Leicester City Council's

Environmental Statement

Draft 3

26th November 2008

April 2007 – March 2008

Contents

Statement from the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council

Welcome to Leicester City Council's 11th Environmental Statement. The Statement reports our performance from April 2007 to March 2008 and outlines recent progress.

The year was an important one for the Council's approach to environmental issues, with the development of "One Leicester", our 25 year vision to make Leicester "Britain's Sustainable City". It places the environment right at the heart of our priorities alongside the City's economy and community. Our Environmental Policy (pages 6 and 7) has been updated to reflect the new vision.

In addition, significant progress has been made at a practical level :

- Recycling of household waste increased from 27% to 33.5% (page 32)
- 17 more schools joined 'EMAS in Schools' (page 52)
- Our renewable energy requirements were applied to over 84% of Planning Applications for 'Major Developments' (page 47)
- 87% of construction waste from the Building Schools for the Future programme was recycled, (page 34)
- Our transport fleet used 4.5% less fuel than the previous year (page 17)
- 294,544 fewer miles were driven on Council business by staff in their own cars (page 19)
- Cleanliness of the City Centre improved – despite a year of building works! (page 50).

Specific projects highlighted in the Statement include a pledge to plant 10,000 trees (page 40) environmental improvement programmes for Leicester's Primary Schools (page 20), and the replacement of Upperton Road Viaduct (page 33). A new staff Environment Network was launched to green day-to-day working practices (page 61).

Some big challenges, of course, remain:

- We've not yet achieved the cuts in our buildings' energy use that we need to (page 13). Our challenge is to find ways of improving services without increasing energy demand.
- Renewably generated electricity has become too expensive for us to buy from the grid (page 15). We'll have to look at developing more of our own renewable energy schemes and using fossil fuels more efficiently.
- A recent survey has shown a decline in some of Leicester's wildlife habitats – including several owned and managed by the Council (page 42). Our challenge is to improve our protection of wildlife habitats in the City whilst meeting the many other expectations placed upon open spaces.

We remain committed to maintaining the high standards we've set ourselves through EMAS and look forward to continuing Leicester's journey towards sustainability in the coming years.

Background Information

The City of Leicester

The City of Leicester covers an area of over 7,300 hectares and in 2006 had an estimated population of 289,700. It is a multi-racial city, with over a third of the population being of ethnic minority origin. A large student population is associated with its two universities.

Historically, Leicester's economy has built up around manufacturing industries including engineering, hosiery and knitwear. Manufacturing remains a significant employer, but its ongoing decline across the UK is one factor behind the significant deprivation affecting parts of the city. Regeneration programmes over recent years have sought to address this.

Leicester City Council

Since April 1997, Leicester City Council has been a unitary authority, responsible for providing services such as household waste collection, environmental health, education, libraries, social services, housing, museums, leisure centres, roads, planning, parks and street cleaning.

The City Council has 54 Councillors, elected from 22 wards.

The Council's Cabinet is made up of 10 Councillors and oversees the provision of Council services. Cabinet is made up of the following positions and portfolios:

- Leader – Strategy, Finance, Property and Communications
- Deputy Leader – Community Cohesion and Human Resources
- Housing
- Culture and Leisure
- Regeneration and Transport
- Children and Schools
- Adults and Older People
- Environment
- Health and Community Safety
- Front Line Service Improvement and Neighbourhoods

Other Councillors sit on Scrutiny Committees that scrutinise and advise on Council and Cabinet activities. A system of regular Ward Community Meetings are held across all wards involving both Councillors and local residents.

The City Council's main offices are located at New Walk Centre. Along with a group of other office buildings nearby, these are known collectively as the "Centrally Located Administrative Buildings". Direct service organisations are run from the Council's various depots, the main one being at Leycroft Road. The Council also manages a number of other buildings across the city including libraries, leisure centres and schools.

Leicester City Council employs approximately 15,000 staff (including manual workers, teachers, casual and temporary staff) within four departments and the Chief Executive's Office:

- Resources

- Adult and Housing
- Regeneration & Culture
- Children and Young People's Services

Leicester City Council and the Environment

For many years Leicester City Council has played an active role in encouraging and supporting measures that protect and enhance our environment. Its development of partnerships with other organisations to respond to environmental issues helped secure Leicester's award as Britain's first 'Environment City' in June 1990.

It jointly established Leicester Environment Partnership (LEP) in 2001 and helped develop both the City of Leicester Climate Change Strategy (October 2003) and the Leicester Environment Strategy (October 2004). The Council was awarded Beacon Council status for 'Maintaining a Quality Environment' in 2001 and for 'Sustainable Energy' in 2005.

One Leicester

Following the election of a new political administration in May 2007 the Council has worked through the Leicester Partnership to create a 25 year vision for Leicester to become "Britain's Sustainable City". The vision is called "One Leicester" and it forms the basis of both the City's Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's new Corporate Plan.

One Leicester identifies key environmental strengths and challenges and establishes priorities for the Council and its partners around "Reducing Our Carbon Footprint" and "Planning for People Not Cars". One Leicester sets the policy framework for the Council's Environmental Policy and management system.

EMAS

To maintain its focus on environmental protection and measurable improvement, the Council has adopted the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or EMAS in short. This European scheme helps the Council to manage and improve its own environmental performance, allowing the authority to move further towards its goal of achieving a sustainable city. It also sets a tough minimum standard for environmental management that the Council must maintain.

All Council services and sixty-seven schools are included within one corporate EMAS system. Work continues to bring more schools into the corporate system.

In addition, the scope of the system has been extended from 2008/09 to include the Leicester Partnership's programme of activity to tackle climate change. This programme is developed and overseen by the Partnership's Climate Change Board.

Leicester City Council first became registered to EMAS in July 1999. This Environmental Statement covers the period April 2007 to March 2008. It has been checked by an independent verifier to ensure that it complies with the EMAS standard.

Environmental Policy

"Our vision is of a beautiful, vibrant, clean and green city that is a great place for people to live, but that does not create an unacceptable burden on the planet."

One Leicester – Shaping Britain's Sustainable City

The Council is committed to transforming Leicester into "Britain's sustainable city".

Our Environmental Policy supports this goal. Through it we will use our powers and influence to protect and improve the environment and make continual improvement in our own environmental performance, as set out below.

Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

- Reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and work with our partners to achieve reductions in the wider city.

Creating a Quality Local Environment

- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water or land (including noise pollution, litter, fly tipping and the impact of car travel).
- Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Leicester's open space, trees and natural environment.
- Contribute to the creation of a sustainable built environment through the planning process and our own developments.
- Anticipate the effects of climate change and adapt our services to protect the City.

The Wise Use of Natural Resources

- Adopt energy and water-saving measures in our buildings and reduce the fuel used by vehicles on Council business, promoting equivalent measures across the City.
- Encourage the appropriate generation and use of renewable energy.
- Minimise waste and the impact of its disposal, based on the principle of reducing, reusing, recycling or composting and energy recovery before landfill of what remains.
- Use products and materials such as paper efficiently and specify goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, use and disposal.

Implementing the Policy

Scope of the Policy

We affect the environment through our services and policies, enforcement of laws and regulations and the choices we make when buying goods and services. This Policy covers all our activities and extends to schools by invitation.

Environmental Management

We will manage our impact and monitor compliance with this Policy through EMAS, fulfilling our environmental responsibilities and ensuring that all Council activities, and those carried out on our behalf, comply with or exceed statutory environmental requirements.
We will take steps to understand and control any risks of harm to the environment resulting from our activities.

Involvement

We will enable the full involvement of Councillors and employees by providing training and other support. We will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance and ensure that, when working for the Council, they adopt equivalent environmental standards.
We will encourage the public and partners to take action too, through environmental information, advice and services.

Schools

We will encourage schools to adopt this Policy by joining 'EMAS in Schools'.

Accountability

This Policy was approved by the Cabinet on 8th December 2008 and will be reviewed annually. Its delivery is the overall responsibility of the Chief Executive. The Council will publicise its environmental performance each year to enable the people of Leicester to hold us to account.

Table 1 - Summary of progress towards the active EMAS targets 2007/08

Target No.	Environmental Improvement Objective and Target	Change Since Last Data Point	Overall Progress Towards Target	Additional Explanation
1.1	**Objective**: Reduce the Council's total building energy consumption **Target:** To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025	**No change**	**Not on track to meet target**	The energy used by LCC buildings has remained static since 2006/07. A new programme of survey and investment for LCC buildings to improve energy efficiency and the recruitment of a project officer to deliver the programme will help to cut building energy in future years.
1.2	**Objective:** Increase the Council's use of renewable energy **Target:** From 0% of the energy requirement of all Council buildings in 1997 to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020	**- ve**	**Not on track to meet target**	The new energy contract includes a substantial proportion of electricity generated from 'Combined Heat and Power' schemes. There is no 'green energy' (ie. renewables) in the contract due to its dramatic increase in cost as demand has increased. This represents a move away from the target since 2006/07. The Council's existing renewable energy installations (wind turbines, PV, etc.) on its buildings and land are of too small a scale either to make a significant contribution towards the target or to make the installation of monitoring equipment cost effective. As a result, no renewable energy generation data is available from Council sites.
1.3	**Objective:** Reduce the fuel used by fleet vehicles and the miles travelled by private staff vehicles at work (not commuting) **Target (a):** Fleet vehicles - new target to be developed **Target (b):** Private staff vehicles at work – new target to be developed	**a) + ve** **b) + ve**	**a) Currently no target** **b) Currently no target**	a) 2007/08 saw a second consecutive annual reduction in fuel used by fleet vehicles, but overall usage over the past 5 years has been broadly constant. b) There was also a significant reduction in Council business mileage in staff's own vehicles.
4.1	**Objective**: Improve air quality in the City **Target:** By achieving the 4 key point targets set in the Local Transport Plan for air quality (target date 2010)	**+ ve**	**On Track (at 3 out of 4 sites)**	At 2 out of the 4 monitoring sites there was a further reduction in rolling average NOx levels, with no change at one and an increase at another. Whilst the Council remains on course to meet its 2010 targets at 3 sites, the new rolling average figures reported all suggest a slowing (or in one case reversal) of the reduction. This is a concern.
4.2	**Objective:** To reduce car trips to the city centre **Target:** Change in the number of vehicles crossing the Central Transport Zone cordon from 42,683 vehicles in 2004/05 to 43,963 vehicles in 2010/11	**- ve**	**On track**	In 2007/08 41,485 vehicles crossed the cordon. This represents a 1.6% increase on 2006/07, but still leaves the Council in a position to achieve the 2010/11 target.

4.3	**Objective (all schools):** Reduce the proportion of car journeys to schools **Target (all schools):** Share of journeys to school by car (including vans and taxis but excluding car share journeys) from 24% in 2006/07 to 22% in 2010/11	**- ve**	**Not on track to meet target**	In 2007/08 the share of journeys increased to 24.2% - up from 24% in 2006/07.
6.1	**Objective:** Increase recycling of household waste **Target:** To 40% of household waste collected in 2006/07	**+ ve**	**Previous target expired** **To be rolled forward**	The previous target expired in 2006/07, but is proposed to be rolled forward to 2009/10. In 2007/08 the recycling rate increased to 33.5% - up from 27% in 2006/07.
6.3	**Objective (all schools):** Reduce the amount of school construction waste going to landfill **Target (all schools):** By ensuring the secondary schools within the BSF programme exceed target 4 from the BSF Continuous Improvement Plan	**N/A (First year data reported)**	**Target met**	In 2007/08 the target was met, with only 2m^3 of construction waste produced per £100,000 of contract value.
7.1	**Objective:** Reduce potable water use in Council buildings **Target:** By 5% of 2006/07 level by 2011/12	**- ve**	**Not on track to meet target**	Water use in Council buildings increased by 3% to 225, 260 m^3. This is due to fluctuations in billing information. The Programme of Survey and Investment and the pilot project with Severn Trent to cut water use in 20 LCC buildings will help reduce water consumption in the next few years.
9.2	**Objective:** Ensure prime ecological sites are retained. **Target:** By ensuring the area of land covered by Council-owned SINC* sites is maintained at 1999 levels and managed according to their SINC schedule (*Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)	**No change**	**On track but at risk**	A complete ecological resurveying of the City undertaken between 2006 and 2008 identified 9 sites in 'unfavourable-declining' condition or that had suffered 'significant decline/damage'. Without action to reverse this decline, these sites could, in the worst case, be lost as SINCs.
10.1	**Objective:** Ensure that the Council continues to provide Leicester people with accessible green space. **Target:** By ensuring that publicly accessible green space covers at least as much land in 2020 as it did in 1994 (863 hectares)	**- ve**	**On track**	In 2007/08 there were no acquisitions which led to an increase in publicly accessible open space. The sale of a small site (123 sq. m) resulted in a very small overall loss. However, overall levels remain well above target.
11.1	**Objective:** Create a sustainable built environment within the city. **Target:** By ensuring that at least the following percentages of planning applications for major developments apply the City of Leicester Local Plan Policy BE16 with respect to the generation of on-site renewable energy: **2007/08 75%** **2008/09 80%** **2009/10 85%**	**N/A (First year data reported)**	**On track**	Performance in 2007/08 (the first year of reporting) was 84.3% of applications applying Policy BE16. This is well above the target level of 75%.

12.1	**Objective:** Improve street cleanliness in Leicester **Target:** By ensuring that less than 15% of relevant land and highways in the city centre has combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level by 2006/07	**+ ve**	**Target met**	Performance in 2007/08 was 6%. Improved from 12% in 2006/07
13.1	**Objective:** Improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents **Target**: By increasing the number of residents taking 5 or more environmental actions from the 10 listed in the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey, from 25% in 2005 to 30% in 2007/8	**Data available late November**	**Data available late November**	
13.2	**Objective (EMAS schools):** Raise levels of environmental awareness and action within schools **Targets (EMAS schools):** By annually increasing the number of Leicester schools participating in EMAS from 13 schools in 2003/4 to 90 schools in 2010/11	**+ ve**	**On track**	During 2007/08 a further 17 schools joined the EMAS in Schools Programme, raising the total to 67 schools - up from 50 in 2006/07.
14.1	**Objective:** Reduce city-wide carbon dioxide emissions **Target:** Reduce to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26	**N/A** **(No figure available for 2007/08)**	**Not on track** (According to 2004 data from the DMU report 2007)	Data collated by DeMontfort University for 2004 suggested a reduction since 1990, but not enough to be on course to meet the target. From 2008/09, retrospective data on city-wide emissions is being collated annually by DEFRA for monitoring of National Indicator 186. A decision will be taken as to the suitability of this new data for the monitoring of this target from next year. If this were agreed it would allow the Council to report progress on this target annually.
15.1	**Objective:** Reduce the Council's carbon dioxide emissions **Target:** Reduce to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26	**N/A** **(No figure available for 2007/08)**	**On track** (According to 2006 data from the DMU report 2007)	Previous reporting has been based on a study by DeMontfort University which provided a figure for 2006. From 2008/09, the Council's CO_2 emissions will be calculated for the reporting of National Indicator 185. This information will be derived from collated energy use data inputted into a DEFRA spreadsheet with standard emission factors per fuel type. A decision will be taken as to the suitability of this data for monitoring this objective from next year. This would allow the Council to report progress on this target every year.

