

waterside schemes that would be beneficial in the preparation of planning policy, as well as in the assessment of planning applications.

You will appreciate that the Grand Union Canal is a considerable asset to the Borough. Canals contribute to the recreational and environmental qualities of the largely urban borough in intangible levels. As the main custodian of these assets we are concerned that the borough should maximise the benefits of being located on the waterway network. A primary Defra requirement of British Waterways is to add value to communities in a wide-range of areas; we can only achieve this by working in close partnership with local authorities.

The summary table (Table 1) below highlights the diverse range of policy objectives and the wider sustainable development and social inclusion agendas that inland waterways can contribute to. This table is taken from 'Waterways and Development Plans' and was adapted from the table included in IWAAC 'Planning a Future for the Inland Waterways – A Good Practice Guide' (2001). British Waterways would be pleased to be consulted in any of these areas, as well as others deemed appropriate by the local planning authority, throughout the preparation of development frameworks. For further details on the issues outlined below, I refer you to 'Waterways and Development Plans', a copy of which should already be held by your office.

Table 1 Summary of Policy Objectives

Policy Objective	Value of Waterways
Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a catalyst for economic and social renewal • Increase development value and the opportunity for investment. • Focus and link regeneration opportunities in urban and rural areas. • Contribute to civic renaissance, increasing urban capacities, choice of lifestyle and reuse of brownfield land. • Focus for rural diversification, development and regeneration and contribute to delivery of market town initiative. • Generate long term economic activity and opportunities for employment. • Promote inclusion and quality of life.
Sport and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and important water based sport and recreation resource. • Contribute to the health and well being of society. • Form recreational corridors/routes linking urban areas to the countryside. • 50% of the population of England, Wales and Scotland live within 5 miles of a waterway.