



Bridging
Newcastle Gateshead
Sustainability
Strategy



DRAFT
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1 FOREWORD

The Bridging NewcastleGateshead Sustainability Strategy is a overarching document which provides a commitment from BNG to embed sustainability at all operational levels in line with the policies and practices of Newcastle and Gateshead Councils.

The strategy is consistent with and complementary to a range of activities already being carried out within the partnership.

2 INTRODUCTION

Bridging NewcastleGateshead is one of nine Housing market Renewal pathfinders established by central government in 2003 to tackle housing market failure in the north and the midlands.

Through a range of interventions identified within the HMR Programme, the partnership has developed a track record of delivering successful regeneration initiatives across Newcastle and Gateshead and has, for the most part, addressed the issue of market failure in the core areas.

Central to BNG's activities is the creation of successful mixed communities with sustainability embedded within the heart of all schemes. The 2008-11 programme includes a range of projects and activities which seek to develop sustainable housing opportunities for existing and new residents across Gateshead and Newcastle pathfinder area. Collectively, these seek to develop stable and sustainable communities of mixed housing type and tenure which meet a range of present and future housing needs.

3 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

While BNG provides a co-ordination role for the HMR Programme, it provides significant added value to the regeneration process through the activities of the Board, Appraisal Panel, Advisory Group and Management Team. Central to the successful delivery of the programme to date has been the underlying strength of the partnership between the two local authorities which ensured that BNG was acknowledged as performing strongly in the 2007 Audit Commission Review.

Given that BNG operates within a partnership across two local authorities, from a policy and strategy standpoint there is a comprehensive framework of documents which are applied to all BNG activities within the two administrative areas. These are set out in Appendix 1 of this document.

From a sustainability standpoint the key documents are:

REGIONAL

Sustaine: The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East of England March 2008 (IRF)

– The aim of the IRF is to embed the principles of sustainable development within the region's strategies, policies plans and programmes, so helping us to move towards a more sustainable future and enabling us all to achieve a better quality of life. The IRF provides an overarching framework within which other plans, strategies and programmes can be developed. The IRF, which was first published in 2004, is supported by the North East Assembly, One North East, Government Office for the North East and other regional partners.

Within the IRF a series of 10 objectives are identified which seek to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and programmes assist delivering sustainable. These broad objectives will be embodied at a local level by the two local authorities.

It is therefore within the strategic context of the IRF that Gateshead and Newcastle City Councils have drawn up their own strategies and policies which are applied to development and other activities within the HMR pathfinder Area.

GATESHEAD COUNCIL

Here Today, Here Tomorrow 2008

This is a strategic response to LA21 issues containing a range of broad objectives, actions for the next five years and targets (where applicable) in respect of 10 themes.

- Adapting to Climate Change
- Air Quality and Noise Management
- Biodiversity
- Energy Conservation
- Green Purchasing
- Sustainable Transport
- Waste Management
- Water Conservation
- Education
- Community Involvement

Gateshead Council are proposing to replace this document in due course with a Climate Change Action Plan and Strategy which will reinforce the synergy between local based policies and the IRF. This in turn will be adopted by the Gateshead Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Gateshead Unitary Development Plan, Local Development Framework - Core Strategy and Area Action Plans / Supplementary planning Documents / Design Codes

The suite of statutory planning documents which are applied to developments within Gateshead complement 'Here Today, Gone Tomorrow' and the IRF and are tailored to meet the location / development requirements.

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008

This documents sets out the Council's approach to tackling climate change and sets out a range of policies, delivery and governance measures. Specific topic areas / chapters include:

- Newcastle's Approach to Tackling Climate Change
- Mitigation - The Councils Carbon Management Plan
- Baseline and Future Scenarios
- Adaptation - How Council Services will Respond
- Moving Forward – Delivering the Citywide Climate Change Strategy

Newcastle City Council currently reviewing this document and are proposing to incorporate the 10 objectives of the IRF into a citywide Sustainability Charter. In addition to the sustainability Charter, Newcastle City Council is also proposing to adopt an Environmental Policy and an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

Newcastle Local Development Framework - Core Strategy and Area Action Plans / Supplementary planning Documents / Design Codes

The suite of statutory planning documents which are applied to developments in Newcastle complement Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008 and the IRF and are tailored to meet the location / development requirements.