Table 2 - Environmental improvement objectives where targets are under development or data is not yet available

Target No.	Environmental Improvement Objective and Target (where set)	Progress with development of target, data collection/monitoring system or baseline data
1.4	**Objective (all schools):** Reduce school total building energy consumption **Target (all schools):** By an average of 1.43 % per annum between 2007/08 and 2025/26	Schools energy data will be collected for NI 185 from 2008/09.
1.5	**Objective (all schools):** Increase school use of renewable energy **Target (all schools):** To 20% of energy requirements in 2020/2021	It is likely that the only source of renewable energy available to schools in the immediate future will be whatever they generate themselves through equipment installed on their own sites. It is not cost effective to directly monitor the energy generated from these relatively small installations. For this reason, it probably won't be possible to measure progress towards the current target, and an alternative target which can be monitored will be investigated in the coming year.
2.1	**Objective:** Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the City **Target**: By increasing the SAP* rating of houses by 1 point per year (* SAP is a national Standard Assessment Procedure for rating the energy efficiency levels of dwellings)	It is now apparent that there will not be enough data collected from Home Energy Surveys to gain a representative sample of data about the energy performance of private homes. This target will therefore be replaced before the next reporting period with one that can be monitored.
3.1	**Objective:** Reduce fleet vehicle emissions **Target:** To be developed	From the end of 2008/09 the Council must report its emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulates (PM_{10}) to the Government for National Indicator 194. The indicator includes emissions from buildings as well as vehicles. A target will be set for reducing emissions, using the 2008/09 figures as a baseline.
5.1	**Objective:** Reduce the amount of Council office waste going to landfill **Target:** By recycling 40% of City Council office waste by 2005/06	Further monitoring methods for this target need to be investigated (eg. installing computer chips in waste bins for Council buildings to measure their weight). A temporary post has been created for two years to reduce the amount of Council office waste going to landfill.
5.2	**Objective (EMAS schools):** Reduce school waste going to landfill **Target (EMAS schools):** New target to be developed	Further monitoring methods for this target need to be investigated through discussions with Biffa.
6.2	**Objective:** Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill **Target:** To be developed	This objective will be removed, as we have concluded that it is impossible to measure how much of Leicester's construction waste is landfilled. Also, the Council has very limited influence over it .
7.2	**Objective (all schools):** Reduce potable water consumption in schools used for non drinking **Target (all schools):** By 5% of the 2006/7 level by 2011/12	Schools water data will be collected when the energy data is collected for NI 185 from 2008/09.
8.1	**Objective:** Reduce the quantity of paper used **Target:** Under development	A new corporate print contract started in September 2007 which will allow us to set a new target for a reduction from a 2008/09 baseline.
8.2	**Objective:** Increase the use of recycled paper **Target:** Under development	A new set of standards has been developed for recycled paper use (refer to section 8.2) and the target will be to achieve full compliance with them. This will provide the basis for monitoring progress.

8.3	**Objective (EMAS schools):** Increase the use of recycled paper in schools **Target (EMAS schools):** By 10% per year from 2007/08 level	A revised target has been approved for this objective that will simplify data collection (refer to section 8.3).
9.1	**Objective:** To ensure key aspects of the natural environment on council-owned land are sustainably managed **Target:** To be further developed.	The system of developing and working to Management Plans is now established and the emphasis of monitoring for EMAS now needs to shift to the *outcomes* of the Council's management activities: is the quality of the sites being maintained and improved? A revised objective and new target are proposed. See section 9.1.
9.3	**Objective (EMAS schools):** To improve wildlife habitats in school grounds **Target (EMAS schools):** Develop 3 new areas of functioning habitat per school in EMAS schools by 2007/08.	A revised objective and target have been approved. See section 9.3.
10.2	**Objective (all schools):** To retain a net area of open space in school grounds **Target (all schools):** To be developed.	The data collection methodology for this objective is currently being developed, involving use of the Property Services' 'PAMIS' database.
11.2	**Objective (all schools):** Create sustainable school buildings **Target (all schools):** By ensuring that from 2007/8, all new or refurbished schools exceed* "very good" standards, as defined by BREEAM (*to achieve an overall score of 65%)	No new or refurbished school buildings from the current programme have yet been signed off and assessed under BREEAM. So no data is yet available for this target. A sustainable construction standard for City Council new build and major refurbishment projects is being developed that will form the basis of a revised target for this objective.
13.3	**Objective (EMAS schools):** To increase environmental education within schools **Targets (EMAS schools):** To be developed	This objective has been removed from the EMAS system, as it is not appropriate for setting and monitoring a quantitative target.

1. The Council's Energy and Fuel Use

Our climate is changing and this is a serious threat facing Leicester and the rest of the world. It is now widely accepted that climate change is caused by the release of 'greenhouse gases' into the atmosphere. One of the most significant of these is carbon dioxide (CO_2). The burning of fossil fuels such as gas, oil, petrol and diesel releases carbon dioxide, and at the same time we are also using them much faster than they can be replenished. It is therefore vital to reduce our use of fossil fuels by reducing energy use and replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.

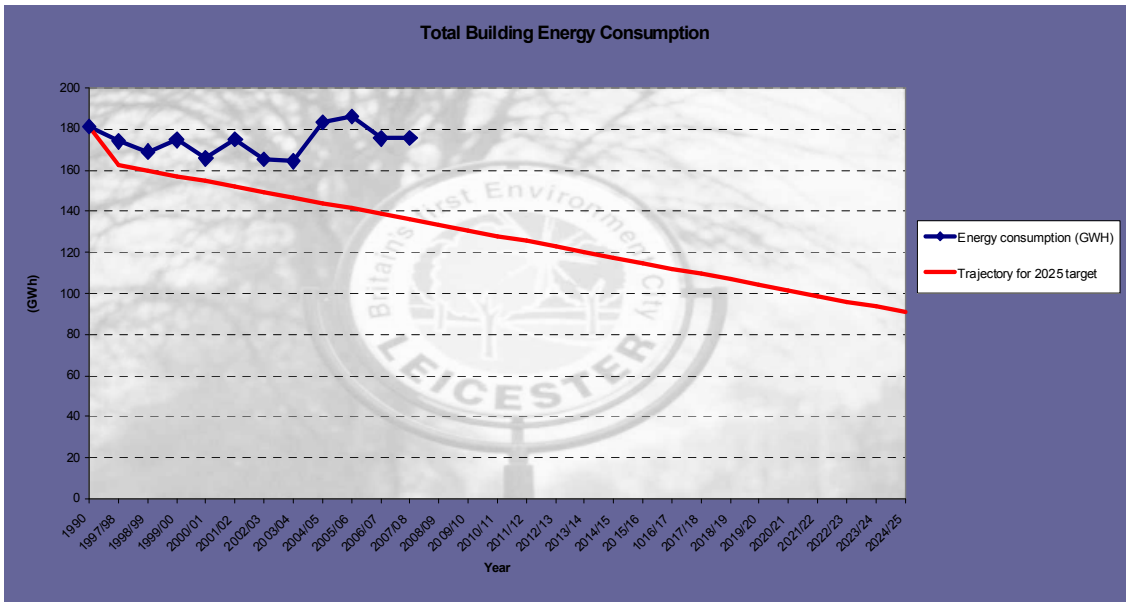
Leicester has adopted a Climate Change Strategy that aims to raise awareness of this major issue in the city and outline some of the responses needed to address it. More information about the Climate Change Strategy can be found at: www.leicester.gov.uk/climatechange

1.1 Objective: Reduce the Council's total building energy consumption

Target: To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025

Leicester City Council owns and operates over 350 premises from leisure centres and libraries to offices and transport depots. These buildings are responsible for the use of a significant amount of electricity and gas for winter heating, summer cooling and general operation such as lighting, lifts and equipment. There has also been an increase in energy demand for computers, communication, and other information technology equipment in recent years.

Progress Towards Target



During 2007/08 there was no significant change in the amount of energy used by Council buildings when compared to the previous year. Although this energy use has not decreased, the fact that it has not increased despite the growing demand for energy from ITC equipment shows that measures to reduce energy use in other areas of the building stock are having some effect.

However, the overall change in building energy since the 1990 base year is a small reduction of 3.1%, almost the same as 2006/07. In order to be on target to meet the 50% cut in energy by 2025, a reduction of approximately 25% would need to have been achieved by 2007/08. This 22% shortfall between what has actually been achieved and what needs to be done reveals the scale and difficulty of the task remaining to cut council building energy use in the remaining 17 years to deliver this target.

Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a complete review of EMAS objectives and targets carried out during 2008, a revised objective has been adopted which will come into effect from the 2008/09 report. From next year, the building energy target will be included as one of a series of targets that contribute to a new objective to cut total energy use from all LCC operations and services. This will allow the inclusion of targets to be set around reducing energy use from street lighting and traffic signalling, an area where energy use has risen considerably over the recent past.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce the Council's total energy consumption.*

AMENDED TARGET: *To 50% of the 1990 level by 2025*.

There will also be sub targets set for energy reductions from buildings, travel, street lighting and traffic signalling. The buildings energy target will remain as a 50% cut of the 1990 level by 2025. The travel target is described under that section of this report and the street lighting and traffic signalling target is yet to be developed.

Future Actions

During 2008/09 a new programme of survey and investment across all LCC building will commence. As part of this programme, an energy audit will be completed for each building and measures and interventions to cut energy use and CO2 emissions will be identified and potential cost savings highlighted. The means of financing these measures will also be discussed which will include spend to save loan schemes. This programme will start with the group of buildings responsible for the largest energy use – Leisure Buildings. The Centrally Located Administrative Buildings (CLABs), libraries, residential homes, etc. will follow until all building have been surveyed. This programme should be completed within 2 years.

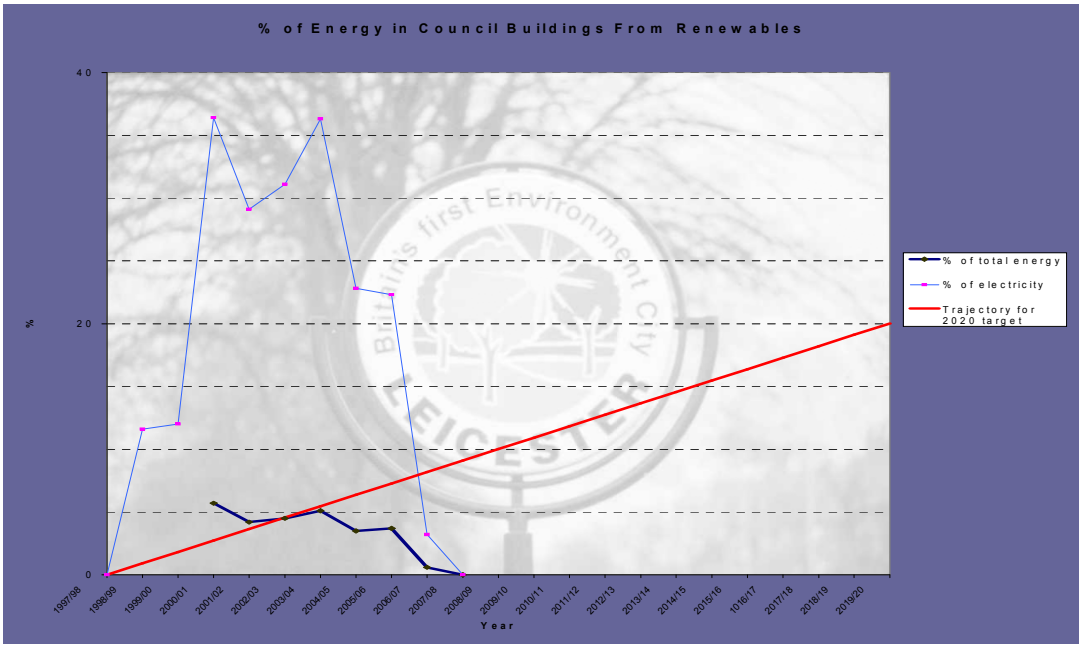
A project officer is currently being recruited to deliver the programme described and work with building managers and occupiers to instigate behavioural changes to reduce energy demand from the general operation of the building and save energy costs.

1.2 Objective: Increase the Council's use of renewable energy

Target: From 0% of the energy requirement of all Council buildings in 1997 to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020

The generation of energy from renewable sources, such as solar, wind and biomass, can help tackle global climate change by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions released into the atmosphere. Renewable energy provides a sustainable and clean energy source which is less damaging to the earth and there are plans, both here in the UK and across the world, to develop these technologies.

Progress Towards Target



In 2007/08, the proportion of energy used in Council buildings from renewable sources had become negligible. This shows a decrease from the previous year's 0.6%

The reason for the rapid decline in the amount of renewable energy used is due to rapidly rising cost of procuring such energy. The Energy Management Section continue to look to secure the best possible terms and conditions for the Council whenever energy contracts come up for renewal. Unfortunately due to the very volatile nature of the current UK energy market, the Council has been unable to secure renewable energy and also incurred substantial energy cost increases since the end of the former two-year contract. As the demand for renewable energy has increased, suppliers are unable to meet customers' requirements.

On a positive note, the Council's current contract includes a substantial proportion of its electricity requirements from Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes. Whilst this did not help in meeting the renewable energy target, it does contribute towards the target for reducing the Council's carbon dioxide emissions

The contribution of the Council's own renewable energy generation schemes has not been factored into the figures reported above. A full inventory of these schemes is currently being finalised. Due to the small scale of some of these schemes it is not cost effective to install metering equipment. It will therefore only be possible to calculate their potential capacity - not the actual energy they generate.

A pilot project to test out the use of vegetable oil as a fuel in the district heating boiler for the St Andrews estate has recently been completed. The findings from this project are yet to be written up but should they prove successful then options for other bio-fuel boilers will be investigated. They may eventually be considered for linking up to the planned extension of the Combined Heat Power scheme covering a number of buildings across the City.

Objective and Target Amendments

This objective has been broadened to include renewable energy generated by the Council from technologies on Council buildings and land. This is to encourage our own generation of this type of energy and respond to the difficulties in procuring 'green' energy as part of our electricity contracts.

The existing target is under review as it is unlikely that the Council will be able to install sufficient renewable energy capacity at its own sites to generate 20% of its energy requirements and it will not be possible to purchase 20% of our energy from renewable sources due to the much higher costs and lack of availability.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Increase the Council's generation and use of renewable energy.*

Future Action

A project officer is currently being recruited to deliver an energy efficiency programme in Council buildings as described in section 1.1. As well as energy efficiency, they will also look for opportunities for the installation of renewable energy systems where appropriate and cost effective..

The Council is still investigating the potential for erecting up to 4 wind turbines within the City. This would make a substantial increase in generation capacity.

1.3 Objective: Reduce the fuel used by fleet vehicles and the miles travelled by private staff vehicles at work (not commuting)

Target (a): Fleet vehicles – new target to be developed

The Council operates a fleet of 865 petrol and diesel vehicles (and 80 plant items) ranging from cars and vans through to HGVs and school buses. Vehicle specification, purchase and maintenance is managed centrally, whilst decisions about the number and type of vehicles required and their utilisation are made within user sections.

Reducing the fuel used by the vehicle fleet will help to reduce emissions, improve air quality and save finite and costly fuel.

