many local services are structured, and can be major centres of employment and growth. The former London Planning Advisory Committee have provided more detailed advice on strategic policies for London’s town centres which the UDP has regard to.

THE WANDLE VALLEY

1.29 RPG3 identifies the Wandle Valley as the focus for manufacturing activity and development land in South London. It contains a significant number of south London’s pockets of deprivation and links a series of town centres, older industrial areas and large scale opportunity sites. Three industrial areas in Merton are identified as preferred strategic employment sites.

1.30 RPG3 identifies the need for restructuring and improvement of the older industrial areas and realising new development opportunities to create employment. It recognises deficiencies in the public transport system and supports improvements such as Croydon Tramlink, SWELTRAC and Thames Link 2000.

1.31 It advocates that development should be planned to improve access from the regional rail network and to the Valley’s residential hinterland. Other issues that need to be tackled are local road access to industrial sites and town centres, the improvement of environmental quality, especially near the River Wandle and the enhancement of Metropolitan Open Land.

THE RIVER THAMES AND OTHER WATERWAYS

1.32 RPG3 identifies the Beverley Brook and River Wandle as main rivers in London. It advocates that Borough’s should recognise their importance and in particular:

▲ Seek to improve and enhance the quality and character of London’s waterways.

▲ Conserve and protect the value of waterways as wildlife habitats.

▲ Recognise the potential for recreation and leisure use and develop appropriate proposals to help achieve this potential.

▲ Maintain and where possible improve access to waterways for pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled.
OTHER KEY STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

1.33 RPG3 also identifies the following other key structural elements which are of strategic significance for Merton and South West London:

▲ Transport and access facilities and proposals.

▲ Metropolitan Open Land and Green Chains, and strategic walking Routes.

▲ Air quality.

▲ London’s residential environment. (See Diagram 8.1 in RPG3) In addition the following key structural elements also have strategic significance;

▲ Sites of National or Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

▲ Green Corridors.

▲ Metropolitan and District Parks.

1.34 The former LPAC Advice identifies the need to address geographical imbalances in London. It proposes a strategy of regeneration and consolidation, with regeneration focused on the east of London and consolidation in the west. These themes are reflected in the UDP Strategy. Merton has identified a need for regeneration in the east of the Borough that includes the Wandle Valley with consolidation in other parts of the Borough, especially the west.

THE FUTURE SHAPE OF THE BOROUGH

1.35 The UDP Key Diagram illustrates the key elements in the future shape and structure of the Borough. It identifies South West London linkages, such as the Wandle Valley and outlines the main strategic features.

1.36 The main structural features identified on Fig. 1.2 - the Key Diagram include:

(i) The Wandle Valley Regeneration Areas with major regeneration opportunities.

(ii) Strategic Industrial Areas.

(iii) Town Centres.

(iv) MCL/Green Chains.

(v) Strategic cycle and walking routes.

(vi) Main public transport routes/nodes.

(vii) Main roads. Implementing and monitoring the strategy
IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE STRATEGY

1.37 The effectiveness of this Strategy will be judged by how well the Plan’s policies and proposals reflect the objectives and aims of the Strategy, how well the Plan is implemented and whether, in particular, it assists progress towards more sustainable patterns of activities. Effective involvement of a wide range of parties in this process through consultation and partnership is more likely to engender local support.

1.38 Monitoring progress of Plan implementation has been an essential part of the planning process but in the past there has been a general lack of commitment to monitoring the effects of plans as they are implemented. Integrating sustainable development principles and Best Value processes into the planning process increases the importance of effective performance management monitoring for the following reasons:

▲ Best value requires a framework for performance review including bench-marking of services, understanding the competitiveness of the service, consulting on service quality and linking services to objectives.

▲ Best value is concerned with public accountability and involvement; annual performance plans will be published specifying standards, indicators and improvement targets and monitoring procedures.

▲ Sustainable development processes involve identifying indicators and targets into the development planning process.

▲ Sustainable development includes issues such as air pollution and waste where monitoring is already undertaken by other organisations including the Government and hence the importance of partnerships, particularly where these issues cannot be resolved at a Borough level.

1.39 To ensure that this UDP Strategy is implemented and monitored a number of procedures and mechanisms need to be established as set out below:

▲ Clear objectives need to be adopted and these are set out in this Strategy.

▲ Targets and indicators should be identified to measure progress. This Chapter includes key targets, which are added to in the relevant UDP chapters and policies.