Once Gateshead and Newcastle City Council have revised their Sustainability Policies in line with the proposals outlined above, BNG will review this document to ensure strategic alignment within the partnership.

BNG POLICY FRAMEWORK

Within BNG, the work-stream activities of the BNG Service Areas (Strategy and Research, Development, Finance and Programme Management) have regard to the existing documents referred to above. Within some BNG work-streams, such as Design and Sustainable Construction, specific standards and principles have been developed which seek to embed sustainability within BNG activities. These include:

Design Standards and Principles for New Build Schemes 2008 This document provides a range of standards and principles for new build residential developments. Reflecting EP's Quality Standards (Nov 2007), the purpose of the standards is to ensure that all schemes receiving BNG funding meet level 3 Code for Sustainable Homes as a minimum and that issues such as accessibility to public transport and biodiversity are integral to new developments. Specific Topic Areas include

1. Quality Places
2. Quality Homes and Buildings
3. Construction Quality

The Design Standards and Principles also sets out a scoring mechanism to assess new schemes as they are brought forward as part of the BNG Appraisal process and provides the opportunity to enhance sustainability measures within new developments.

Design Standards and Principles for Refurbishment Schemes

This document is due for publication in 2008 and will provide a range of standards and principles to be applied to refurbishment schemes. The document is intended to respond to the latent demand for refurbished properties that has arisen as the programme has developed and as a consequence of current market conditions.

The Quality of Place and the Payback of Good Design

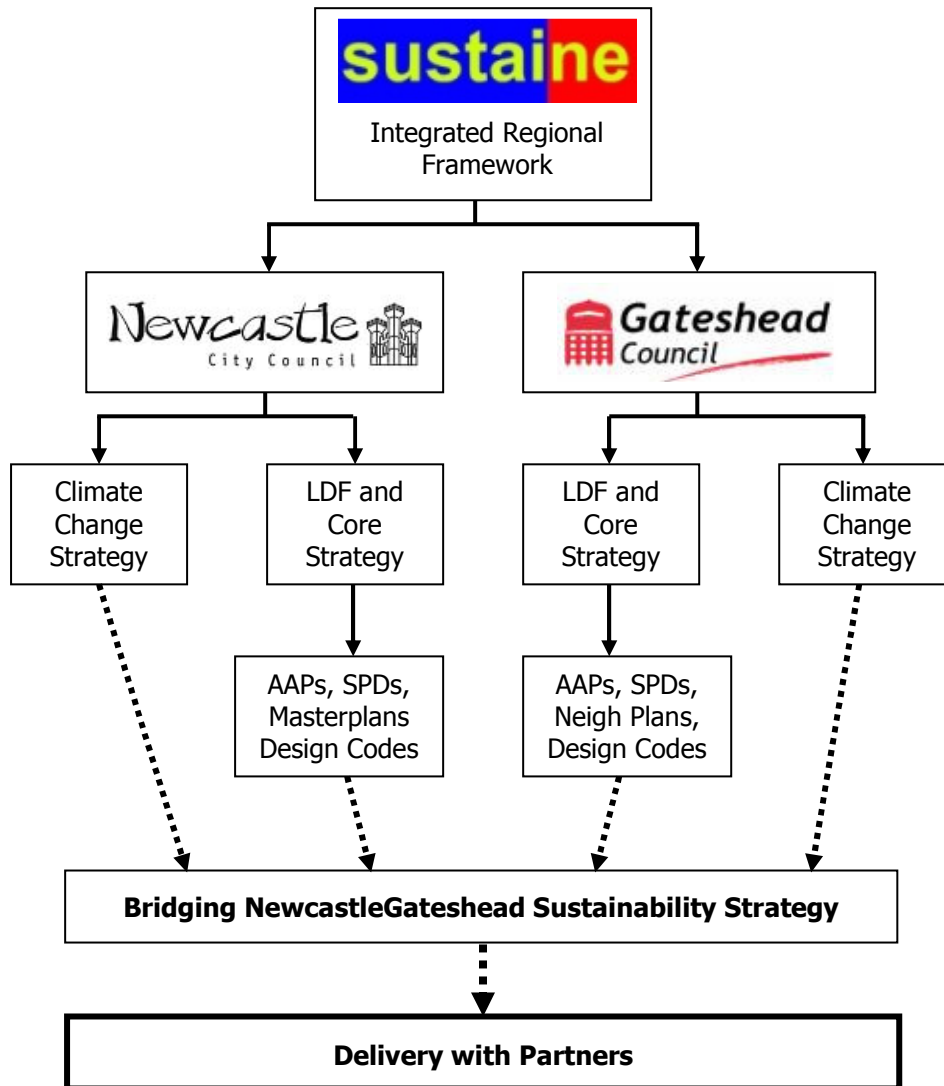
Due for publication in 2008, this national research will provide a review of existing residential design standards together with an analysis of what provides payback for the developer and gives customer satisfaction. Given the focus on current standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes, the final document will attach considerable weight to sustainability issues and will help inform future funding decisions.