Progress Towards Target

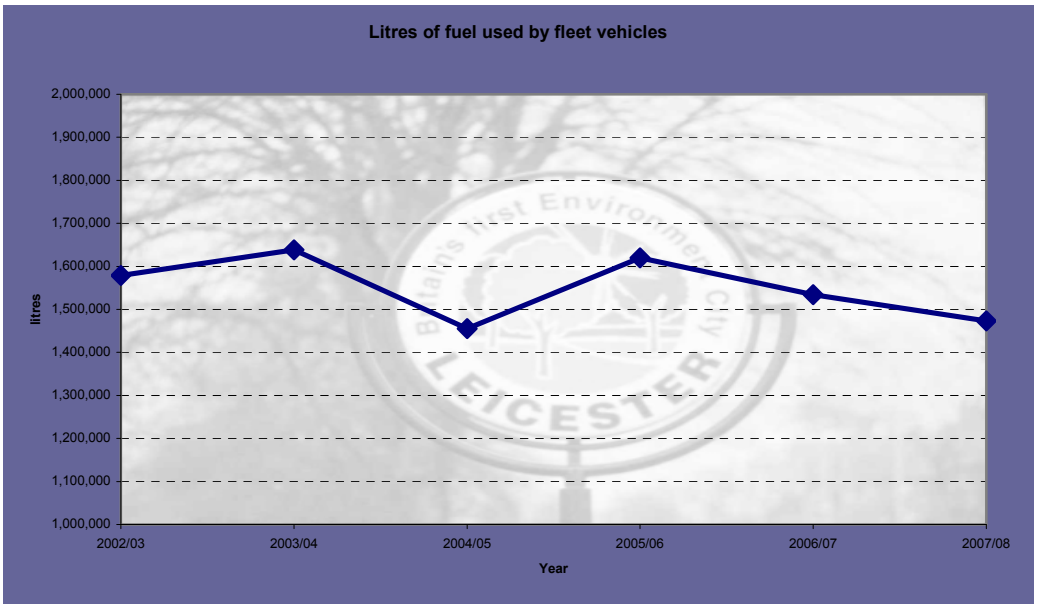
As the table and graph below illustrate, fuel use has fluctuated over recent years, with no clear overall trend. The previous 5% fuel reduction target expired in 2005/06 without being met. Monitoring has continued and a new target will be set in the coming months (see "Objective and Target Amendments").

Year	Fuel use (litres)	Change from baseline data
2002/03	1,578,680	N/A
2003/04	1,638,597	3.8% increase
2004/05	1,455,621	7.8% decrease
2005/06	1,619,878	2.6% increase
2006/07	1,534,072	2.8% decrease
2007/08	1,473,339	6.7% decrease

The lack of a clear downward trend in fuel use is a concern, as the Council's annual fleet replacement programme will have brought steady and significant increases in fuel efficiency as more modern vehicles are introduced. However, with 2007/08 fuel use showing a

second consecutive annual reduction, there is the possibility that a downward trend may be beginning.

Growing annual mileage has, in the past, been assumed to have taken place - offsetting vehicle fuel efficiency improvements. Unfortunately fleet mileage data going back to 2002/03 aren't available to confirm this. However, figures available for 2006/07 and 2007/08 show a decrease from 5.6 to 5.4 million miles, which will have contributed to the reduced fuel use over that period. (NB These mileage figures do not include the Parks, Landscapes and Trees and Woodlands Services and so can only give an indication of the likely overall fleet mileage trend.)



Case Study – Green Fleet Review

In 2007 the Council asked the Energy Saving Trust to provide an independent review of its fleet and travel management from an environmental perspective and to recommend improvements.
The review was carried out by Gfleet Services on behalf of the Trust and its main conclusions were:
- Purchase and maintenance of the Council's own fleet is well managed.
- Regular replacement of older/higher mileage vehicles with diesel vehicles to the latest Euro emissions standard has reduced emissions and will continue to do so.
- The Council should explore the potential and gain experience of alternative 'lower carbon' fuels as the technology and fuel availability improve.
- Individual Council services should be given clearer responsibilities and incentives to manage their travel for minimal environmental impact and to look for efficiencies.
- Significant cuts in emissions could be made by reducing 'grey fleet' travel ie the journeys made by staff in their own cars on Council business. On average, staff's own cars will be older, less efficient and more polluting than 'pool cars' in the Council fleet. Less reliance on staff's own cars and more use of pool cars (or the introduction of a 'car club') could therefore reduce emissions.

Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a wider review of its environmental objectives and targets, objective 1.3 will be subsumed within a new, broader objective to reduce the Council's energy use (refer to

section 1.1). The new objective will have an overall target, and the Council will have sub-targets for the different elements of its energy use: buildings, street lighting, signage and travel.

In relation to travel, a new target to reduce the Council's impact will be developed over the coming months.

Future Action

The proposed 2008/09 Central Vehicle Pool Replacement Programme will replace 100 older/higher mileage vehicles with new, more fuel-efficient models. In addition, the Council has applied to join the Government's Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme in 2009. If the application is successful the authority will purchase and test a number of 'low carbon' vehicles and report back on their performance and running costs.

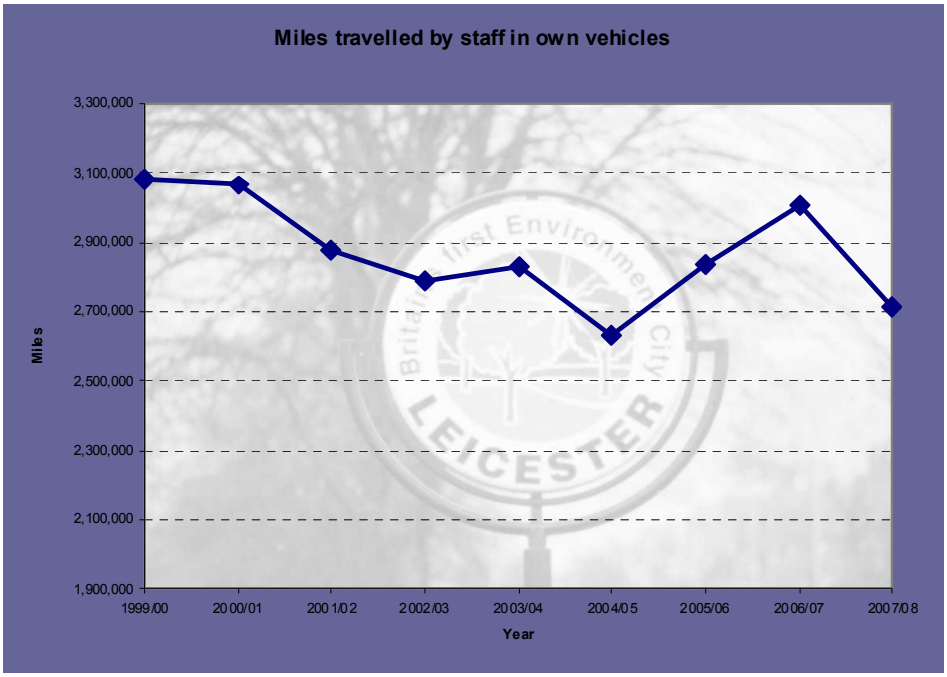
Alongside improvements to the fleet, there will be a strong focus on 'behavioural' changes. A fuel/mileage reduction campaign will be launched during 2009/10 and funding is being sought for a driver training programme to improve both fuel efficiency and safety.

Target (b): Private staff vehicles at work - new target to be developed

Around a third of Council travel is by staff using their own vehicles and reclaiming the costs. This is known as 'grey fleet' travel and represents an important element both environmentally and financially.

Progress Towards Target

Following a period of steady reduction in grey fleet mileage up to 2004/05, figures have fluctuated quite strongly from year-to-year. The reasons for this are not clear. However, with mileage reducing from 3 million to 2.7 million between 2006/07 and 2007/08 the long term trend appears to remain a downward one.



Proposals for the development and roll-out of the Council's Internal Travel Plan were approved by the Cabinet during the year and a new set of pages entitled "Lifestyle" was launched on the Council's intranet. These pages promote the aims of the Plan and provide a range of information for staff about both business travel and the commute to work.

Objective and Target Amendments

A new target for reducing the impact of the Council's travel will be developed over the coming months.

Future Action

A campaign will be developed and launched within the Council in 2009/10, challenging Council services to reduce their fuel use from travel on Council business during the year. The campaign will be rolled out with the help of the Environment Network (refer to the section describing The Management System later in this report for more details about the Network).

1.4 Objective (all schools): Reduce school total building energy consumption

Target (all schools): By an average of 1.43 % per annum between 2007/08 and 2025/26

Progress Towards Target

Over 90% of Leicester schools now have Intelligent metering technologies installed for constantly monitoring energy use. In addition, the Government have now placed a requirement on local authorities such as Leicester City Council to report energy use annually. This requirement is called National Indicator 185 and it also includes energy use in school buildings. Progress towards the target will therefore be measured from 2008/09 onwards and will be reported from 2009/10.

Despite the current lack of monitoring information, work is going on in schools to reduce building energy use. Thirty schools are currently involved in a pilot project to install 'quick-win' energy efficiency solutions. This involves a school building energy audit followed by an exercise to identify the most cost effective energy efficiency solutions and possible funding sources.

Four new or significantly refurbished secondary schools and one new primary school are currently being built to high environmental standards with lower energy requirement (refer to section 11.2).

Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a review of EMAS objectives and targets, this objective has been agreed to be broadened (in line with the revision of objective 1.1) to cover all school energy use rather than just buildings. The base year for the target will be changed from 2007/08 to 2008/09.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce schools total energy consumption (all schools).*

AMENDED TARGET: *By an average of 1.43% per annum between 2008/09 and 2025/26.*

Case Study – Children and Young Peoples' Services Environmental and Educational Capital Programmes

Programme 1 Environmental Improvements for CYPS building projects

With the announcements of the changes in April 2007 to Part L of the Building Regulations, which brought into effect a statutory requirement for consequential improvements on the energy performance of new school building extensions, the Children and Young Peoples' Services Department of the Council allocated additional funding for environmental improvements.

Since April 2007, 7 primary schools and 3 children centres have had environmental improvements works such as the replacement of lighting fittings, sensored lighting, replacement of thermostatic radiator valves, 24/7 water timers, heat reflectors and insulation to pipe work. Also on three schools photovoltaic cells have been installed.

Currently, at Coleman Primary School we are building a pilot scheme zero carbon extension. The building is constructed of a timber frame with straw bale insulation, timber windows, cedar cladding, lime render to the classroom, roof tiles from recycled slate, geo thermal ground source heating and solar hot water. Photovoltaic cells and a wind turbine are planned for installation within the next six months.

At Judgemeadow Community College and Beaumont Leys Specialist Science School it is planned to erect wind turbines to compliment the building works under the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

Programme 2 Environmental Improvements for school buildings

The department also recognised that environmental improvements needed to be carried out on schools that do not have any building work being carried under the Departments' Capital Programme.

Thirty schools submitted expressions of interests in July 2007 and the first twenty were prioritised for work based on their energy consumption.

From the summer of 2008 until the end of the calendar year, 15 schools will have environmental improvement works carried out which involve the replacement of lighting fittings, sensored lighting, replacement of thermostatic radiator valves, 24/7 water timers, heat reflectors and insulation to pipe work. It should be noted that at 5 schools works are not being progressed due to lack of any works being identified or poor payback periods.

Future Action

The pilot project described above will continue. A proposal has also been put forward to appoint a Project Officer to work specifically on energy and water efficiency within Leicester schools.

A research study has been commissioned to identify the additional costs of developing Zero Carbon schools that will be highly energy efficient. The study will contribute to the Council's strategy for replacing old primary and secondary schools.

1.5 Objective (all schools): Increase school use of renewable energy

Target (all schools): To 20% of energy requirements in 2020/2021

Progress Towards Target

The pilot project described above to install 'quick-win' energy efficiency solutions in to 30 schools is also investigating the installation of renewable energy.

Renewable energy features regularly as part of the teaching programme in EMAS schools. Groundwork's Eco House (with free tours as part of EMAS participation) provides practical examples where pupils learn more about different types of renewable energy systems.

Objective and Target Amendments

It is likely that the only source of renewable energy available to schools in the immediate future will be whatever they generate themselves through equipment installed on their own sites. The objective has therefore been broadened to cover renewable energy generation by schools as well as its use.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Increase schools' generation and use of renewable energy (All schools.)*

In relation to the target, is not cost effective to directly monitor the energy generated from the relatively small renewable energy systems being installed in schools. For this reason, it probably won't be possible to measure progress towards the current target. An alternative target which can be monitored will be investigated in the coming year.

Future Action

A proposal has also been put forward to appoint a Project Officer to work specifically on energy and water efficiency within Leicester schools. This will include the generation of renewable energy.

2. Leicester's Use of Energy and Fuel

2.1 Objective: Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the city

Target: By increasing the SAP* rating of houses by 1 point per year **(SAP is a national Standard Assessment Procedure for rating the energy efficiency levels of dwellings.)**

The energy used in households in the UK and across the world make a significant contribution to carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions to the atmosphere and therefore to climate change. Improving energy efficiency in homes within the city not only helps residents by reducing their fuel bills, it also helps to reduce their impact on the environment and cut city-wide emissions.

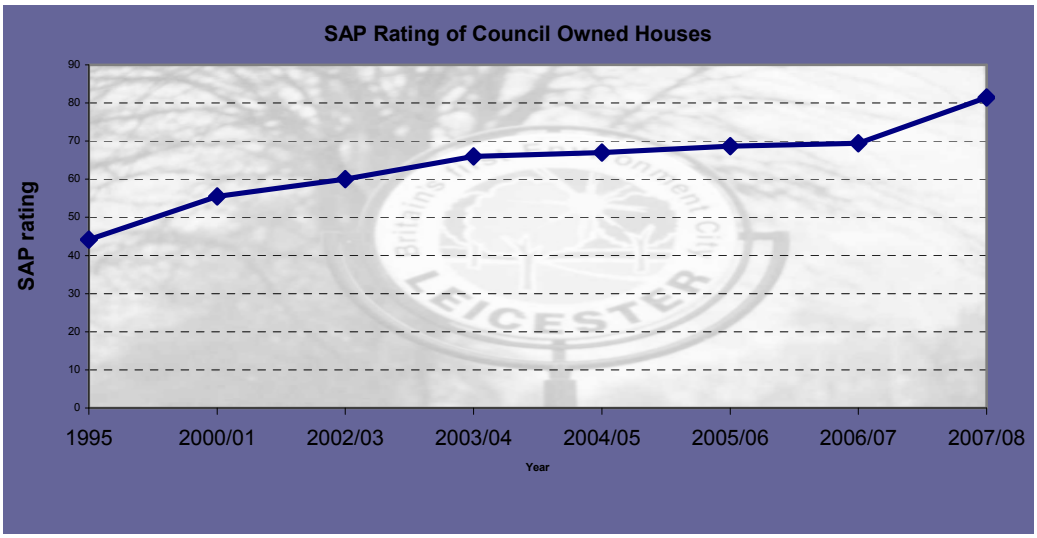
Progress Towards Target

The Government's approved method of assessing energy efficiency in houses is called the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) awards a rating (on the scale 0 - 120) to each house. This target aims to monitor an improvement in these ratings across the whole City. However, we have not been able to establish the SAP rating of the private housing stock within Leicester due to a lack of data from these homes.

Energy efficiency in privately owned houses – It has not been possible to collect a representative sample of data from the private housing stock of the City as not enough surveys have been conducted. The data that is currently available has been obtained from energy efficiency improvement programmes and via the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre. The latter has now closed; to be replaced with a region wide energy efficiency advice centre based in Nottingham. Support has been provided in a number of ways such as: offering advice about energy efficiency through awareness raising campaigns and free energy efficiency surveys, or providing information about grants and financial help for energy efficiency improvements.

Energy efficiency in Council owned houses – From the information available on the energy efficiency of Council owned houses the average SAP rating for Council housing in 2007/08 was 81.4. This shows a marked increase of 17% from the figure of 69.4 in 2006/07. This is illustrated in the graph below. However, it must be remembered that it only represents one of the two elements which make up the target.

The Council's programme of improvements for Council housing has included cavity wall and loft insulation, replacement double-glazed doors and windows and installing energy efficient central heating boilers. Since 1995, when the baseline was established, significant improvements of the SAP ratings have been achieved. The increase in SAP rating is due to this work. As this programme of work nears its conclusion, making significant further improvements in the SAP rating of the Council stock will become much more difficult and costly to achieve as the easiest and cheapest interventions have been completed and most of the houses are much more energy efficient.



Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a complete review of EMAS objectives and targets carried out during 2008, the current objective has been broadened to cover all energy use, mirroring the change to the objective for the Council's energy use. The current target has been removed - due to difficulty in collecting data from the private housing stock. A new target will be developed for the reduction of energy consumption of homes within the city by April 2009.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce Leicester's total energy consumption.*

Future Actions

The Home Energy Team will continue provide help and advice on energy efficiency and details of existing schemes to private home owners across the city. The new regional Energy Advice Centre in Nottingham will provide a central point of contact for residents across the East Midlands and will work with the Council to provide energy advice and signposting to grants and funding for energy efficiency improvements.

3. The Council's Contribution to Air Pollution

3.1 Objective: Reduce vehicle fleet emissions

Target: To be developed

Emissions from vehicles have a significant effect on local air quality. Leicester City Council has a fleet of 865 petrol and diesel vehicles and 80 plant vehicles, and by making sure that they emit less pollution the Council can have a beneficial effect on local air quality and the health of Leicester residents.

Progress Towards Target

Each year the Council replaces some of its oldest/highest mileage vehicles and its policy over recent years has been to purchase diesel replacements to the latest standards. During this period, European regulations have driven a steady reduction in the emissions permitted from new vehicles through increasingly strict 'Euro standards'. As a result, the Council's fleet replacement programme has reduced emissions.

The 2007/08 programme for the Central Vehicle Pool involved the replacement of 78 vehicles at a cost of over £2M.

Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a complete review of EMAS objectives and targets carried out during 2008, a revised objective has been adopted – to come into effect from the 2008/09 report. It aligns with the new national indicator for local authority air pollution emissions, NI194, covering emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulates (PM_{10}) from all Council sources rather than just fleet vehicles.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce the Council's emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and primary particulates (PM_{10}).*

A new target will be developed by April 2009.

Future Action

100 vehicles are proposed to be replaced as part of the 2008/09 programme, including all remaining pre-Euro III vehicles.

An investigation into the benefits and feasibility of introducing a 'Car Club' for the Council and wider city will be completed during the coming year. If viable, a Car Club would reduce the need for staff to use their own cars for travel on Council business by providing pool of vehicles which could be booked and used as and when needed. Travel in Car Club vehicles should produce lower emissions of both air pollutants and greenhouse gases than travel in staff vehicles – which would, on average, be older.

4. Air Quality in Leicester

4.1 Objective: Improve air quality in the city

Target: By achieving the 4 key point targets set in the Local Transport Plan for air quality (target date 2010)

Poor local air quality has implications for the health of people living and working in the City and medical studies have linked it to increases in respiratory illnesses - particularly in children. Air pollution can also acidify rain, causing damage to buildings, woodland and wildlife.

Leicester City Council monitors air quality in the City and has legal responsibilities to enforce the control of air pollution from local industry.

An air quality assessment for Leicester identified levels of the pollutant *nitrogen dioxide* as being a local health concern. This pollutant results from motor vehicle emissions and is at higher levels close to the main road network. There are two National and EC Air Quality Limit Values for nitrogen dioxide, established to protect people's health:

- for *short term exposure* the one hour mean concentration should not exceed 200μg (microgrammes) per m^3 more than 18 times per year.
- for *long term exposure* the annual mean should not exceed 40μg per m^3.

The EC target date for bringing nitrogen dioxide down to within these levels is 2010. Modelling work carried out by the Council indicates that these national targets will not be achieved in Leicester by 2010 based on the current action programme. To meet them, radical action would be necessary extending well into the next decade, involving a strong lead from central Government.

In the meantime, Leicester has set a local target that is less challenging but more realistic in the short term.

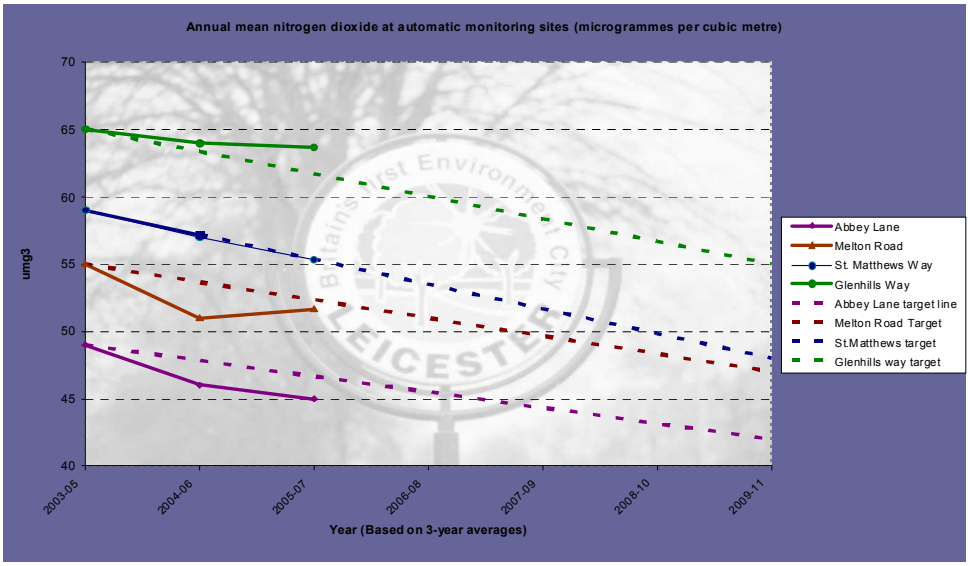
Progress Towards Target

The Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2006–11 sets a target to achieve more limited reductions in nitrogen dioxide levels at 4 'key points' in the City by 2010. The target levels for each site are shown in the table below along with details of progress towards them so far. The data are reported as 3 year rolling averages to reduce the impact of weather variations on the figures.

Annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide at automatic monitoring sites (μg per m^3)

Site	Baseline (2003-5 average)	2004-6 average	2005-7 average	Key Point (LTP) Targets (2010)
Abbey Lane	49	46	**45**	42
Melton Road	55	51	**52**	47
St. Matthews Way	59	57	**55**	48
Glenhills Way	65	64	**64**	55

The latest data (in bold) show reductions at Abbey Lane and St Matthews Way, no change at Glenhills Way and an increase at Melton Road since last year. When these figures are plotted on a graph alongside the rates of reduction needed to meet the 2010 LTP targets (the dotted lines) Leicester appears to be on course at 3 out of the 4 sites. Levels are not on course to meet the target at Glenhills Way. At Melton Road, levels remain lower than the target trajectory but the increase in the rolling average there since last year is a concern.



Alongside its monitoring and enforcement roles for air pollution, the Council has continued to implement actions in its Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) designed to reduce air pollution. The AQAP forms part of the Local Transport Plan, as the actions needed to improve air quality relate to transport and congestion.

During the year, Leicester's shadow Climate Change Board (part of the Leicester Partnership) agreed that the improvement of air quality should also become a key consideration in the City's new Climate Change Strategy (see section outlining progress on Significant Effect 14: Leicester's Carbon Dioxide Emissions) - in recognition of the need to find solutions which can reduce both greenhouse gases and other emissions to the air simultaneously.

Objective and Target Amendments

No changes are proposed to the objective or target.

Future Actions

During the coming year, implementation of the combined Local Transport Plan and Air Quality Action Plan will continue, with actions to reduce congestion and encourage lower polluting modes of transport helping to achieve the nitrogen dioxide reduction targets.

Following a successful £30,000 bid to the Government's Air Quality Grants Scheme, the Air Quality Action Plan will be reviewed and recommendations made for the sorts of measures that could be considered as part of a new AQAP – to be developed alongside the next Local Transport Plan.

4.2 Objective: To reduce car trips to the city centre

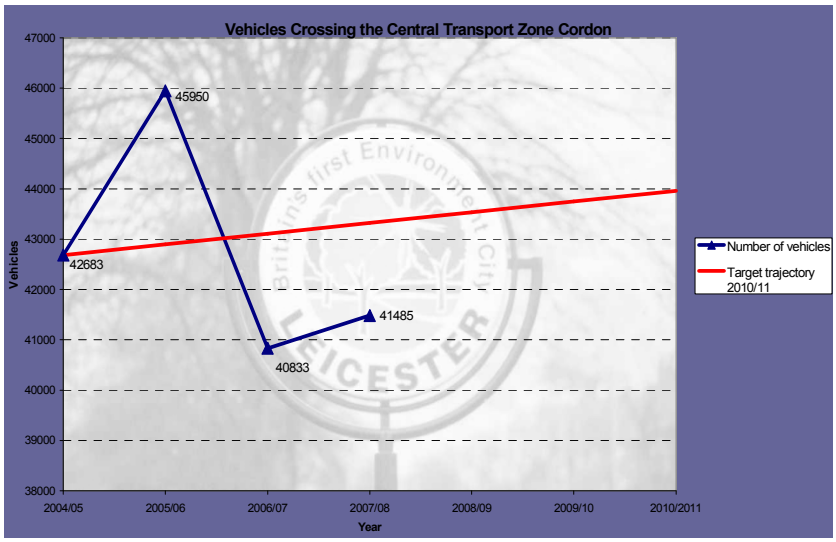
Target: Change in the number of vehicles crossing the Central Transport Zone cordon from 42,683 vehicles in 2004/05 to 43,963 vehicles in 2010/11

Motor vehicles are one of the principal sources of air pollution in cities and are a key contributor to Leicester's high levels of nitrogen dioxide (refer to objective 4.1). Congestion can make these problems worse as well as hindering the economic and commercial life of the city. Car passengers in slow moving traffic face pollution levels two to three times higher than those experienced by pedestrians (ETA, 1997).

For these reasons, the Council has set an objective to reduce the number of journeys into the city centre by car, through the increased use of public transport, walking and cycling.

Progress Towards Target

The indicator this target is based on measures the number of road vehicles (excluding pedal and motorcycles) crossing the City's Central Transport Zone cordon inbound to the city centre between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on 10 consecutive weekdays, once per year. The Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2006-11 sets a target to *minimise the predicted increase* in these inbound trips from 10%, if no action was taken, down to 3% by implementing the measures in the Plan. In practice this means keeping the number of car trips down to 43,963 by the time of the 2010/11 survey.



As the graph shows, there has been considerable variation in the figures since the base year of 2004/05. The reasons for this are not known for certain. However, technical problems with equipment in 2005/06 may have led to an exaggerated figure that year. The data collected to date does not show any clear trend. However, with traffic levels below the target trajectory for a second consecutive year in 2007/08, there is clear potential for the 2010/11 target to be met. (Note: data adjusted from the 2006/07 EMAS Environmental Statement).

Objective and Target Amendments

This objective has been subsumed within a single, broader objective to improve air quality in the City. The target will continue unchanged.

Future Action

Actions to reduce car trips in to the city will continue to be delivered through the implementation of the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan for 2006-2011. These actions focus on improving bus services in order to make them a more attractive and feasible option for the public and also supporting more pedestrian and cycle journeys by improving facilities, signage and information. Details of the LTP are available on the Council website.

4.3 Objective (all schools): Reduce the proportion of car journeys to schools

Target (all schools): Share of journeys to school by car (including vans and taxis but excluding car share journeys) from 24% in 2006/07 to 22% in 2010/11

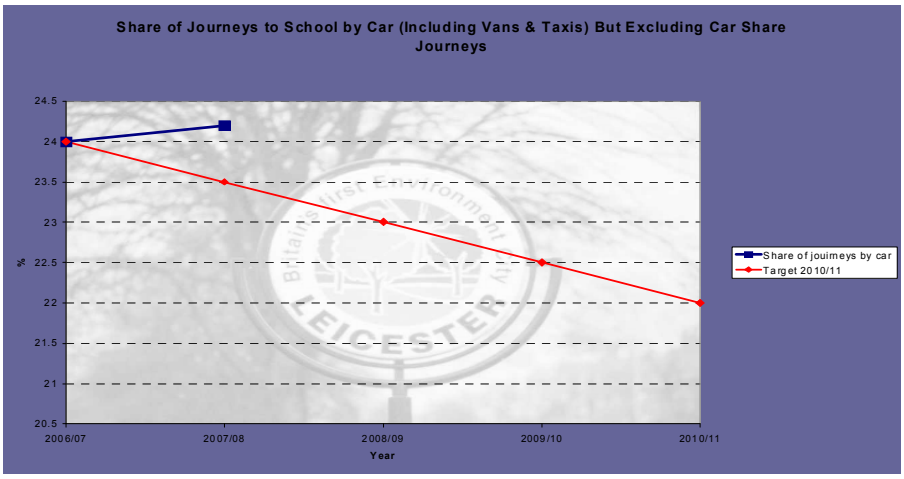
Reducing the proportion of car journeys to school will help to reduce congestion, increase the health of children, improve local air quality and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Progress Towards Target

This indicator is based on data obtained from the school census for all schools with approved School Travel Plans and 50% of schools without School Travel Plans.

In 2007/08, 24.2% of journeys to school in the sample group of schools were made by car (including vans and taxis but excluding car share journeys). This is up from 24% in 2006/07. The target for 2010/11 is 22% so the 2007/08 figure represents a slight move away from the target. The reasons for this worsening of the position are not yet clear.

The Council's School Travel Plans Officer continued to help schools develop their Travel Plans during the year and this work will be ongoing.



Objective and Target Amendments

This objective has been subsumed within a single, broader objective to improve air quality in the City. The target will continue unchanged.

Future Actions

The Government has set a target for all schools to have School Travel Plans by 2010/11 and additional staff resources are currently being sought to ensure that the target is met.

Groundwork will continue to deliver 'Bikeability' Level 2 cycle training in schools on behalf of the Council. Through its work with EMAS schools, it will also continue to promote the use of sustainable transport for the school run and encourage the development of School Travel Plans.

5. The Council's Waste

5.1 Objective: Reduce the amount of Council office waste going to landfill

Target: By recycling 40% of City Council office waste by 2005/06

Progress Towards Target

A pilot paper recycling scheme continued to operate in New Walk Centre and some other central administrative buildings during the year.

However, progress was not made in monitoring the amount of waste produced from offices. This is necessary to establish a baseline from which progress towards the target can be monitored. Monitoring remained problematic due to the variety of waste produced and the fact that Council office waste is collected alongside waste from other offices.

Objective and Target Amendments

The objective has been broadened to include all Council waste and now reads:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce Council waste and the percentage landfilled.*

The target will be updated when a data collection method has been established for the amount of waste produced by the Council.

Future Action

A two-year post has been created in the Waste Management Service with the aim of reducing the amount of Council waste sent to landfill. The postholder will carry out an audit of Council waste to find out the baseline level and then set reduction targets for different waste streams, based on the introduction of appropriate reduce, reuse, recycle schemes. The paper recycling scheme currently operating in some of the Council's city centre offices will be expanded into other Council buildings.

Further techniques will be tested and a pilot project to weigh individual bins at Council buildings is being considered.

5.2 Objective (EMAS schools): Reduce school waste going to landfill

Target (EMAS schools): New target to be developed

Progress Towards Target

Whilst a target is not yet in place, the Council, Groundwork and Biffa have all been working to encourage waste reduction and recycling in schools. Biffa offers a recycling service for schools and presentations on waste and recycling. Groundwork helps EMAS schools to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste as part of their wider EMAS programmes.

Objective and Target Amendments

The objective has been slightly amended to read:
AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce schools' waste and the percentage landfilled (EMAS schools)*

The Council and Groundwork will work in partnership with Biffa to establish a successful methodology for monitoring the amount of waste produced by schools. This will produce baseline figures and allow a target to be set and progress measured.

Case Study – Recycling plastic milk bottles

The Premises Officer at Holy Cross Primary School identified a major problem with the amount of waste the school was sending to landfill each week, mainly due to the introduction of plastic milk bottles rather than the returnable glass bottles. After contacting the schools waste disposal contractors the Premises Officer was able to arrange a plastic recycling service. Now, all the plastic milk bottles are collected each day from each classroom and emptied into the recycling bin.

