



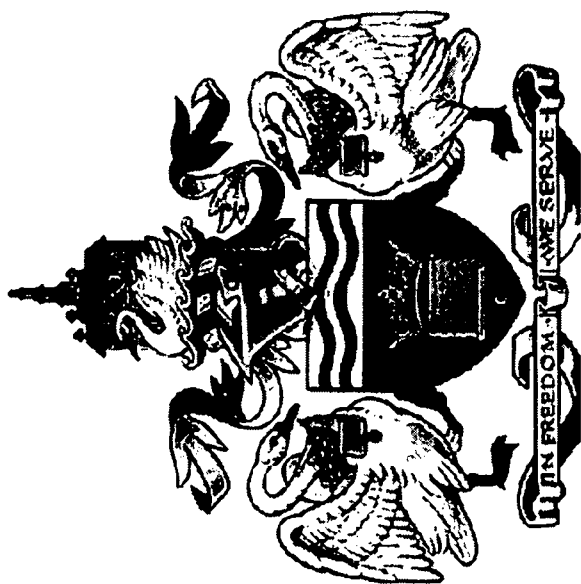
RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2004

APPENDICES

<u>APPENDIX</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
A	MINUTES OF 30 SEPTEMBER MEETING	TO FOLLOW
B	ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER	SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT
C	SERVICE PLAN 2004/05	TO FOLLOW
D	BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2004/05	1
E	RUNNYMEDE STATE REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	16



Best Value Performance Indicators 2004/05

Key:

■ Target achieved

■ Target not achieved

↑ Improvement on last year
 ↓ Deterioration on last year
 ↔ No change
 * No comparative data available

CORPORATION

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 1a	Does the authority have a Community Strategy developed in collaboration with the LSP, for improving the economic, social & environmental well being in a way that is sustainable?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					SM
BV 1b	By when will a full review of the Community Strategy be completed/or was it completed on time?	Dec-03	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-04	Dec-04					SM
BV 1c	Has the authority reported progress towards implementing the Community Strategy to the wider community this year? If no when will it be undertaken?	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A					SM
BV 1d	By when does the authority plan to have such a strategy in place? Are the partnership arrangements in place to support the production of the strategy?	Oct-02	Oct-02	Oct-02	N/A	N/A					SM
BV 2a	The level of any of the Equality Standard for Local Government to which the authority conforms	2	1	2	1	1					SM
BV 2b	The duty to promote race equality	50%	31.6%	50%	27.8%	27.8%					SM
BV 8	The % of invoices for commercial goods and services which are paid by the authority within 30 days of such invoices being received	92.5%	90.85%	95%	93%	93.00%					RH
BV 9	The % of Council Tax collected	98%	98.3%	98%	31%	27.7%				Cumulative figure for half year: 58%	RH
BV 10	The % of non-domestic rates due for the financial year which were received by the authority	99%	99.6%	99%	31%	29.5%				Cumulative figure for half year: 60.5%	RH
BV 11a	The % of top 5% of earners that are women	8.6%	6.2%	18%	6.2%	6.2%				Decrease in figures due to calculation errors in previous quarters/ years. The calculations included part-time staff - auditors pointed out that they should only included fee. Targets had been based on these previous figures	DGT
BV 11b	The % of top 5% of earners from black & minority ethnic communities	4.3%	1.0%	5%	0.95%	0.95%				Decrease in figures due to calculation errors in previous quarters/ years	DGT
BV 12	The number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness absence	8.2 days	7.4 days	7 days	1.2 days	2.44 days					DGT

BV 14	The % of employees retiring early (excluding ill health retirements) as a % of the total workforce	0.19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%						DGT
BV 15	The % of employees retiring on the grounds of ill health as a % of the total workforce	0.22%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%						DGT

CORPORATE HEALTH

BV Code	Description	2003/04		2004/05		Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
		Target	Outturn	Target	Outturn							
BV 16a	The % of local authority employees declaring that they meet the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 disability definition compared with the % of economically active disabled people in the authority area	2.5%	2.3%	2.5%	2.2%	2.2%	2%					DGT
BV 16b	The % of economically active disabled people in the authority area	6.26%	9.17%	6.26%		Annual Figures						DGT
BV 17x	The % of local authority employees from minority ethnic communities	3%	2.9%	3%	2.6%	2.6%	4.3%					DGT
BV 17y	The % of the economically active ethnic community population in the authority area	3.48%	5.80%	5%		Annual Figures						DGT
BV 156	The % of authority buildings open to the public in which all areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people		85%	90%		Annual Figures						BM
BV 157	The number of types of interactions that are enabled for electronic delivery as a % of the types of interactions that are legally permissible for electronic delivery	70%	65%	100%		Annual Figures						BD

