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## Local Councils and Other Partners

If you are going to take on some long-term work to care for your area, you'll need help, not least because whatever space you are working to improve will need maintenance. It's important to work this out beforehand.

You may well need to develop a partnership of some nature. In doing this it's worth thinking about who is likely to bring what to any joint working:

**Government departments and agencies** can contribute to the improvement of an area by, amongst other things

- Providing grant aid for projects and long term management in some cases
- Providing advice and training programmes which encourage appropriate techniques and good practice

**Local authorities** can contribute by:

- Maintaining the existing fabric of the area and ensuring that, for example, street cleaning and routine care of parks and trees etc, are carried out
- Creating opportunities for new projects
- Promoting area improvements through development plans & planning permissions
- Incorporating environmental improvements into regeneration policies
- Acting as a facilitator for partnership schemes and encouraging local projects

Find out which departments in your local authority are responsible for what. For example, street cleaning and refuse collection may be dealt with by one department (possibly cleansing) while dumped rubbish may be dealt with by another (possibly Environmental Health)

**Local communities** and residents can:

- Get involved in the decision making process and practical community projects, including site preparation, tree planting, tree surveys, data collection and tree warden schemes
- Initiate and develop projects
- Create a framework for personal involvement in the long-term aftercare of projects
- Support and work with organisations which have an interest in the area

**Voluntary agencies** including BTCV, Wildlife Trusts and Groundwork can:

- Help to promote best practice through training and demonstration projects
- Provide framework for liaison between public, private, voluntary sectors
- Be instrumental in development of partnerships
- Provide practical training for community groups and volunteers
- Help achieve practical action by working with community groups and local volunteers
- Help in seeking grant aid and sponsorship available to the charitable sector

**Local businesses** can contribute by:

- Providing financial sponsorship for projects or help in kind
- Providing land for planting (on a temporary or permanent basis)
- Managing areas of land within their ownership
- Building up a climate of support for local projects and ideas among other local businesses
- Contribute expertise to other agencies and to local community groups

Promote employee volunteering in projects in the area