Avenue Primary School has also been working to reduce the amount of waste it sends to landfill. All the pupils and teachers ensure that they recycle waste paper and plastic milk bottles. Due to everyone's hard work, the Premises Officer has noted a 50% reduction in the amount of landfill this year. With a little more promotion of recycling throughout the school it is hoped that the amount of waste sent to landfill will fall even further, necessitating a fortnightly rather than weekly waste pick-up.

Future Action

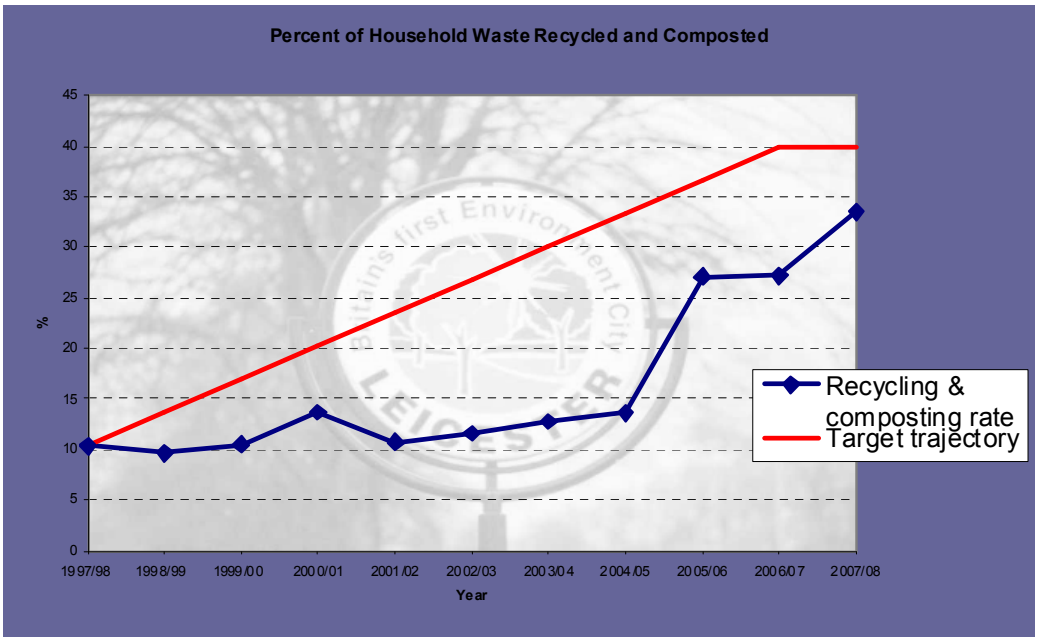
The Council and Groundwork will work in partnership with Biffa to ensure that all EMAS schools use the free plastic, glass and paper recycling service provided by Biffa and make all EMAS schools aware that the Biffa waste collection service provides a free cardboard recycling scheme.

6. Waste from Leicester (Including Household, Construction and Other Trade Waste)

6.1 Objective: Increase recycling of household waste
Target: To 40% of household waste collected in 2006/07

Progress Towards Target

The combined recycling and composting rate for 2007/08 was 33.5% - up from 27% in 2006/07. This represents an improvement but is below the target level of 40%.



It is anticipated that the 40% target will be met during 2008/09.

Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a review of all the Council's EMAS objectives and targets, objective 6.1 has been broadened to focus on reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. The amended objective is:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce household waste and the percentage landfilled.*

The 40% recycling target will remain, but the date set for achieving it will be rolled forward to 2009/10.

Future Action

A reusable 'One Leicester' shopping bag has been produced and will be distributed around the city to help replace the use of disposable plastic carrier bags. This will be accompanied by a campaign to raise awareness of the environmental impacts of plastic carrier bags.

An evaluation will also be undertaken of the potential to generate energy from domestic waste using processes such as gasification and pyrolysis.

6.2 Objective: Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill

Target: to be developed

Progress Towards Target

A key action to reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill is to develop a construction and demolition waste recycling facility - where waste can be sorted, processed and made available for re-use.

The Council continued to work with Groundwork during 2007/08 to establish a facility at Sunningdale Road. Before the facility can open the access road needs to be upgraded. The facility is expected to open during 2008/09.

Objective and Target Amendments

From 2008/09 this objective will be removed from the Council's EMAS system. We have concluded that it won't be possible to monitor levels of construction waste produced in the city in the foreseeable future. Nor does the Council have significant influence over this issue – except in its own developments (see objective 6.3).

Case Study - Upperton Road Viaduct Redevelopment

Upperton Road is a key east-west link and a vital part of the main transport network in Leicester. A section of this road was carried by Upperton Road Viaduct, a 12 span viaduct in very poor condition over the Old River Soar. The area beneath the viaduct, including part of the Great Central Way, had fallen into a state of neglect, with crime and security issues becoming a problem. This was in contrast with the regeneration of nearby Bede Island.

The project currently under construction is to replace the viaduct with a new section of highway at a lower level, including a new bridge over the river. The completed project will make significant contributions to sustainable travel by providing enhanced facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Access to the Great Central Way will be improved, providing a safer environment and a significant benefit to the community. The project incorporates a wildlife site alongside the river and adjacent landscaped areas, providing an attractive, open approach to the city.

During demolition and construction particular care has been taken to prevent pollution of watercourses. This includes grit blasting to remove a tar based waterproofing membrane prior to demolishing the brick arch spans over the Old River Soar. In the area of waste disposal, segregation of waste materials on site is deemed to be above standard practice.

Sustainability is a major consideration on this project. A specialist waste management consultant has been appointed and the team has worked together to identify suitable targets. A "waste matrix" was produced to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The specific measures adopted in this respect are:-

- Re-use of bridge foundations for Old River Soar Bridge, saving £0.7m. The new bridge is to be built on the site of the old viaduct and has been designed to reuse the original brick foundations, saving materials and simplifying construction.
- Re-use of viaduct walls as new retaining walls.
- Use of blue bricks reclaimed from the demolished viaduct for facing of new wingwalls and retaining walls.
- Re-cycling of waste materials, including 6000m^3 of bricks and rubble
- Use of recycled materials for new construction, including blended Type 1 aggregate, blended blacktop and recycled plastic kerb drainage.

The environmental benefits to the area of the former viaduct are very apparent with open views replacing the enclosed environment that previously existed.

Future Action

Along with the expected launch of the new recycling facility for construction and demolition waste, work will also continue with developers through the Leicester Better Buildings Project to minimise the amount of waste being sent to landfill and through the Council's school building programme.

6.3 Objective (all schools): Reduce the amount of school construction waste going to landfill

Target (all schools): By ensuring the secondary schools within the BSF programme exceed target 4 from the BSF Continuous Improvement Plan – Reductions in construction waste, measured by median volume of construction waste against value of completed projects

Progress Towards Target

As at the end of 2007/08, levels of construction and demolition waste produced in BSF phase 1 had been kept down to only 2 m^3 per £100,000 of completed work. This exceeds both BSF target level 1 (less than 43m^3) and target level 2 (less than 65m^3).

In total, 376.86 tonnes of construction and demolition waste had been produced across all four BSF phase 1 schools with 327.75 tonnes (87%) being recycled and 49.11 tonnes being sent to landfill.

Objective and Target Amendments

No changes are proposed to the objective and target.

Future Action

Consideration will be given to reducing the amount of construction and demolition waste produced during the Primary School Rebuilding Programme and the role that Site Waste Management Plans can play in achieving this.

7. The Council's Use of Water

The demand for water is an increasingly significant environmental issue at both a international and national level. In the UK there is an increasing focus on improving the efficiency of water use and reducing the demand for potable water as the population rises and number of households increases. This is the most environmentally and economically preferable option compared with building new reservoirs and infrastructure, as well as reducing the use of chemicals and energy required for treating and distributing water supplies.

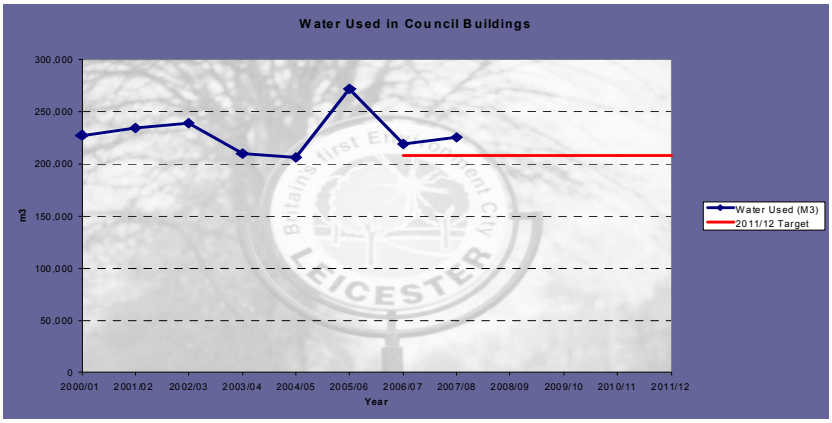
7.1 Objective: Reduce potable water use in Council buildings

Target: By 5% of 2006/07 level by 2011/12

The City Council has a constant demand for water for both the function of its building but also for the delivery of a wide range of services. This includes managing our parks and recreational areas such as bowling greens and golf courses along with other services such as street cleaning and swimming pools.

The Council recognises the importance of water as a natural resource and the need to be more efficient in the use of water in the operation of its buildings and the delivery of its services. This may be achieved though the installation of water efficiency technologies such as low flow or percussion taps and dual flush cistern controls and the opportunities for collecting rainwater for watering plants and sports greens. Changes of these kinds not only make wise use of a natural resource but can also reduce CO_2 emissions generated in the supply and discharge and treatment of water as well as making some significant cost savings.

Progress towards Target



In 2007/08 225,260 m^3 of water were used in Council buildings. This represents a 3% increase from the amount of water used in 2006/07, which is the base year for the current water target. This increase in water usage is largely due to variations caused by the timing of the billing system. To meet the water target of 207,678 m^3 by 2011/12, council water use will have to be reduced by a further 8% (17,582 m^3). This equates to 4,400 m^3 a year.

Intelligent metering equipment has now been installed in over 320 Council buildings (including schools) to provide building managers and occupiers with accurate and up to date information about water consumption. This equipment is vital in identifying excessive consumption patterns in buildings associated with leaks or faulty equipment and areas that require attention.

Objective and Target Amendments

A slightly amended objective has been adopted from 2008/09:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce the Council's total mains water consumption*

The target will remain the same.

Future Action

Following the success of the joint pilot project with Severn Trent Water to reduce consumption and improve water efficiency in Leicester schools there are now plans to work with them to cut water use in a number of Council buildings.

As with the Council's energy use, a new programme of survey and investment across all LCC building will commence in 2008/09. As part of this programme each building's water use will be reviewed and measures and interventions to reduce water demand will be identified and potential cost savings highlighted. The means of financing these measures will also be discussed which will include spend to save loan schemes.

A project officer, currently being recruited, will work with building managers and occupiers to deliver the programme described and to instigate behavioural changes that will reduce water use and save energy costs.

7.2 Objective (all schools): Reduce potable water consumption in schools used for non drinking

Target (all schools): By 5% of the 2006/7 level by 2011/12

Progress Towards Target

Monitoring of progress towards this target has not been possible to date, although the installation of Intelligent Metering has made school-by-school monitoring possible in most cases – to identify specific water wastage problems.

During 2007/08, the Council started working with Severn Trent Water on a pilot project in 44 primary schools to reduce water use through capital improvement measures. Estimated water savings achieved by the project are around 13,000m^3 (see case study below).

Case Study – Schools Water Efficiency Pilot 2007

Severn Trent Water (STW), in conjunction with Leicester City Council, developed a pilot project to implement water efficiency measures within 44 Leicester Primary Schools. Leicester schools were selected for this project due to the success of intelligent metering equipment previously installed by the Local Authority which accurately measures and reports the daily water use.

Following an initial survey to assess what interventions were appropriate, STW provided funding for each school up to £1,500 for the supply and installation of water efficiency devices. These included percussion taps, Sava-Flush bags and urinal controls.

In total, £44,700 was spent on improvements across the 44 schools. Through analysis of intelligent metering data it was possible to estimate that 13,000 m^3 of water could be saved per year with a projected annual cost saving of £25,550.

Should equivalent measures be taken in the remaining schools across the city, potential cost and water savings could be as high as £37,000 and approximately 20,000m^3 per year from an outlay of £59,000.

The City Council is now investigating opportunities to work with STW to deliver the project to the remaining schools and Council administrative buildings.

Many EMAS schools are developing areas within their playgrounds for growing fruit and vegetables. Alongside these areas schools are being encouraged to include provisions for harvesting rain water to reduce the amount of mains water needed. For example, during 2007/08 Avenue Primary School installed a water butt in the playground in order to provide water for the garden area, reducing the need to use potable tap water.

Objective and Target Amendments

A slightly amended objective has been adopted from 2008/90:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Reduce schools' total mains water consumption.*

The target will be reviewed in the coming year, in the light of the new 2008/09 baseline.

Future Action

Following the successful pilot project with Severn Trent to introduce water saving measures in to Leicester primary schools, the project is being expanded to cover all schools from late 2008. The schools are first surveyed, then a list of water saving interventions developed, these are then approved and installed by approved supplier funded by ST.

Full collection of schools water use data is planned to start with 2008/09 figures. Rather than using Intelligent Metering as previously planned, schools will be asked to provide figures from their bills. This system will work alongside the collection of gas and electricity use figures (see section 1.4) from schools for the Council's reporting of National Indicator 185 on carbon dioxide emissions to the Government.

8. The Council's Use of Paper

Paper manufacture has a worldwide impact on forests and the wildlife living in them. It also affects water quality and uses energy. Virgin forests may be felled to provide wood for paper pulp and if they are re-planted this is often with tree 'crops' which support less wildlife. The environmental impact of paper manufacture can be reduced both by using it more efficiently and by recycling it.

The Council uses a large amount of paper in many ways, from committee papers and publicity materials to Council Tax bills. It is committed both to reducing its paper use and to using recycled paper (made from 100% post-consumer waste) to minimise its use of 'virgin fibre' in paper.

8.1 Objective: Reduce the quantity of paper used

Target: Under development

Progress Towards Target

A new corporate print contract started in September 2007 which will help overcome the previous difficulties with collecting accurate monitoring data from out-sourced printing. This will enable us to set a new target starting in the financial year 2008/09.

Objective and Target Amendments

2008/09 will act as a baseline year with data being collected. A target will then be set for the following year onwards.

Future Action

A corporate contract is to be developed for designing publications which will allow the layout and print volume to be controlled with the aim of reducing paper used.
Further reduction in paper use will require behavioural change: getting staff to print less and consider how they use paper. This is something which will be promoted through the staff Environment Network (refer to The Management System section of this statement for details of the Network).

8.2 Objective: Increase the use of recycled paper

Target: Under development

Recycling paper diverts waste from landfill and helps to develop market demand for recycled products.

Progress Towards Target

There have been difficulties in monitoring the amount of recycled paper used in out-source printed documents. A new corporate print contract which started in September 2007 now allows the Council to set monitorable standards for use of recycled paper.

Objective and Target Amendments

The wording of this objective has been amended to clarify that what's sought is an increase in the *percentage* of paper use which is recycled.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Increase the use of recycled paper as a percentage of overall paper use.*

NEW TARGET:
Now that data collection and monitoring have been improved the new target will be to achieve full compliance with the following standards:

All publications, leaflets, flyers and posters to use at least 75% recycled paper.
All site and volume photocopying to use 100% post consumer waste paper.
All Council stationary to use 100% post consumer waste paper.
All printing of web products (e.g. Link) to be 100% recycled paper.
All basic digital colour low volume printing to be 100% post consumer waste paper.

Future Action

Action will continue to find a source of coloured paper which is from post consumer waste – no suitable supply has yet been found. Action will also take place to find a supplier of NCR paper (carbonless forms) which is from post consumer waste.