4

Housing

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 62	The proportion of unfit private sector dwellings made fit or demolished as a direct result of action by the local authority	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.23%	0.34%				Cumulative Figure for half year: 1.57%	TW
BV 63	The average SAP rating of local authority owned dwellings	60	62.87	63	Annual Figure						AD
BV 64	The number of private sector dwellings that are returned into occupation or demolished during 2002/03 as a direct result of action by the local authority	12	10	11	7	1				Cumulative Figure for half year: 8	MR
BV 66a	Local authority rent collection and arrears: proportion of rent collected	98.8%	98.39%	98.8%	91.41%	91.52%				The courts are taking a more lenient stand with tenants in arrears. On course to meet target	ES
BV 164	Does the authority follow the Commission for Racial Equality's code of practice in rented housing and follow the Good Practice Standards for social landlords on tackling harassment included in Tackling Racial Harassment: Code of Practice for Social Landlords?	Yes	No	Yes	Annual Figure						DB

HOUSING

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 183	The average length of stay in: a). Bed & Breakfast accommodation, b). Hostel accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman and which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need	4 weeks	0	3 weeks	0 weeks	0 weeks					DA
	a). Bed & Breakfast accommodation	40 weeks	47 weeks	39 weeks	88 weeks	114 weeks				This quarter the figure relates to three families in which one of them had arrears, therefore no offers of permanent accommodation made until arrears cleared.	DA
	b). Hostel accommodation	18.8%	18.82%	12%			Annual Figures				AD
BV 184a	The proportion of LA homes which were non decent at 1 April 2004	20%	20.19%	20%							AD
BV 184b	The % change in proportion of non decent LA homes between 1 April 2004 and 1 April 2005	85%	38.7%	80%	95.7%	90.1%				Figures represent quarterly performance	AD
BV 185	The % of responsive (but non emergency) repairs during 2004/2005, for which the authority both made and kept an appointment	*	*	0-10	0-10	0-10					DA
BV 202	The number of people sleeping rough on a single night within the area of the authority	*	*	-1%	-4%	-4%					DA
BV 203	The percentage change in the average number of families, which include dependent children or a pregnant woman, placed in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation compared with the average from the previous year										

COUNCIL TAX & HOUSING BENEFITS

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 76a	The number of claimants visited per 1,000 caseload	500	247.4	180	13	67.5				Cumulative amount of visits for half year: 395 target 720 (absolute figures). 2004/05 target based on new legislation - calculating the number of interventions. The 2004/03 target was based on home visits	LP
BV 76b	The number of fraud investigators employed per 1,000 caseload	0.5	0.58	0.5	0.54	0.54					LP
BV 76c	The number of fraud investigations per 1,000 caseload	60	38.4	70	30	13				HBMS referrals have dropped off - in addition to the investigators working on a few big prosecution cases. Cumulative figure for half year: 43	LP
BV 76d	The number of prosecutions and sanctions per 1,000 caseload	5	5.8	5	3	3					LP
BV 76a	Average time for processing new claims	36 days	31 days	35 days	23 days	22 days					LP
BV 76b	Average time for processing notifications of change of circumstance	9 days	6 days	9 days	5 days	5 days					LP
BV 76a	The % of cases for which the calculation of the amount of benefit due was correct on the basis of the information available for the decision for a sample of cases checked post decision	98%	98%	98%	98.6%	98.4%					LP
BV 76b	The % of recoverable overpayments (excluding Council Tax Benefit) that were recovered in the year	50%	52.25%	60%	43%	46.5%				The figures are cumulative and are on course to meet 2004/05 target	LP