▲ Other agencies involved in implementing the Plan need to be identified and their contribution recognised. This Strategy in particular recognises the linkages with other Council strategies and aims, and elsewhere in this Plan other organisations and their roles are identified.
Information systems need to be established to measure the impact of planning policy and the resources required to set up these information systems should be agreed. The Council is committed to meeting these aims.

A timescale and format to report on monitoring results should be set out and adhered to. This will enable the UDP to contribute to a corporate commitment to Best Value and reporting on performance.

1.40 RPG3 sets out detailed proposals in Chapter 10 for monitoring and reviewing policies to ensure that they are relevant and up to date. Merton Council will monitor the main planning issues that are identified in RPG3 as requested by Government.

1.41 Key partners, not formally a part of the planning system who should play a key role in implementing this Plan include:

- The London Wandle Valley Partnership.
- The Environment Agency.
- London Transport.
- Merton Groundwork.
- Aztec.
- MSW Health Authority.
- Metropolitan Police.
- Merton Chamber of Commerce

1.42 The Government has identified sustainable development indicators and targets and advised that plans should have regard to them and should measure the performance of the Plan in relation to key targets and indicators. As outlined above the following key targets have been identified. Where relevant specific targets and indicators are included within Merton's UDP in relation to specific planning policies. This enables a clear link to be established between the performance of planning policy and achieving sustainable development aims within Merton. Table 1.2 sets out only the key sustainability targets and indicators, that will be used to assess planning policies. Additional targets are provided within Part II policies.

1.43 It is also proposed to produce periodic monitor reports of the performance of the Plan which will contribute to meeting the Council's Best Value aims. As a basis for this the Council published in September 1998 a Sustainability Appraisal of the UDP and a series of UDP Monitor Reports. An updated Sustainability Appraisal has been published in October 2000. The Government has also adopted a 'Plan, Monitor and Manage' approach to future housing provision, which adds to the need to monitor the performance of this plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To identify, designate and protect sites of nature conservation interest.</td>
<td>PPG9</td>
<td>Maintain or increase the area and number of sites designated as important areas for wildlife and nature conservation.</td>
<td>Total area of Merton designated as important nature conservation areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Reduce pollution and emissions to air and focus action to reduce air pollution on existing problem areas.</td>
<td>UK Air Quality Strategy. Thames 21 Report.</td>
<td>To reach the UK target for 8 key pollutants by the year 2005.</td>
<td>Atmosphere concentrations of 8 key pollutants; benzene, 1-3 butadene, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, MP10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Increase the reuse of urban brown field land including derelict and contaminated land where it has little or no nature conservation value, and halt the use of open space for development in Merton.</td>
<td>PPGs 3,4,6, 12 and 23. UK Sustainable Development Strategy</td>
<td>No developments on open space sites of nature conservation importance or MCL in Merton. Increase developments on derelict or contaminated land not included in the above.</td>
<td>Number of developments on open space SINCS or MCL in Merton. Number of schemes permitted which require remediation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Increase availability of affordable housing in Merton</td>
<td>SERPLAN PPG3</td>
<td>30% of new homes permitted in Merton to be affordable (social housing)</td>
<td>Percentage of new homes which are social housing. Number of homeless people within the Borough. Number of people on housing waiting list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Encourage development that will add diversity to the local economy</td>
<td>SERPLAN RPG3</td>
<td>No more than 25% of businesses should be in each industrial sector.</td>
<td>Level of businesses in each industrial sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Improve access to and within retail centres for people with disabilities.</td>
<td>PPG6</td>
<td>60% of retail and other public buildings in Merton to be accessible for wheelchair users by 2001.</td>
<td>Percentage of shop units and public buildings in Merton's town centres fully accessible for people using wheelchairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Promote town centres and limit development outside town centres.</td>
<td>PPG6 SERPLAN</td>
<td>Increase proportion of town centre retail and leisure developments in relation to amount outside centres.</td>
<td>Total retail and leisure floor space in town centres and outside town centres permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Increase cycle use for all types of journeys.</td>
<td>PPG13 TPP</td>
<td>Double the number of 1997 cycle trips in Merton by the year 2002 and double again by 2012.</td>
<td>Cycle use in Merton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Balance the needs between the recreation and conservation uses of rivers and still waters.</td>
<td>Wandle Catchment Management Plan.</td>
<td>Yearly increase in length of River Wandle corridor which has undergone enhancement.</td>
<td>Length of River Wandle corridor which has undergone environmental enhancement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>