In order to ensure that sustainability is embedded at all BNG operational levels, in assessing applications for funding, a Sustainability Audit will be carried out on all interventions receiving funding in excess of £500k. A pro forma for assessing interventions is contained in **Appendix 3**. This audit will review the proposals against the 10 Sustainability Commitments set out in **Appendix 2** which embody the principle objectives of the IRF.

In support of the above, BNG promotes sustainability within its day to day core office activities through:

- City Centre office easily accessible by range of public transport modes
- Minimum Printing / Electronic data Storage and Archiving
- Paper Recycling
- Water Cup Recycling
- Black and White Only Printing
- Double Sides Printing of Documents
- 'Lights Off' Policy
- Provision of IT infrastructure to enable Home Working reducing transport / CO2 emissions
- Car Sharing

BNG SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REGIONAL POLCY CONTEXT



BNG SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

THEME 1 - OUR ENVIRONMENT

- 1 Live within environmental limits, both locally and globally**
 - Minimise the use of non-renewable natural resources, including a focus on brownfield development sites
 - Improve energy generation, efficiency and conservation (renewable, new technology low carbon) on all new build and refurbishment schemes.
 - Reduce waste production and increase recycling on all new developments
 - Improve air quality and reduce pollution
 - Protect and improve the quality of our groundwater and rivers

- 2 Protect, enhance and respect cultural heritage and diversity**
 - Protect and enhance historic, cultural and natural assets and to review options for demolition within a sustainability context.
 - Encourage engagement with and access to culture and heritage
 - Review the sustainability impact of property demolition when reviewing HMR Interventions

- 3 Protect and enhance environmental assets and infrastructure**
 - Protect and enhance the quality and diversity of our urban landscapes
 - Protect and enhance geodiversity and biodiversity
 - Promote the development of an integrated green infrastructure across the BNG Area
 - Ensure appropriate management regimes are in place to ensure the future stewardship of open areas within the BNG area.

- 4 Reduce the impacts of climate change and our contribution to its causes**
 - Promote sustainable design and construction
 - Limit risk and impacts of flooding and other changing weather patterns
 - Increase locally produced energy from low carbon and renewable resources

THEME 2 - OUR COMMUNITIES

- 5 Promote strong and inclusive communities**
 - Encourage participation in local decision making and help residents through periods of change in BNG intervention areas
 - Decrease levels of and fear of crime
 - Narrow the inequality gap

- Ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home within BNG
 - Develop a high quality public environment including open spaces that encourages public usage.
- 6 Raise educational achievement and improve skill levels across BNG**
- Create opportunities for education, training and lifelong learning through BNG initiatives
 - Retain a skilled workforce by slowing out-migration and providing additional skills
 - Address barriers to work that prevent people from getting jobs within BNG
- 7 Improving health and well-being and reduce inequalities in health**
- Provide access to safe, green and open spaces and the natural environment
 - Promote sport, exercise and active recreation
 - Increase access to essential healthcare provision as part of BNG interventions
- 8 Ensure good accessibility for all to jobs, facilities, goods and services**
- Improve access to jobs, facilities, goods, services and green spaces
 - Deliver sustainable transport solutions that reduce the need to travel by private car plus
 - encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport and ensure transport infrastructure is secured as part of new developments.
 - Encourage effective use of technology (communications) especially as an alternative to travel
 - Encourage the production of sustainable travel plans as part of BNG interventions