WASTE MANAGEMENT

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 199	The proportion of relevant land and highways as defined under EPA 1990 Part IV section 86 (expressed as a %) that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus (e.g.. Sand, silt and other debris) across four categories of cleanliness (Clean, Light, Significant, Heavy)	*	55%	50%	Annual Figure						LS
BV 82a	The % of total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been recycled	10%	14.72%	10%	13.72%	13.27%					MC
BV 82b	The % of total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been sent for composting or for treatment by anaerobic digestion	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%					LS
BV 84	Number of kilograms of household waste collected per head	350 kgs	313.3 kgs	310 kgs	61.6 kgs	91.8 kgs				Cumulative Figure for half year. 153.4	LS
BV 86	Cost of waste collection per household	£33.37	£34.84	£35.49	£35.71	£35.71					RH

BV 91	The % of population resident in the authority's area served by kerbside collection of recyclables	95%	91.26%	95%	91.26%	88.3%				Figure has gone down due to the number of properties increasing. January targeting as many blocks of flats/ multi-occupied dwellings as possible, but awaiting for the delivery of recycling truck with lifting gear as using blue box scheme would be impractical	MC
-------	---	-----	--------	-----	--------	-------	--	--	--	--	----

9

PLANNING

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible	
BV 106	% of new homes built on previously developed land	75%	100%	85%	Annual figure							PJ
BV 109	% of planning applications determined in line with the Government's new development control targets to determine:											
	a). 60% of major applications in 13 weeks	60%	58%	61%	27%	56%				Cumulative figure - 40%	PJ	
	b). 65% of minor applications in 8 weeks	70%	62%	73%	57%	76%				Cumulative figure - 65%	PJ	
BV 179	c). 80% of other applications in 8 weeks	82%	85%	83%	83%	84%				cumulative figure - 83%	PJ	
	% of standard searches carried out in 10 working days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%					JR	
BV 200a	Do you have a development plan (or alterations to it) that has been adopted in the last 5 years and the end date of which has not expired?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes					PJ	
BV 200b	If no, are these proposals on deposit for an alteration or replacement, with a published timetable for adopting those alterations or the replacement plan within three years?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					PJ	
BV 204	The percentage of appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse on planning applications	*	*	25%	27%	41%				Figure due to an unusual situation of what was effectively one appeal (one site - Hanover House and one public enquiry) but which involved 5 separate decisions. All 5 were allowed and count as separate appeal decisions.	PJ	

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 166	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health/trading standards	100%	83%	100%	83.32%	83.32%					PB

CULTURAL & RELATED SERVICES

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 170a	The number of visits to/uses of the museums per 1,000 population	194	243.4	203	58.5	54.1					EW
BV 170b	The number of those visits that were in person per 1,000 population	87	105	92	24	32.8				Cumulative 56.8	EW
BV 170c	The number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups	5000	1159	1159	431	162				Lower figure due to school summer holiday period (cumulative - 593)	EW

COMMUNITY SAFETY

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 126	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 household		11.16		2.04	2.5				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 4.5	SM
BV 127	Violent crimes per 1,000 population broken down to show:		8.92		2.86	2.46				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 5.32	
	a). Violent offences committed by a stranger per 1,000 population		3.97	5% reduction p.a. based on outturn at 31 March 1999 on all categories of crime	1.14	1.22				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 2.36	SM
	b). Violent offences committed in a public place per 1,000 population		4.89		1.74	1.54				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 3.8	SM
	c). Violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises per 1,000 population		0.25		0.08	0.1				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 0.18	SM
	d). Violent offences committed under the influence per 1,000 population		2.48		0.85	0.62				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 1.47	SM
BV 128	Violent crimes per 1,000 population		12.36		2.66	2.63				Cumulative Half-Year Figure: 5.29	SM
BV 174	The number of racial incidents recorded by the authority per 100,000 population	0	2.56	0	0	0					SM
BV 175	The % of racial incidents that resulted in further action	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%				No incidents	SM
BV 176	The number of domestic violence refuge places per 10,000 population, which are provided or supported by the authority.	1	1	1			Annual Figure				DB

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE

BV Code	Description	2003/04 Target	2003/04 Outturn	2004/05 Target	Apr - Jun 2004	Jul - Sept 2004	Oct - Dec 2004	Jan - Mar 2005	Outturn 2004/05	Comments	Officer Responsible
BV 177	% of local authority expenditure on legal and advice services which is spent on services that have been awarded the Quality Mark & meet a priority legal need identified in the Community Legal Service Partnership Strategic Plan	*	0%	0%	0%	0%					SH

Executive Summary

Measuring the quality of life through the use of sustainability indicators has been widely adopted by Local Authorities and other Statutory Organisations and, as the demand for indicator data increases, information is becoming more accessible.

