

Environmental Improvement and Protection

E3.3 The Council will upgrade the appearance of the City's major radial and orbital roads and rail routes. This will include improvements to the appearance of adjacent premises; encouraging new development of the highest quality; and ensuring that landscape schemes are designed to minimise litter problems.

Objective: To enhance the City's environment.

Reason: To improve the appearance of the City's major road and rail routes both as an important element in improving the local environment for people living and working on or close to these major routes; to improve the image of the City in order to attract new investment and jobs; and make the City more attractive to tourists and visitors. The Council wishes to see green areas which are established alongside roads designed to a high quality and without the use of shrubs where these would form a litter trap. Where high quality open space cannot be provided then the Council will promote the site for built development.

E3.4 The Council will create a network of safe and attractive major linear recreational open spaces by linking and making better use of river valleys, canals, disused railways and other appropriate areas of open space. Within these areas measures will be taken to:-

- a) achieve widespread environmental improvements;
- b) protect the natural environment;
- c) improve water quality;
- d) improve access for pedestrians, disabled people, cyclists and, where appropriate, horse riders;
- e) protect and enhance wildlife corridors

The Council will ensure that, in developing these recreational routes, adequate measures are taken to safeguard the privacy of nearby residential properties.

Objective: To enhance the City's environment.

Reason: Major efforts have been made over recent years to improve the environment in the Mersey, Irk and Medlock River Valleys and to promote them for recreational use. The Council wishes to extend this approach to other linear open spaces in the City in order to provide an extensive network of attractive areas for informal recreation. The improvement of these areas will do much to improve the appearance of the City. It is especially important in a densely built up area such as Manchester to make the best possible use of "green" areas not only for recreational purposes but for the psychological benefits they provide in breaking up the urban area. The strategic recreational routes will also serve as wildlife corridors and schemes will be implemented with this in mind.

The Council wishes to ensure that safety measures are taken into consideration in the development of these areas for recreational use especially where water features are involved. The River Valley Local Plans have provided a valuable framework for the improvement and the protection of the environment in the Mersey and Medlock Valleys. The incorporation of these Plans into the Manchester Plan with appropriate amendments will ensure a continuity in the Council's approach to these areas and consistency with adjoining Local Authorities. The Council supports the long distance Trans-Pennine trail-route from Hull to Liverpool and will promote the section that runs through Manchester.