THEME 3 - OUR ECONOMY

- 9 Strengthen our economy**
- Improve opportunities for new and existing businesses within BNG
 - Enhance the infrastructure required for economic growth within BNG
 - Promote investment in sustainable leisure and tourism as part of BNG interventions
 - Improve the image of areas within BNG which suffer from negative perceptions
- 10 Improve access to a stable and sustainable employment market**
- Increase the overall supply of jobs and diversity of employment opportunities
 - Increase employment levels within BNG
 - Increase workforce diversity and ensure equality of opportunities

BNG SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT

In order to ensure that BNG interventions meet the partnerships sustainability requirements the following sustainability audit will be completed for all schemes receiving funding in excess of £500k as part of the BNG Appraisal Process.

THEME 1 OBJECTIVES	SCORE (0-5)	COMMENT
<p>1 Live within environmental limits, both locally and globally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the use of non-renewable natural resources, including a focus on brownfield development sites • Improve energy generation, efficiency and conservation (renewables, new technology low carbon) on all new build and refurbishment schemes. • Reduce waste production and increase recycling on all new developments • Improve air quality and reduce pollution • Protect and improve the quality of our groundwater and rivers 		
<p>2 Protect, enhance and respect cultural heritage and diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance historic, cultural and natural assets and to review options for demolition within a sustainability context. • Encourage engagement with and access to culture and heritage • Review the sustainability impact of property demolition when reviewing HMR Interventions 		

<p>3 Protect and enhance environmental assets and infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the quality and diversity of our urban landscapes • Protect and enhance geodiversity and biodiversity • Promote the development of an integrated green infrastructure across the BNG Area • Ensure appropriate management regimes are in place to ensure the future stewardship of open areas within the BNG area. 		
<p>4 Reduce the impacts of climate change and our contribution to its causes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable design and construction • Limit risk and impacts of flooding and other changing weather patterns • Increase locally produced energy from low carbon and renewable resources 		
<p>THEME 2 OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>SCORE (0-5)</p>	<p>COMMENT</p>
<p>5 Promote strong and inclusive communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage participation in local decision making and help residents through periods of change in BNG intervention areas • Decrease levels of and fear of crime • Narrow the inequality gap • Ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home within BNG • Develop a high quality public environment including open spaces that encourages public usage. 		

<p>6 Raise educational achievement and improve skill levels across BNG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for education, training and lifelong learning through BNG initiatives • Retain a skilled workforce by slowing out-migration and providing additional skills • Address barriers to work that prevent people from getting jobs within BNG 		
<p>7 Improving health and well-being and reduce inequalities in health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to safe, green and open spaces and the natural environment • Promote sport, exercise and active recreation • Increase access to essential healthcare provision as part of BNG interventions 		
<p>8 Ensure good accessibility for all to jobs, facilities, goods and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to jobs, facilities, goods, services and green spaces • Deliver sustainable transport solutions that reduce the need to travel by private car plus • Encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport and ensure transport infrastructure is secured as part of new developments. • Encourage effective use of technology (communications) especially as an alternative to travel • Encourage the production of sustainable travel plans as part of BNG interventions 		

THEME 2 OBJECTIVES	SCORE (0-5)	COMMENT
<p>9 Strengthen our economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve opportunities for new and existing businesses within BNG • Enhance the infrastructure required for economic growth within BNG • Promote investment in sustainable leisure and tourism as part of BNG interventions • Improve the image of areas within BNG which suffer from negative perceptions 		
<p>10 Improve access to a stable and sustainable employment market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the overall supply of jobs and diversity of employment opportunities • Increase employment levels within BNG • Increase workforce diversity and ensure equality of opportunities 		