8.3 Objective (EMAS schools): Increase the use of recycled paper in schools

Target (EMAS schools): By 10% per year from 2007/8 level

Progress Towards Target

Data collection for this target is still proving problematic because of the time involved in collecting and aggregating the data from all EMAS schools.

Groundwork have been talking with schools to address a common misconception that recycled paper will jam in photocopiers and printers. Groundwork gave out free sample packs of recycled paper for schools to try out so they can test this out for themselves. Moat Community College “found out it wasn’t much more expensive than normal paper” and after trying a couple of brands until they were happy with the quality they now buy all of their A4 and A3 white paper from recycled sources.

Objective and Target Amendments

The objective will remain the same, but the target has been amended to overcome data collection problems.

AMENDED TARGET: *All EMAS schools to use recycled paper by 2012.*

Future Action

Groundwork will encourage schools to reduce their paper consumption and use cost savings to pay the increased price that recycled paper sometimes has over virgin paper. Environmentally friendly paper use has the possibility of reduced overall cost to the school.

9. Quality of the Environment on Council Owned Land

It is not only rural areas that can provide good conditions for wildlife – cities often include important natural habitats too. In Leicester there are a number of important sites for wildlife, ranging from parks, woodland, allotments and gardens to cemeteries, 'green corridors' such as the riverside, canal and Great Central Way and even roadside verges.

The Council owns and manages substantial amounts of open space and recognises their importance for wildlife as well as people. It also manages a large number of trees, which can be important in their own right as wildlife habitats.

9.1 Objective: To ensure key aspects of the natural environment on Council-owned land are sustainably managed

Target: To be further developed

Progress Towards Target

There was not a specific EMAS target in place for management of the natural environment during the year. Nonetheless, further progress was made in developing the Council's approach.

Following a review of the structure of management plans (reported in the 2006/07 Statement), a timetable for the rewrite or refresh of the completed plans has been established. This information is all stored in a new management plan database, which is used for monitoring progress against the timetable.

Work also started on the preparation of a new Greenspace Strategy, which will set the Council's overall approach to managing and, where necessary, improving the quality, extent and accessibility of public open space across the City. The Strategy draws upon the conclusions of an independent Open Space Study completed in September 2007. The study provided a baseline assessment of the quality of Leicester's open spaces using the nationally recognised 'Green Flag' methodology.

The profile of trees in the city was boosted during the year with the launch of "10,000 Trees" – a new initiative to create a greener, more attractive and wildlife-friendly city by planting 10,000 trees over a 3 year period. The project gives residents the chance to suggest streets and open spaces where they'd like more trees planted. Meanwhile, the trees and woodland service continued to build up its tree management database, which will eventually contain details of the location, condition and management of all trees and woodlands the Council manages.

The development of an overall management plan for the Riverside did not progress during 2007/08. However, preparatory work has got underway during the first half of 2008/09.

Objective and Target Amendments

An updated set of objectives and targets will be introduced from the 2008/09 report onwards. They will include the following new objectives and targets relating to the Council's overall management of trees and public open space:

NEW OBJECTIVE: *Improve the City's tree cover and condition.*
TARGET: *Plant 10,000 trees by 2011.*

NEW OBJECTIVE: *Improve the quality of Council-owned public open space.*
TARGETS: *Achieve a 2% increase in the overall quality of provision by 2010/11, as measured against the Green Flag Award criteria.*
Increase parks user satisfaction levels from 74% (2005 Leicester Residents Survey) to 79% (2013).
NB During the coming year, we will investigate an appropriate target for increasing the quality of City and District Parks as defined in the Greenspaces Strategy.

Future Actions

In addition to monitoring the updating of management plans against the timetable, monitoring of their delivery will take place through an annual review of progress with the actions identified in each individual plan. This approach allows the parks service to link its EMAS objectives for improving overall quality and protecting natural habitats with additional service aims of increasing user satisfaction and the number of users. It will also demonstrate how well the service is delivering quality to its users.

A biennial audit of Leicester's parks and open spaces will be introduced, providing regular data on the outcome of the Council's open spaces management. The quality of the open spaces will be measured against the Green Flag Award criteria, allowing comparison against the 2007 audit mentioned earlier.

The trees and woodlands team expects to continue the high volume of tree management work undertaken in 2007/08, as well as further growing its tree management database. Staff training is planned on wildlife and environmental legislation and the team hopes to further increase the proportion of tree 'waste' that is reused as a mulch or fuel.

9.2 Objective: Ensure prime ecological sites are retained

Target: By ensuring the area of land covered by Council-owned SINC* sites is maintained at 1999 levels and managed according to their SINC schedule **(* Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)**

Progress Towards Target

During 2008 an ecological survey of the whole of Leicester, covering all Council-owned (and a number of privately owned) open spaces was completed. The survey and its results are described in more detail in the case study below. In relation to EMAS target 9.2, the survey confirmed the loss of all or parts of four SINC sites since 1999 (previously reported) with a combined area of 6.25 hectares. However, it also identified 8.6 Ha of new SINC quality habitats and proposed 42 new 'veteran tree' Wildlife Sites. Subject to their approval by Leicestershire's natural conservation panel, these new areas will be added to the Council's inventory. The survey results provide a new baseline from which to monitor.

Amongst those existing SINCs fully or partially owned by the Council, the survey found their condition varied from "favourable and improving" through to those which have suffered "significant decline/damage". The figures are set out in the case study and it is of concern that 9 sites fully or partially managed by the Council were found to be in "unfavourable and declining" condition or a state of "significant decline/damage". The reasons for this may

include limitations on the current capacity of the parks service and in some cases a need for training of parks staff in conservation management techniques. This latter issue has started to be addressed through training provided by the Council's ecologist.

Partnership working with Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire continued during the year, with Groundwork continuing to provide opportunities for volunteer residents to help with conservation management on certain sites. Groundwork also continued to help implement Leicester's Biodiversity Action Plan "Wild About Leicester" and played a central role involving Leicester in the "Local Action on Biodiversity (LAB) project. LAB is an international project to share experience on local nature conservation work.

Case Study – Leicester Habitat Survey

Between 2006 and 2008 the Council's ecologist carried out a comprehensive survey of the city's wildlife habitats. The survey covered both Council-owned sites and, where access was permitted, those owned privately.

The survey identified areas of different wildlife habitats and assessed their quality and extent. The condition of both existing Wildlife Sites (formerly called Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs for short) and newly identified sites were each graded based on the following scale:

favourable – improving
favourable – constant
unfavourable – recovering
unfavourable – declining
suffered significant decline/damage
lost

In comparison with the previous baseline figures from 1999, the survey showed the complete loss of one site and partial loss of three others, all totalling 6.25Ha. At the same time, four new sites were identified of potential Wildlife Site quality and three existing sites were found to have an increased area of habitat – giving an additional area of 8.6Ha. (The new sites will require approval from a panel of experts before they can be officially designated as Wildlife Sites.)

Looking specifically at the 28 sites fully or partially owned and managed by the Council, 19 were found to be in favourable or recovering condition, but 9 were in 'unfavourable-declining' condition or had suffered 'significant decline/damage'. This represents a significant challenge for the Council to turn around the decline of these sites.

The assessment and grading system used in the survey provides data for the Council to report its wildlife conservation performance to the Government through the new National Indicator NI197.

Objective and Target Amendments

As part of a new set of National Performance Indicators for local authorities set by the Government, the term 'Site of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINC) has been replaced with the term 'Wildlife Site'. This new term will be used in future objectives and targets.

An updated set of objectives and targets will be introduced from the 2008/09 report onwards. They will include the following new objective and target relating to the Council's protection and management of Wildlife Sites:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Protect and improve the network of Wildlife Sites.*

AMENDED TARGET: *Maintain the area of Wildlife Sites at or above the 2008/09 baseline and increase the percentage (by area) that are assessed as being in a "favourable" or "recovering" condition.* (NB The specific target for improving site condition will be set by April 2009.)

Future Action

Completion of the new Greenspace Strategy during 2009 will help the Council identify how it can turn around the decline of some of its Wildlife Sites. Many of the declining or damaged sites are grasslands. We're developing a new project to improve them.

2009 will also see the completion of actions in the current Biodiversity Action Plan – "Wild About Leicester" and the development of a new 10 year Plan for the City's wildlife – both with Groundwork. This is one of Leicester's commitments in the Local Action for Biodiversity project.

9.3 Objective (EMAS schools): To improve wildlife habitats in school grounds

Target (EMAS schools): develop 3 new areas of functioning habitat per school in EMAS schools by 2007/08

Progress Towards Target

Schools continue to develop their grounds to enhance wildlife areas, and 36 functioning habitats were created in EMAS schools between March 2007 and March 2008. This equates to roughly 3201 m^2 of habitat enrichment.

There have also been 585 trees planted within EMAS schools across the city. Groundwork have supported many schools in planting trees ordered through the free trees for school scheme from the Woodland Trust. Both copses and hedgerows along fence lines have been planted as well as some fruit trees as part of the Council's "Grow Your Own Grub" competition.

Examples of other projects include pond creation, growing areas and installing various animal/insect homes.

Objective and Target Amendments

From 2008/09 a broader objective will be adopted:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Enhance the quality of the natural environment in school grounds (EMAS schools).*

A new target will be adopted

TARGET: *90% of EMAS schools to have a wildlife or food growing area by April 2012.*

Case Study - St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is situated in a very built-up area of the city, and as a result their outdoor space is limited. However they have risen to the challenge of meeting the EMAS target of improving the outdoor environment for wildlife. As well as installing bird feeders and bird boxes in their playground, they donated 30 trees to Alderman Richard Hammond Primary School which has plenty of space in which to create a wildlife haven.

Future Actions

Many schools have received funding/grants towards developing their school grounds for the improvement of habitats and wildlife. Pupil involvement is used in the planning and creation process, along with ongoing maintenance of the area. Schools are also working closely with their EMAS officers to help link these areas into the curriculum where possible. Groundwork will continue to support and encourage schools to improve wildlife habitats in schools grounds.

Groundwork will work with 26 EMAS schools per year for the next 3 years to plant 6,000 trees on school grounds or nearby land. This is part of the Council's commitment to plant 10,000 trees throughout the City. As well as native trees that are good for wildlife Groundwork plan to plant a proportion of fruit and nut trees that will provide additional nutritional and educational value. Groundwork will continue to support schools in planting trees from the Woodland Trust.

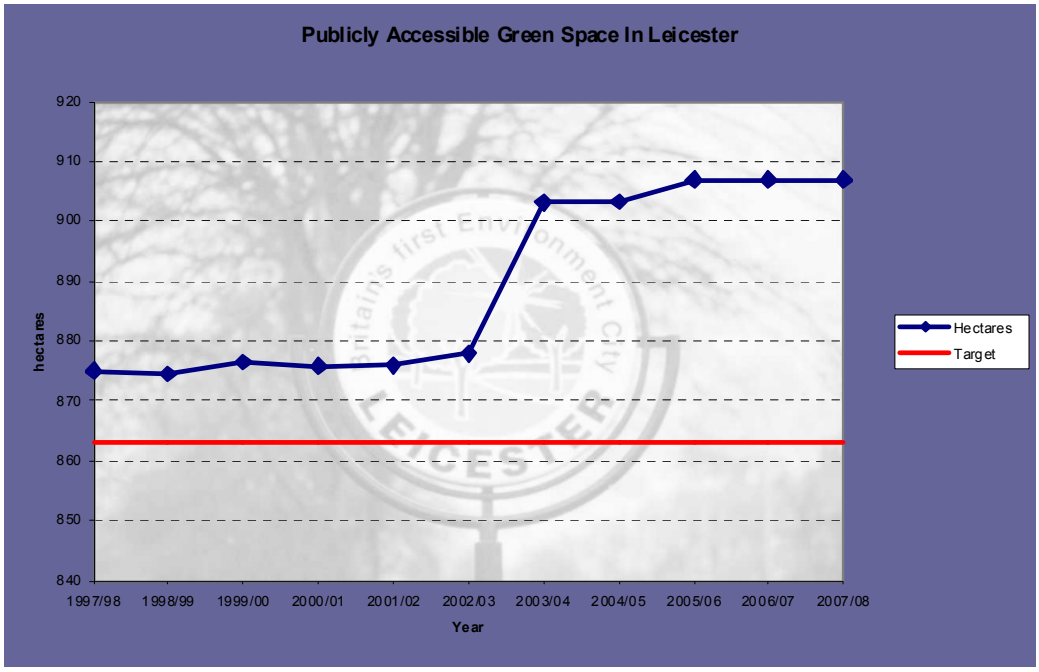
10. The Use of the Council's Own Land

10.1 Objective: Ensure that the Council continues to provide Leicester people with accessible green space

Target: By ensuring that publicly accessible green space covers at least as much land in 2020 as it did in 1994 (863 hectares)

Publicly accessible green space includes the major parks and gardens within the city, public sports pitches, nature areas and historical sites. Properly managed, resourced and valued urban green spaces can play an important role in promoting health, education, biodiversity and the development of sustainable communities by providing a focal point for recreation and community activity.

Progress Towards Target



There was a very small loss of publicly access open space during 2007/08 resulting from the sale of a 123 m^2 plot. The site had become the subject of anti-social behaviour and was sold to an adjoining mosque. No acquisitions were made during the year.

Objective and Target Amendments

A slight amendment will be made to the wording of this objective from 2008/09. In addition, a new target will be developed in line with new standards for open space provision and access to be adopted as part of the Local Development Framework. These will take account of changes in the City's population size.

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Provide Leicester people with enough accessible public open space.*

Future Action

Additional publicly accessible open space will continue to be provided in coming years, mainly as a result of new residential developments. The rate of this increase will be subject to market conditions for such developments.

10.2 Objective (all schools): To retain a net area of open space in school grounds

Target (all schools): To be developed

School grounds can make a valuable contribution to open space – particularly in cities. Leicester's Biodiversity Action Plan highlights the role that the city's approximately 120 school grounds can play as 'outdoor classrooms' and settings for creative play.

The data collection methodology for this objective is currently being developed through the Property Services' PAMIS system and a target for the minimum area of open space in school grounds to be retained will be set when the data collection methodology has been established.

11. The Quality of Leicester's Built Environment

11.1 Objective: Create a sustainable built environment within the city

Target: By ensuring that at least the following percentages of planning applications for Major Developments apply the City of Leicester Local Plan Policy BE16 with respect to the generation of on-site renewable energy:

2007/08 75%

2008/09 80%

2009/10 85%

In Northern and Western Europe it is estimated that around 90% of our time is spent in buildings and about 50% of energy is consumed in them. Leicester's Climate Change Strategy found that the energy requirements of our buildings and industrial processes contribute towards 76% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Government policy is focused on delivering sustainable communities and part of this clearly directs development to the increasing use of both on-site and community sourced renewable energy. Leicester City Council is keen to ensure that buildings within the city lead the way in sustainability. The requirements of the Code for Sustainble Homes and other emergent codes are presenting increasing challenges. Present planning policies and those under review and development for the Local Developments Frameworks, the replacement for the Local Plan in 2010, are intended to address this in a planned and comprehensive manner. Policies will increasingly place a high priority on the construction of quality buildings that are designed for present and future needs whilst minimising both their use of natural resources and an adverse environmental legacy. Key to this objective will be high quality sustainable design and construction:

- Using the least environmentally impacting materials
- Adaptable to future needs
- Enabling the formation of cohesive communities with access to a range of services and facilities
- Deriving their energy needs from more environmentally benign sources.