The methodology for this first State of Runnymede Report has taken account of the issues of sustainability and sustainable development. It conforms to the Council's principle that sustainable development is global in nature but local in delivery. Therefore, assessment of the State of Runnymede should logically commence with an analysis of the 'global perspective' and work towards the 'local'. The list of components covered within this state report will take account of this.

The main purpose of this State Report is to present, in a user-friendly form, an overview of the state of the Borough to a non-professional audience. The report presents a set of what are considered to be key indicators in an easy-to-understand and primarily graphical form, supplemented with brief background information and explanation.

Key information in this report is presented using:

- graphs and charts to illustrate changes in selected indicators over time
- maps to illustrate the spatial distribution of data
- background and supporting information.

As part of the process of developing a Local Development Framework for the Borough, the Council has adopted a set of sustainability objectives and indicators. Initially, the headings within this report have been grouped in accordance with the set of Regional Sustainable Development Indicators from the *Integrated Regional Framework* (IRF 2004). Where applicable, modifications have been made to suit Runnymede's local characteristics. These indicators comply with the High Level Sustainable Development Indicators in the government's *Quality of Life Counts* report (ODPM 1999). They have also been cross-referenced to the Audit Commission's piloted set of 32 quality of life indicators for voluntary testing by Local Authorities across the UK in 2001/2002. Finally, an additional cross-reference was made to the Indices of Deprivation (ODPM 2004) and the Runnymede's Best Value Performance Indicators. It is hoped that these indicators will capture and illustrate the main features of the environment, society and economy, and that they will form the framework for the capture of any changes over time and space.

The data for these has been gathered from a wide range of sources including local, county, regional and national organisations in addition to Runnymede Borough Council's own primary research. Departments within Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey County Council have provided much of the data. A full list of data sources will be included.

The difficulty of collecting information and obtaining data at a local level is an acknowledged problem. The process of collating data has utilised several techniques and sources:

- Telephone, email and written enquiries
- Research on the Internet
- Secondary source material
- Databases

- Reports, Plans and Strategies

Data has been supplied by a number of Runnymede Borough Council departments, including a large quantity sourced from within the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) section.

On the whole, the availability of data was considered acceptable at this time. However, some difficulties have been experienced in terms of the absence of key datasets and inconsistent monitoring extrapolation to the local level. Some of the problems encountered are cited in the table below.

<i>Problems identified through collection of data</i>	
Topic	Problems Identified
Air Quality	Inconsistent monitoring at District level
Water Consumption	Geographical boundaries do not fit to local authority area.
Climate Data	Inconsistent local monitoring and lack of time series data.
Water Pollution Incidents	Runnymede data is aggregated to the Environment Agency's 'Thames region' which includes 205 miles of the River Thames from Thames Head Bridge in the Cotswolds to its confluence with the North Sea at Shoeburyness in Essex. Obviously there is a strong potential for skewing of local results.
Agriculture	Changes in datasets making analysis over time difficult. Difficulty in obtaining access to DEFRA's Agriculture Census Data Sets.
Biodiversity	Lack of consistent monitoring at a local level. Research undertaken tends to be one off specific studies. Problems associated with co-ordination of numerous anecdotal biological records.
Energy Consumption	Lack of established data sources. Disaggregation of regional consumption rates to a local level not possible at present. Multiple energy providers.
Emissions	Difficulties with monitoring techniques at a local level.
Energy Efficiency	Lack of consistent monitoring at a local level over time intervals.

Baseline Conditions

The population of Runnymede as per the 2001 Census was 78,033, which was an increase of 6,244 people from the previous Census. One feature that stands out is that there is a very large cluster in the age group 20 - 24 year olds. The largest change however between 1991 and 2001 has been within the ages 30 - 59 year olds, an increase of 13%. This could be illustrative of good employment opportunities in the area. 95% of people in Runnymede identified themselves as white in 2001, which is 2.5% less than in 1991.

Runnymede experiences relatively low levels of deprivation. There are, however, small pockets of deprivation. Parts of Egham, Chertsey St Anns and Chertsey Meads all feature in a number of different deprivation indicators.

From a health point of view, residents in Runnymede are generally in a state of good health. In the 2001 Census 73.7% of people stated that their general health was good, just over 20% people said it was fairly good and 6.3% said it was poor.

