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## INTRODUCTION

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) sets out the strategic policy objectives of Council and also seeks to further the legislative and policy objectives of planning in Victoria to the extent that they are applicable to Manningham.

The Victoria Planning Provisions establish the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) which the Council is required to take into account and to give effect to in the planning and administration of its municipal area. This Policy framework requires Council to balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development.

It deals with matters affecting land use and development including:

- Principles of land use and development planning
- Settlement
- Environment
- Management of resources
- Infrastructure
- Economic well-being
- Social needs
- Regional co-operation

All of these objectives, and the strategies for achieving them, are addressed in the MSS. They are set within a framework of sustainability consistent with the objectives of planning in Victoria and the Council Plan prepared by Manningham City Council.

This statement is based on the principles of sustainability as defined by the Federal Government in its 1992 National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Sustainable land use and development in Manningham's view means:

*Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes on which life depends are maintained, and the total quality of life now and in the future can be increased.*

There are two features in particular which distinguish a sustainable, or more importantly, an ecologically sustainable, approach to development. They are:

- A need to consider, in an integrated way, wider economic, social and environmental implications of decisions and actions for Australia, the international community and the biosphere.
- A need to take a long term, rather than a short term, view when making these decisions and taking these actions.

Through the MSS, Manningham commits to and seeks to foster a belief that to promote the orderly and proper use, development and protection of land, all planning decisions must take into account and address all relevant economic, social and environmental considerations.

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### **A sustainable Manningham**

The City of Manningham is committed to moving towards a sustainable future, to ensure that our children and grandchildren inherit a tomorrow that is at least as good as today, and preferably better. Many of our lifestyle's impacts are hidden so we do not have a proper understanding of the damage caused by our communities or their unsustainable practices. Manningham cannot solve the world's problems, but it is possible to move towards making our own local area operate far more sustainably and in so doing influence communities beyond our boundaries.

Sustainability will not be reached tomorrow. However, with a clear vision and goals the path towards sustainability becomes easier. Manningham will not become sustainable solely as a result of the planning scheme. We must draw on resources within the community - ideas, partnerships and networks because it is only through community involvement and ownership that we can achieve positive results. Manningham's Council Plan acknowledges the role education and incentives must play, allied with controls and other provisions.

This MSS helps to further provide a framework for integrated decision making and is structured around ten key focus areas:

- Residential
- Low Density
- Green Wedge and Yarra River Corridor
- Industrial
- Activity Centres and Commercial Areas
- Ecologically Sustainable Development
- Heritage
- Infrastructure
- Open Space and Tourism
- Community Health and Well-being.

This MSS will also help to create a healthy and vital community, environment and economy to support our lives and lifestyles. The MSS aims to create a better place to live, visit and work for all our present and future citizens.

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### **An integrated policy approach**

The MSS draws on the principles of the Council Plan and links with the budget process. It also provides a local application of State policies and is the basis for local planning policies. Manningham City Council will continue to develop partnerships with the local community, other Councils, the State Government and regional organisations so that all the relevant policies are implemented more effectively and for the environmental, economic and social well-being of Manningham.