Progress Towards Target

Reporting Year	Actual Performance	Target
2007/08	84.3%	75%
2008/09	-	80%
2009/10	-	85%

Since January 2006 Local Plan policy BE16 has required a % of on-site renewable energy. Progressively increasing annual targets are in place for requiring developers of Major Developments to comply with this policy through the application of Planning Conditions - as

a stimulus to improving performance over time. Since implementation in April 2007 performance has exceeded the target figure for the first full year, as indicated in the table above.

The Leicester Better Buildings initiative was established in 2004 (see www.leicesterbetterbuildings.org.uk). Through close engagement with developers, and using the Local Plan policies on energy and its supporting Supplementary Planning Guidance (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, adopted November 2005) improvements to development schemes have been achieved during the year that will lead to lifetime savings in carbon emissions.

Written guidance on meeting energy policies and addressing the climate change impacts of development is already enabling developers to incorporate solutions at the earliest stages of the design process and allowing planners to become familiar with the technical appraisal process. This guidance is being continuously evolved to improve effective delivery. Further training has been provided for planners so as to increase their familiarisation with both the range of innovative technologies and their possible application.

A further area of work involves exploring the potential for expanding the existing inner estates community heating systems based on Combined Heat and Power (CHP), offering significant potential carbon dioxide savings over other forms of fossil fuel power generation. Technical and financial feasibility studies have been undertaken and a business case is being developed and Cabinet approval will be sought to undertake procurement early in 2009.

Objective and Target Amendments

In the light of monitoring results from 2007/08, the annual target is to be raised with a staged series of annual targets over three years. The revised target will be:

9.1 Increase the percentage of Planning Applications for Major Developments applying Policy BE16:

75% in 2007/08

85% in 2008/09

90% in 2009/10

Future Action

The Leicester Better Buildings project will continue to support the inclusion of on-site renewable energy generation capacity in new developments and advise on other aspects of sustainability in their design. Both written and verbal guidance to developers and planning officers is being continuously reviewed and improved in order to obtain more sustainable outcomes.

In addition, consideration will be given to assessing the outcomes of applying Policy BE16 in terms of the actual compliance and carbon reductions achieved by the completed developments.

Future policy focus will need to allow for community-based generation rather than entirely on-site solutions and this will be considered within the new Local Development Framework process. Planning for both on-site and local, near-to site generation could potentially both increase the capacity and make the take-up of renewable energies easier to achieve.

11.2 Objective (all schools): Create sustainable school buildings

Target (all schools): By ensuring that from 2007/8, all new or refurbished schools exceed* "very good" standards, as defined by BREEAM (*to achieve an overall score of 65%)

Progress Towards Target

During the first phase of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) all four schools have been designed to meet this target. However none of the schools can receive a BREEAM certificate until the building has been finished. All four of the schools are due to be completed during 2009.

Taylor Road Primary School is currently being rebuilt as part of the Primary School Capital Programme. A standard of BREEAM "very good" has been set as a minimum. Taylor Road Primary is also due for completion during 2009.

Groundwork work with schools at all stages of the construction or refurbishment process to help schools involve pupils and staff in the planning process. They also raise awareness of alternative building technologies, such as the straw bale construction that is now being used in a new nursery building for Coleman Primary.

Objective and Target Amendments

A sustainable construction standard for new City Council buildings and major refurbishment projects is being developed. This will form the basis of a revised target for this objective – to be adopted in the coming year.

Future Action

Building Schools for the Future phase 2 commences during 2008 and the design of the first school will begin before the end of the year. The schools in phase 2 will be built to higher environmental standards than those in phase 1 and probably to meet the Council's new sustainable construction standard.

12. Street Cleanliness in Leicester

12.1 Objective: Improve street cleanliness in Leicester

Target: By ensuring that less than 15% of relevant land and highways in the city centre has combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level by 2006/07

The focus of this target is on reducing litter within the city centre.

Progress Towards Target

Performance in 2007/08 was 6%. This is better than the 12% achieved in 2006/07. The target of 15% has now been met every year for the last 3 years.

	% Land and Highways below acceptable level
2005/06	11
2006/07	12
2007/08	6

Objective and Target Amendments

A new national indicator on street cleanliness (NI 195) has been set by the Government. The target will be changed to reflect the new national indicator. From 2008/09 it will be:

NEW TARGET: *Relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of the following that fall below the acceptable level:*

- *Litter – 10% by 2008/09*
- *Detritus – 10% by 2008/09*
- *Graffiti – 5% by 2008/09*
- *Fly posting – 0% by 2008/09*

Future Action

The new target should be achieved through core service delivery alone.

13. Education and Awareness Raising in Leicester

13.1 Objective: Improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents

Target: By increasing the number of residents taking 5 or more environmental actions from the 10 listed in the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey, from 25% in 2005 to 30% in 2007/8

Public awareness and understanding of environmental issues and their own impact is not an end in itself. Rather, it is one of the important foundations needed for society to start to reduce its impact – as success will rely on everyone making changes in their own lives. Leicester's EMAS programme therefore includes an objective and target for increasing residents' environmental awareness and action.

Progress Towards Target

In the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey respondents were asked:

"Which of the following do you do? And which of the following do you not currently do but intend to do in the next 12 months?

- *Insulate your home*
- *Sign up to a green energy contract*
- *Switching off lights and electrical appliances when not in use*
- *Recycle your waste*
- *Make your garden greener (e.g. plant trees)*
- *Walk, cycle or use public transport instead of the car*
- *Start composting*
- *Travel by aeroplane less*
- *Buy locally made goods*
- *Save water"*

25 % of the respondents stated that they had taken five or more of the ten actions and the Council's target was to increase that to 30% by the expected date of the next survey in 2007/08.

In the event, the follow-up survey was delayed until August and September 2008. **The survey results will be available during November 2008.**

Objective and Target Amendments

The current target now expires with the receipt of the second set of survey results. A broader revised objective will be adopted for 2008/09 onwards, which includes the Council's work to influence organisations in the City as well as individuals and focuses more strongly on encouraging action:

AMENDED OBJECTIVE: *Increase action by the public and partner organisations to improve Leicester's environmental sustainability.*

One or more new targets will be developed over the coming year, which are more focused towards promoting specific environmentally friendly types of behaviour or organisational practices over which the Council has significant influence. This is in recognition that the Council has only a very limited influence over public environmental awareness and attitudes as a whole.

Future Action

The Council intends to work with other City organisations over the coming year, through Leicester Partnership's Climate Change Board, to develop a new programme of support for community and business action on climate change.

13.2 Objective (EMAS schools): Raise levels of environmental awareness and action within schools

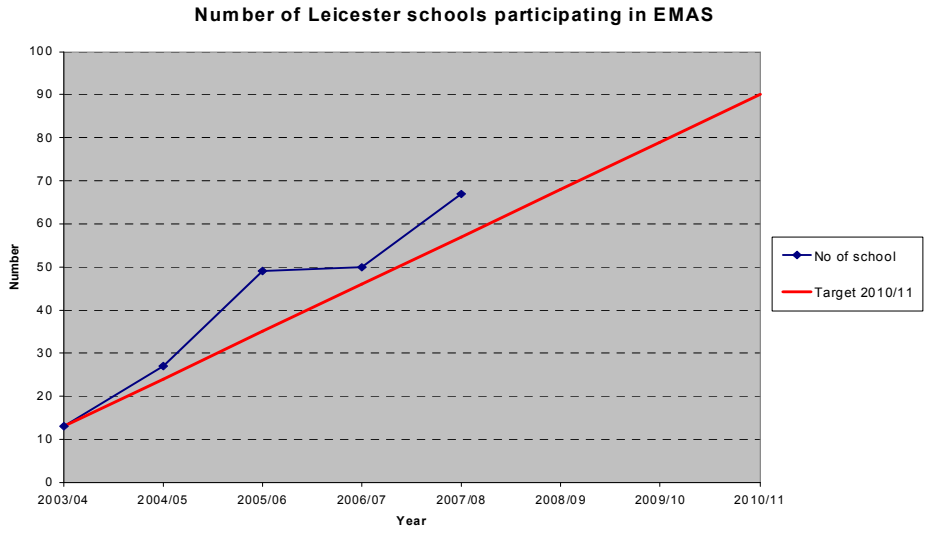
Targets (EMAS schools): By annually increasing the number of Leicester schools participating in EMAS from 13 schools in 2003/4 to 90 schools in 2010/11

Progress Towards Target

In 2007/08 the number of Leicester schools participating in EMAS compared to the previous year rose from 50 to 67. Significant increases in participating schools year on year are raising the environmental awareness of youngsters across the city and actions from both long-term EMAS schools and new participants are not only reducing individuals school environmental impacts but the impact of the City as a whole.

For example, Wolsey House Primary School, a new EMAS school this year, took on a derelict allotment and through the hard work of students and staff it has been transformed into a flourishing vegetable garden and valuable educational resource.

Overall progress is on course to achieve the 2010/11 target.



Objective and Target Amendments

No changes are proposed to the objective or target.

Future Action

Groundwork continue to approach schools on an individual basis about participating in EMAS, identifying the benefits it can bring and the support that Groundwork can offer to each school relating to their specific situation and development needs.

Schools in the programme continue to receive help from their Groundwork EMAS officer in a huge variety of ways to fit in with how EMAS operates in each school and what stage they have reached. Groundwork also offers a number of trips and opportunities to compliment EMAS work in schools.

For example a number of EMAS schools piloted a local food project that delivered local food to communities in surrounding areas. Trips to the Eco House and Martinshaw Woods also deepened awareness and understanding of the environment and what we can do to help protect it for many students from EMAS schools across the city.

13.3 Objective (EMAS schools): To increase environmental education within schools

Targets (EMAS schools): To be developed

Progress towards target

In 2007/08 Groundwork provided EMAS schools with a proforma for recording lessons with an environmental theme. This was targeted at Year 4 classes. The form was in a format which could be filled in by adults or pupils, and included examples of the type of lessons to record. The form certainly raised awareness of the target, and many teachers report making a greater effort to increase lessons with an environmental theme. However the recording system was not a success. Groundwork were not able to gather any meaningful baseline data for this target because the form was not filled in on a regular basis. Even if the forms had been filled in the baseline data would not be representative, as the simple action of introducing the form to teachers made them more likely to increase the number of lessons they taught with an environmental theme.

However a number of EMAS schools have worked towards this target by organising ‘connected curriculum’ days and environment weeks. For example Overdale Junior School had a week of lessons in January 2008, in which all subjects had an environmental theme. This ranged from a science lesson investigating solar panels, to a literacy lesson writing poetry about energy.

Objective and Target Amendments

It hasn’t been possible to find a practical and meaningful way of monitoring environmental education by means of a quantitative target. It is therefore proposed to remove this objective and focus on increasing the number of schools involved in the EMAS in Schools programme (currently objective / target 13.2), through which schools gain support for their environmental education from Groundwork.

Case Study - Beaumont Leys Learning Day

Beaumont Leys Specialist Science School take the challenge of integrating EMAS across the curriculum very seriously and this year decided to kick start the process with a day where the whole school focused on environmental projects. Green Day was a huge success with students taking part in activities ranging from Junk Funk to Carbon Footprinting and Recycled Fashion to Tree Planting.

Future action

Although the recording system for this target was not successful, there has been a visible increase in the number of lessons taught with an environmental theme. Ideas are shared between schools, and there is certainly an increased awareness within some EMAS schools of how the environment can be integrated into all lessons in the formal curriculum. Wherever possible, staff at Groundwork keep records of lessons with an environmental theme, which is being built up into a resource which can be shared with all EMAS schools.

14. Leicester's Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The threat of climate change and the need to reduce harmful emissions released to the atmosphere is an issue of increasing global, national and local importance. An Energy Action Plan has been in place since 1994. The Leicester Climate Change Strategy was published in 2003 by the Leicester Partnership and the Leicester Environment Partnership. This set a 50% Carbon Dioxide CO_2 reduction from 1990 levels by 2025. The Partnership members agreed to take action to address the long-term target for the city within their own organisations.

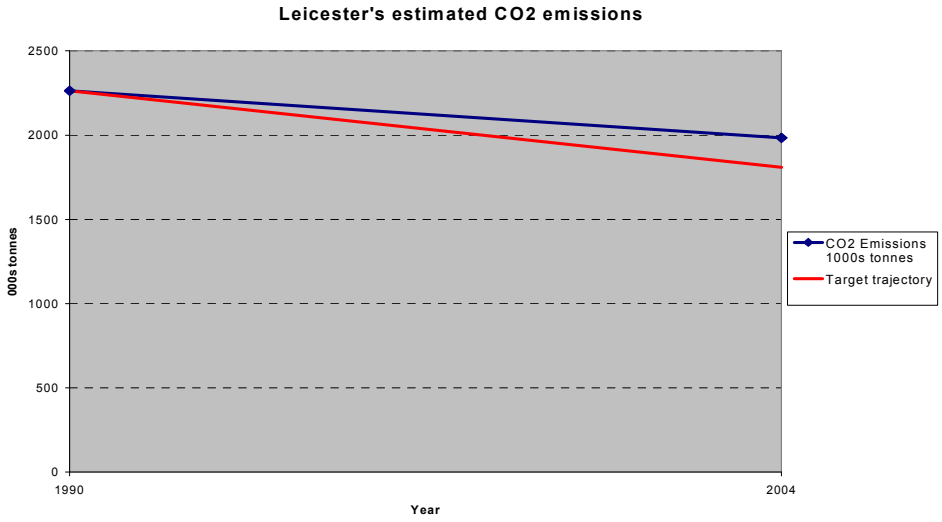
14.1 Objective: Reduce city-wide Carbon Dioxide emissions
Target: Reduce to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26

Progress Towards Target

A study by DeMontfort University for the Council in 2007 identified that CO_2 emissions had fallen between the 1990 base year and 2004. This was a result of a reduction from the commercial and industrial sector, caused largely by companies switching to gas and by changes in the city's industrial make-up. Emissions from residential and transport sectors showed increases and the over reduction was not on track to meet the 2025 50% cut. The study has not been repeated for 2008 so no further progress towards the target can be identified. However, it is assumed that in order to meet the target, over 50,000 tonnes/CO_2 need to be cut each year.

During 2008, a Climate Change Board has been formed. The Board, chaired by Cllr Cooke, will oversee progress towards the 2025 target. The Board and the respective working groups centred on the 3 key areas of emissions of Domestic, Transport and Commercial and Industrial are investigating which key actions will be most effective in reducing citywide emissions.

During 2007, Leicester Partnership appointed a climate change officer to work with businesses, householders, communities and individuals to help reduce citywide emissions. This work has included developing a climate change toolkit to help businesses reduce their energy use, energy audits, hosting events to promote energy efficiency and providing information to enable these groups to make CO_2 savings.



Objective and Target Amendments

There are no amendments to the Objective or Target

Future Action

In 2008, the Leicester Partnership, as part of the National Indicator set, adopted NI 186 – Per capita CO_2 emissions from the LAA Area. By adopting this indicator the Leicester Partnership have been set an interim CO_2 reduction target of 11.4% by 2011. AEA have been commissioned by DEFRA to provide annual CO_2 emission data by local authority area, starting with a base year of 2005, to help measure the success of the steps taken to cut emissions.

A decision will be made as to the suitability of using the new AEA data for citywide calculating emissions as the methodology differs from that used previously by DMU. However, unlike the DMU data this data will be available annually and would help to report more accurately on progress made towards the 2025 target.

In order to meet this very challenging target the Climate Change Board has approved the development of a work programme to tackle to the 3 main areas of emissions; Domestic, Transport and Industrial/Commercial. This work programme outlines a series of actions by partners to cut emissions across the city. These actions include promoting sustainable modes of transport, domestic energy efficiency and developing planning guidance to support action to tackle climate change.