Life expectancy in Runnymede is higher for both males and females than for the South East Region and England, at 77.2 years for males and 82.1 years for females. Life expectancy in Runnymede has also increased at a slightly higher rate than both the South East Region and England.

In 2002, of the 1,400 deaths in the Borough, two thirds were attributed to circulatory disease and cancer. A third of deaths were attributable to coronary heart disease, pneumonia and strokes (cerebrovascular disease).

The Borough has a number of health related services, with a main hospital, health centre, a number of dentists, opticians and chemists generally located within the three main towns of Addlestone, Chertsey and Egham, and the centres of the smaller urban settlements.

In terms of education, there is a fairly even range of different levels of qualifications across the Borough. Over 23% of people gained a first degree or higher degree, which is higher than the percentage for England. In general there is a wide distribution of socio-economic classes throughout Runnymede, with the majority of heads of households employed in the managerial or professional occupations. This range indicates a diversity of skills within the resident population, which means that it is more resilient to changes in the structure of the economic base.

Crime in Runnymede is relatively low in comparison with the rest England, with 4 domestic burglaries per 1000 population in Runnymede compared to 15 per 1000 nationally. Although crime rates look like they are rising, this could be due to measures encouraging people to report crime rather than an actual rise in crime.

In terms of housing, there are a range of different tenures across the Borough, however the most dominant tenure is Owner Occupier. In some wards this is significantly high, nearly 80%. One of the most prominent issues in Runnymede is affordability of homes. It ranks 28th out 354 Districts in terms of high house prices. This is of particular concern to those people in low-paid employment.

Runnymede has a good mixture and range of housing spread throughout the Borough. There are slightly more detached and semi-detached properties than flats and terraced houses, with more detached properties in Virginia Water, Foxhills, and Thorpe, and more semi-detached in New Haw, Egham and Addlestone. In general, the condition of Runnymede's housing stock is in good repair. Although there are a number of properties that fail fitness standards, 5% in 2003, these are mainly in the private rented sector.

There are a number of Industrial and Business Parks located throughout the borough. These are generally situated close to and with easy access of the M25. This reflects the general reliance of transportation by vehicle for both workers and goods.

The Transport Infrastructure in Runnymede is very much geared towards the car. This is reflected in both the very high car ownership rates across the Borough and the commuting data. The number of cars in the Borough has increased at a faster rate than the increase in the population, with over 84% of households owning at least one car in 2001, and more than half of those owning two cars.

The road network is highly accessible and well maintained. It has high connectivity, with two major motorways intersecting the borough, M25 and M3. The public transport infrastructure, however, is much more fragmented and poor quality in terms of its connectivity, reliability and frequency. There are a number of bus routes running through the borough but they are under-used because of their poor service; there are similar problems with the trains. However, there are attempts to improve services, such as at Chertsey which now has four trains an hour. There are also a number of footpaths and cycleways across the Borough, which are very disjointed and lack a coherent formation.

One major issue that faces Runnymede in terms of travel is the volume of traffic on the road especially in terms of commuters. Runnymede has a net inflow of 4,700 commuters daily. Due to the complex nature of travel and the poor public transport provision in Runnymede, the majority of workers travel to work by car, 70% of people according to the 2001 Census. This creates huge pressures on the road network and infrastructure of the borough.

Runnymede has a buoyant and stable economy. This is reflected in its low unemployment rate, high wages and the amount of VAT business registrations and de-registrations per year. It can be described as a service-based, knowledge economy, with 38% of its workforce employed in knowledge-based industries. This includes finance, business activities and public administration. Its dominant sector is the service sector, employing 86% of Runnymede's workforce. This includes electricity, gas and water supply, wholesale and retail trade, repairs, hotels and restaurants, financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities, education, health and social work. Its main industrial sector is real estate, with twice as many businesses in this sector compared to the others. However the largest growth has been within the wholesale and retail sector, nearly 200% increase in 4 years. Runnymede is also characterised by containing mainly small companies, with over 86% of the local employers having 10 or fewer employees.

One of the main issues facing Runnymede is the expansion of Terminal 5 at Heathrow and its impact on Runnymede. The main emphasis will be upon the retention of suitably located land to meet the demands of Heathrow related growth in relation to the use of employment land to meet housing targets. Runnymede is nearing capacity in terms of current working practices and infrastructure. It is accepted that changes in either of those variables could release additional capacity.

