

The Council's Commitment to Local Agenda 21

'Local Agenda 21 is... a process, which facilitates sustainable development within a community. It is an approach, based upon collaboration and participation, which respects the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of the present and future citizens of a community in all its diversity'. DOEGL 2001, pg. 13.

The Council seeks to fulfil this role and has adopted a number of principles, which will promote the establishment and continued development of sustainable neighbourhoods, these are as follows:

- Encourage environmentally sound modes of transport by providing safer facilities, such as cycle lanes and secure bicycle parks for cyclists and pedestrian priority areas.
- Ensure neighbourhood planning exists at all levels so that facilities are available for daily living within their own community.
- Increase the emphasis on the provision of open space within individual neighbourhoods as well as large scale district parks.
- Encourage increased design flexibility so that buildings are designed or adapted to allow for flexibility in terms of use and access.
- Promote the regeneration of derelict sites and land to reduce resource consumption, provide essential facilities and sustain the urban fabric.
- Encourage private developers to construct energy and water efficient dwellings as well as increasing awareness of natural habitats to be protected.
- Encourage residential developments that is closer to the town centre and is more accessible by bike and foot.
- To work in partnership with community and government organisations to tackle poverty and social exclusion.
- Promote local investment, trading and secure employment which is accessible to all.
- Assist targeted groups (e.g the unemployed, ethnic communities, women and early school leavers) to obtain training, support, employment and childcare facilities in their local communities.
- Promote increased participation in the planning process.
- Providing for more education and awareness raising regarding waste, water and energy efficiency involving households, schools, supermarkets and businesses. *(DOEGL Guidelines on Local Agenda 21, 2001).*