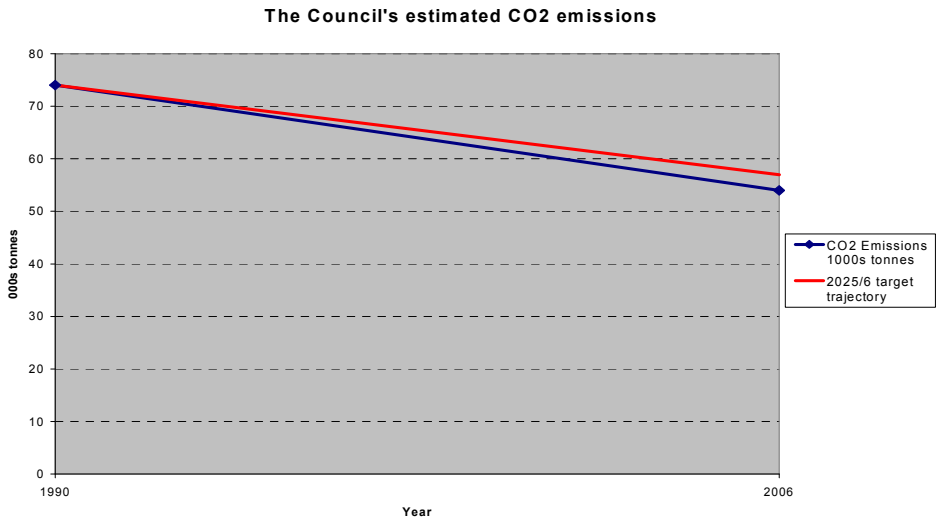
Over the following year the climate change officer will also be working closely with businesses and organisations city wide to reduce energy use and cut emissions by providing advice, signposting to funding opportunities and running campaigns and events to inspire action.

15. The Council's Carbon Dioxide Emissions

15.1 Objective: Reduce the Council's Carbon Dioxide emissions

Target: Reduce to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26

The Council's objective and target reflects the citywide targets and has been introduced for the same reason.



Progress Towards Target

The Council is responsible for around 3% of citywide emissions. In order to achieve the 50% reduction from 1990 levels the Council needs to reduce its CO_2 emissions by approximately 1,250 tonnes/year.

As there has not been a repeat of the DMU study in 2007/08 it is not possible to update the Council's progress to wards the 50% reduction target. However during the past year a Climate Change officer has been appointed to work with services across the council to reduce emissions and adapt to services and infrastructure to the consequences future of climate change. The council has been working with service managers to reduce emissions and have run pilot projects with the street lighting team to investigate what savings could be made.

The Council has also adopted its Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan in June 2008, the first in the East Midlands. This plan, using UK CIP best practice and case study guidance, identified the key risks to Council services and infrastructure from predicted climate change included flooding, reduce water availability and increased summer temperatures and developed actions to help make buildings and services more climate resilient.

These actions include improved maintenance and mapping of the drainage network to reduce flood risk, better tree maintenance and building inspections to reduce subsidence and development of a Sustainable Construction Standard to ensure that future LCC buildings are climate resilient.

Future Action

As part of the National Indicator set (NI185 – Percentage CO2 reduction from local authority operations), each local authority will have to report annually on the amount of emissions from council infrastructure and from the delivery of council services, which included outsourced services. Defra have provided a tool to calculate the total emissions from buildings, transport and schools energy data. The notable exception to this is social housing, which has been excluded

In order to comply with these requirements, the council will be collecting data from theses service areas and inputting this information into the spreadsheet starting from 2008/09, the base year. This will give an accurate total for emissions arising from the councils operations and will allow the Council to benchmark its performance against other similar organisations.

A decision will have to be made as to the suitability of using the new data for calculating emissions as the methodology differs from that used previously by DMU. However, unlike the DMU data this data will be available annually and would help to report more accurately on progress made towards the 2025 target

In order to reduce our emissions, a climate change work programme is currently being developed which outlines key actions to cut energy use and reduce emissions from areas including council buildings, transport, street lighting, waste and procurement. This replaces the Climate Change Action Programme that was developed last year.

The Management System

Responsibilities

The Chief Executive is the 'Authorising Officer' for EMAS, with day to day management of the system undertaken by the Environment Team in the Regeneration & Culture Department. Regular progress reports and any recommendations for changes are taken to the Corporate Directors Board and then to the Cabinet for approval.

Significant effects

In spring 1997, a review of all City Council activities was undertaken and a list of environmental effects produced. The list contained some 80 different environmental effects, from noise in the city to the quality of the natural environment. This was far too many to attempt to manage all at once. In order to identify which effects were most significant a matrix was used which scored each effect in terms of:

- Severity of the damage to the eco-system
- Quantity produced
- Frequency it is produced
- Profile of the issue amongst the public
- Degree of influence the City Council had to be able to manage the issue.

The factors were scored 1-5 and the first 4 added together and multiplied by the last factor. This gave the 'degree of influence' a high weighting in determining the final scores. To get its own house in order the City Council had decided it needed to prioritise those issues it could do most about first in the system.

The significant environmental effects identified by the matrix scoring are defined in a register, one of the key documents in the EMAS system.

As part of a review of the EMAS system that took place in 2002/03 the list of significant environmental effects was revisited and the register updated. Some new effects were added relating to city-wide environmental issues.

During 2006/07 two new significant effects were added to the system relating to carbon dioxide emissions from the Council and from the city as a whole. This reflected the increased profile of climate change as an issue and concern about it both locally and nationally.

In 2008/09, a further three new significant effects will be added:

- The quality of the built environment on Council-owned land
- The Council's vulnerability to the impact of climate change
- Leicester's vulnerability to the impact of climate change.

The first of these will be added in recognition of the important role the Council can play in creating a sustainable built environment through the quality of its own developments. A Sustainable Construction Standard for Council developments will be introduced to address this.

The second and third have been adopted as a result of the increasingly clear need for preventative action to be taken by local authorities and others to stop the impacts of climate

change from damaging the local environment or reducing its ability to keep the public safe and healthy.

If you require further information about the way the significant effects were determined, copies of the original environmental review (1997) and the recent review can be obtained from the EMAS Helpline (see further information section for contact details).

A complete list of all the significant environmental effects identified by the Council is available from the Council by contacting the EMAS helpline. Table 3 below shows significant effects which the Council manages through EMAS, but for which there are currently no environmental improvement objectives and targets.

Table 5 - List of significant environmental effects which are managed through EMAS but are not part of the current improvement programme
The Council's use of timber
The Council's use of peat
Land use in Leicester
The Council's special waste
Land contamination on the Council's own land
Land contamination in Leicester
Noise from the Council's own activities
Noise in Leicester
The Council's discharges to water
Leicester's discharges to water
Dust and odour from the Council's own activities
Dust and odour in Leicester
The quality of Leicester's natural environment
The quality of the built environment on Council-owned land

Compliance with legislation and City Council policies

Many of the significant effects relate to the large amount of legislation that we have duties to enforce. For example, we must control pollution in the city and assess planning applications. We must also act within the law ourselves. So, for example, when highway work is carried out, we have a duty to control noise and pollution and dispose of waste correctly, just like everyone else. This is reflected in the Register of Environmental Legislation.

In addition, the Register of Corporate Environmental Policies and International Commitments reflects the higher standards we have adopted through our own internal policies. Periodically we review and update our registers to check that we are up to date with any changes.

Leicester City Council was not prosecuted under any environmental legislation during this Statement period.

During 2006/07 the Council became a signatory to the 'Nottingham Declaration' on climate change, committing it to addressing the causes of climate change and adapting its services to the likely impacts.

In 2008 the Council signed up to a new 'vision' called One Leicester for improving the City. The Council's Environmental Policy has been updated to reflect One Leicester, and will in turn affect other elements of EMAS.

Management and daily control

All these significant effects are controlled within the management system and, where appropriate, we have set improvement targets. We have written procedures to ensure day-to-day control under normal conditions and to guard against accidents and emergencies, with subjects ranging from office waste recycling systems to the environmental management of our contractors.

Objectives, targets and actions for improvement

During 2007/08 we had 33 objectives for improvement (see Tables 1 and 2) relating to: the Council's direct impact (12 objectives), its impact working with all schools (7 objectives) and its influence on Leicester as a whole (9 objectives). The remaining 5 objectives are specific to those schools which have chosen to join the Council's EMAS programme. In 2007/08 68 schools were working towards these.

Of the 33 objectives, 17 had associated targets and/or active monitoring arrangements in 2007/08 (Table 1). For the remaining 16 (Table 2), some have targets for which data could not be collected, while others were awaiting targets to be developed.

The progress we have achieved against all of the targets during 2006/07 is declared in this statement.

During 2008 we undertook a complete review of the improvement objectives and targets. The review was informed by:

- Changes to the Environmental Policy – driven by the new One Leicester vision
- The addition of new significant effects
- The need to resolve difficulties with monitoring certain objectives and targets and to take account of new national performance indicators that Councils must report to central Government – which include several new environmental performance indicators.

The new set of objectives and targets will be introduced from 2008/09.

An action programme to achieve the targets is monitored annually by Councillors. EMAS schools monitor their own progress through individual action programmes.

Staff training and awareness

Staff receive information about the environmental management system through a number of channels. Job applicants are made aware of it and asked about their willingness to put it into practice as part of the selection process. Details are also incorporated into induction training. The Council has a staff appraisal scheme through which progress and training and development needs are identified. This can help to identify environmental training needs.

Environment Network

In 2008 the Council launched an Environment Network to widen staff involvement in environmental improvement through EMAS and to roll out a programme of environmental campaigns.

An open invitation was issued to all staff via Divisional Directors asking for volunteers to represent each Council service in the Network and to help implement the proposed campaigns. Over 50 staff joined the Network at this stage.

The first Environment Network campaign: The Big Switch Off, will promote energy saving in Council buildings (as well as homes) across the city as part of a Leicestershire-wide initiative. Details will be provided in the 2008/09 Environmental Statement.

An EMAS Helpdesk telephone number and e-mail address continues to be available to receive and respond to any staff enquiries about EMAS.

Contractors and suppliers

We use a vast range of private contractors to deliver services. These range in size from international companies through to local plumbers called out to fix a leaking tap. We are committed to ensure that, when these contractors work for us, they adopt similar environmental standards to our own. Through EMAS, contractors are required to comply with our environmental policy and are encouraged to work towards their own environmental management system.

Verification during 2006/07 highlighted the need for the Council to ensure it can demonstrate improvement in its monitoring of environmental requirements in its contracts.

Products as diverse as office stationery, furnishings for elderly-persons homes and new windows for Council houses are all part of the way we provide our services. A guide to environmentally friendly purchasing is available to help companies and individuals make better informed procurement decisions.

Internal Audit

An internal audit team carries out a comprehensive programme of audits of all elements of the system, including legal compliance. The findings of these audits are reported to client managers and copied to the relevant service director and the Environment Team. Major non-compliances are followed up and outstanding issues may be reported onto the Audit Sub-Committee. The internal audit process is fundamental to the continuing conformity of the system to EMAS and promoting improvements.

Monitoring and review of the management system

The whole environmental management system continues to be monitored. Reports are taken forward to the Corporate Directors Board and Councillors about specific concerns and an annual review is presented to elected members at Cabinet.

Amendments to the system may be made at any time.

Further Information and What You Can Do

The City Council encourages the people of Leicester to protect the environment by providing or signposting appropriate information, advice and opportunities for involvement. Publications including the Council's Link magazine (distributed monthly to every household), the Leicester Mercury and other media are regularly used to publicise information about progress and new initiatives.

The details below are provided to help you find further information you might want – whether it relates to Leicester's environment, progress by the Council and its partners or action that you or your organisation could take.

Finding Out More About What's Going On

EMAS in Leicester City Council

Public Statements of progress are published annually. These and other details can be found on the Council's website (www.leicester.gov.uk) by clicking on the "Environmental Information" button at the bottom of the home-page. We encourage you to give us feedback on ways we can improve our environmental performance. If you have suggestions or a specific query about the scheme, contact the **EMAS helpline**. Details of the work underway in EMAS schools can be found on the **EMAS in Schools Website** (www.emasinschools.org.uk).

EMAS Helpline
Environment Team
Regeneration & Culture Department
Leicester City Council
New Walk Centre A13
Leicester LE1 6ZG
Tel: 0116 252 6775
Fax: 0116 255 9053
E-mail: emas@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester Environment Partnership

Leicester became Britain's first Environment City in 1990 and the Leicester Environment Partnership (LEP) brings together organisations wanting to work together to tackle environmental issues. LEP has developed the **Leicester Environment Strategy** to highlight the key environmental sustainability issues facing the city and set a shared direction for the partners' work. The Strategy is available on the Environment City website.

Leicester Partnership

Leicester Partnership (Leicester's 'Local Strategic Partnership') involves key organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors in working to make Leicester a 'sustainable city'. The Partnership sets out its priorities in Leicester's **Sustainable Community Strategy**. A new Sustainable Community Strategy: **"One Leicester"** was adopted during 2008 (refer to the Background Information section), along with a new three-year **Local Area Agreement** (LAA). One Leicester identifies the main social, economic and environmental

challenges facing the city. Further details are available on the Partnership's website: www.leicesterpartnership.org.uk

Making an Environmental Complaint or Reporting a Problem

Leicester City Council deals with complaints and problems relating to many different aspects of the local environment including:

- Noise
- Air pollution including bonfires, dust and odours
- Litter, fly tipping and graffiti
- Rubbish collections and recycling for household waste
- Condition of pavements and roads
- Management of parks and open spaces

To report a problem or make a complaint, you can contact the Council in any of the following ways:

- Use the **A-Z of City Council Services** to find the telephone number of the section of the Council you want. (This booklet is distributed free to every household in the City.)
- If you don't know the telephone number of the section you need, call the **General Enquiries Service Line**: (0116) 252 7000 or the main switchboard: (0116) 254 9922
- Visit the **Customer Service Centre**, B Block, New Walk Centre
- Write to the City Council at New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG
- Visit the **City Council website** at www.leicester.gov.uk

Getting Involved

If you or your organisation would like to get involved in improving the City and its environment, here are some ideas:

Individuals

- Go to Leicester's **Climate Change Website** (www.leicester.gov.uk/climate change) for help and ideas about cutting your Carbon Dioxide emissions and signposts to further information about action you can take to protect the environment.
- Visit Leicester's **Eco House** at Western Park to see at first hand what you can do. (For directions and opening times, go to www.gwll.org.uk or telephone 0116 254 5489 or 222 0258.
- Join the **People's Panel** to have your say about Council services and issues affecting Leicester. To find out more or apply to join, contact the Council's Partnership Executive Team. Telephone 0116 252 6173, e-mail: peoplespanel@leicester.gov.uk or write to: People's Panel, Partnership Executive Team in B Block at the Council's New Walk Centre address.

Organisations

- Go to the **Environment City Website** (www.environmentcity.org.uk) for ideas and links to further information about what organisations can do. The site also gives details about how to join the Leicester Environment Partnership.
- For organisations involved in the development or refurbishment of buildings, information about sustainable construction is available on the **Leicester Better Buildings Website** (www.leicesterbetterbuildings.org.uk)

Council Staff

- Council staff will find plenty of guidance in the **Green Work Guide**. The Guide is, available on Insite (go to the Environment Team section within Regeneration and Culture, click on EMAS and you'll find the Guide available as a download).

Schools

- Go to www.emasinschools.org.uk for a wealth of ideas for action, or contact Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire to join the EMAS in Schools programme and get expert support. E-mail: cghaye@gwll.org.uk or telephone 0116 222 1596.

EMAS Verification Declaration

This Environmental Statement complies with the requirements of the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme Regulation (EC) No. 761/2001, Annex III, validated by Ted Rosser on behalf of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd. Accreditation Number UK-V-005.

Signed:_____ Date:
EMAS Lead Verifier

The next statement will be submitted to the IEMA, UK EMAS Competent Body by November 2009. It will cover the period April 2008 to March 2009.