Runnymede has a net inflow of commuters, meaning there are more jobs than local people to fill them. This coupled with the low unemployment rates means that further employment growth will result in further increases in in-commuters. This will exacerbate existing problems of congestion and pollution and create increasing pressures on the social, physical and environmental infrastructure in Runnymede.

Air quality within the Borough is currently within acceptable levels. However, emissions of greenhouse gases are of general concern. The prediction is that the greatest producer of these (road transport) is set to continue to increase, and that the lifestyle choices made by residents will demand greater energy consumption. This may mean that increasingly stringent controls will be required.

Amenity can be considered in terms of noise, dust and light, and access to recreation and countryside. Other aspects which could be considered as factors in local amenity include countryside character, historic buildings and features, traffic volume and the environment. A number of those aspects for which data has been readily available have been considered separately. Background ambient noise levels have yet to be calculated for the Borough. However, Surrey County

Council's Local Transport Plan of July 2000 estimated that 14% of the population were subjected to excessive road traffic noise.

There are both challenges and opportunities to be faced as the effects of climate change progressively accelerate. Ranked 6th highest out of the 11 Boroughs within Surrey in terms of CO₂ emissions, Runnymede emitted 193,555 tonnes of CO₂ in 2000. Flooding is also of major concern with almost 40% of property at some form of floodplain risk.

Water consumption is estimated to be at a rate of 163 litres per person per day with little or no stress on the capacity of the water system. There are no major concerns regarding the groundwater protection zone within the Borough at this time. River quality is also acceptable with the majority of rivers within the Borough being rated as good to fairly good.

Runnymede is host to a number of National, European and Internationally designated sites that are afforded legal protection that enhances Runnymede's value in terms of habitat and biodiversity. The Borough is also adjacent to sensitive sites such as Chobham Common.

There is extensive coverage of habitats and species throughout the Borough. In 2004, 2% of Runnymede contained SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) this has remained constant. Data compiled in June 2004 by English Nature suggests that 16.4% of Runnymede's SSSIs are in favourable condition, which means that there is some way to go towards improvement. There are reported to be in excess of 2100 different species in the Borough; 32 of them are Biodiversity Action Plan species. These are supported in 19 different habitats.

Around 2,254.4ha or 28.9% of the Borough is covered by trees and woodland, which makes them an important contributor to the character of the Borough.

The natural landscape of Runnymede is characterised by its Thames Basin Lowland and urban fringe location which is of gently undulating vale: small-scale fields interspersed by woods, ponds, meadows, and heath, with a rural appearance. Towns and villages are in a relatively good state, however, the areas around them have a generally unkempt appearance.

The deposits of the Thames Valley and the Thames Basin dominate the geology of Runnymede. The underlying rocks and the later deposits above them inform the composition and drainage of the soil and therefore its fertility. In the part of the Borough bordering Surrey Heath there are poor sandy, acid soils which are dominated by heathland and woodland. Light clay or sandy soils, however, do exist on the London Clay, sand and gravels of the Thames Valley; these areas have been more intensively farmed. Exploitation of natural sand and gravel resources have in the past contributed greatly to the local economy; even today sand and gravel extraction is still important.

Mineral workings have also made their mark on the landscape of Runnymede. Whilst it is acknowledged that this makes an important contribution to the needs of society by supplying materials for the building and construction industry, there are concerns as to the environmental impacts both in terms of the extraction activity itself and the heavy traffic connected with its transportation.

Historically speaking, the Borough of Runnymede is known for being the location where the Magna Carta was signed by King John in 1215. To the present day this single historic event remains a powerful reference point for the Borough.

English Heritage has listed 307 buildings within the Borough on their Listed Buildings Register. Locally this list has been extended. These include 4 Grade I properties: Runnymede Park, Tite Hill; Founder's Building, Royal Holloway College, Egham Hill; Great Fosters, Stroude Road and Holloway Sanatorium, Stroude Road. The Borough has also within its boundary a number of historic

parks and gardens, while Runnymede Borough Council has designated six conservation areas within the Borough. In addition, there have been significant Bronze Age and Iron Age sites located at Runnymede Bridge and Thorpe Lea Nurseries. Currently there are eight scheduled monuments located in Runnymede and a number of county sites of potential archaeological interest.

A draft copy of a print and online pdf section is attached.