

## **Environmental Statement**

**April 2000 - March 2001**

### **An Environmental Statement for the Eco-Management & Audit Scheme (EMAS)**

#### **Leicester City Council and the Environment**

For many years Leicester City Council has played an active role in encouraging and supporting measures which protect our environment. This was recognised in 1990, when Leicester became Britain's first Environment City and two years later was one of only twelve cities from across the world invited to attend the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

During this time the City Council has also adopted a number of 'green' policies, ensuring that its own services and activities meet the high standards it encourages others to adopt.

#### **EMAS**

To ensure that these standards are monitored, maintained and improved wherever possible, the Council has adopted the Local Authority Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or LA EMAS in short. This Europe-wide scheme will help the Council to manage and improve its own environmental performance, allowing the authority to move further towards its goal of achieving sustainable development in everything it does.

All Council services and one school are included within one corporate EMAS system. A second school is anticipating to be incorporated within the system next year.

Leicester City Council first became registered to EMAS in July 1999. This is our fourth Environmental Statement covering the period April 2000-March 2001. It has been checked by an independent verifier to ensure compliance with the EMAS scheme.

We have slightly amended the content of our fourth Environmental Statement to meet the revised European Union Regulation requirements. The design continues to be linked with the Council's annual Performance Plan.

#### **Environmental Policy**

Our Environmental Policy is regularly reviewed by elected members, but during this statement period, no changes were made to the policy adopted in April 1999. This is included in full below:

#### **Leicester City Council's Environmental Policy April 1999**

Leicester City Council's mission is to promote the integrity and sustainability of Leicester and its people in the interests of their past, their present and their future. An essential part of this mission is the work we do to protect our environment. The Environmental Policy highlights our aims and the principles to which we are working to ensure that we play our part in creating a better environment for generations to come.

#### **Our Aims**

##### **Improving our environment**

Wherever possible, we will make continual, measurable progress in our environmental performance and reduce our environmental impact, whilst maintaining the city's economic viability.

##### **Environmental Legislation**

We will fulfil our statutory environmental responsibilities and use our influence in Leicester to bring about improved environmental performance. We will also ensure that all city Council

operations and activities carried out on behalf of the Council, comply with or exceed all statutory environmental requirements.

### **Protecting our Environment**

We will aim to improve our environmental performance and reduce environmental impacts by adopting the principles of best practice and best technology wherever possible. We shall do this through:-

#### ***the wise use of energy water and other natural resources***

We will conserve energy and other natural resources by adopting water and energy-saving measures in Council buildings and reducing the amount of fuel used by vehicles on Council business

#### ***the wise use of manufactured materials***

We will purchase goods and materials that can be manufactured and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way. We will aim to reduce the volume of paper used in the Council and ensure that we buy paper that maximises recycling and minimises environmental damage throughout its whole life cycle.

#### ***minimising and safely disposing of waste***

We will reduce the amount of waste produced by the Council and provide opportunities and facilities to maximise the quantity of both the Council's own waste and waste collected from the citizens of Leicester that is recycled.

#### ***avoiding pollution***

We will minimise the release of any pollutant that may cause environmental damage to air, water or land including noise pollution and damage to our built heritage. We will do this by controlling our own activities and by using our legal enforcement powers to influence activities in the city. We will assess our contribution to global problems, particularly air pollution, and reduce the Council's own direct contribution. As well as conserving energy we will also undertake to reduce the quantity of emissions from Council buildings and aim to run a cleaner vehicle fleet.

#### ***enhancing open space***

We will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality and quantity of open space. We will ensure that open space is retained and is easily accessible by all.

### **Reducing Risks**

We will minimise the risk of causing environmental damage by employing safe technologies and operating procedures. We will also co-operate with other public and statutory bodies and prepare contingency procedures to deal with such accidents.

### **Our Staff**

We will aim to provide environmental training for all Councillors and employees of the city Council. We will also consult our staff as widely as possible on new environmental activities and encourage their active involvement wherever we can.

### **Contractors and Suppliers**

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.

### **Environmental Information**

We will encourage the people of Leicester to protect the environment by providing appropriate information and advice.

### **Working Together**

We will work with schools and other partners across Leicester, raising environmental awareness and encouraging action aimed at improving the quality of our local environment.

We will implement this policy through EMAS (The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) and by:

- Assessing, in advance, the environmental impact of changes to our activities and the products we buy.

- Reviewing our environmental impact as an organisation and setting up systems to monitor this impact regularly.
- Establishing procedures to monitor our compliance with this policy and developing procedures to tackle any non-compliance with our Environmental Policy, objectives and targets

**This policy has been approved by Leicester City Council's Policy and Resources Committee.**

Revisions

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, 17th June 1997

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, 19th May 1998

Leicester City Council Environmental Policy, 19th April 1999

## **The Management System**

### **Responsibilities**

Our EMAS system continues to be managed in the same way as reported in our first EMAS Public Statement. All departments are represented on the Sustainable City Officers Group who co-ordinate the process, and access to the public is provided by reports that are taken to Cabinet.

### **Significant effects**

Leicester City Council continues to manage and reduce a number of significant environmental effects which were first identified in June 1997. They are periodically reviewed and updated and cover a wide range of activities, some undertaken by the Council directly and some over which the Council has influence in the city.

### **Use of finite resources**

- The Council's use of energy and fuel
- Leicester's use of energy and fuel
- The Council's use of land
- The Council's use of paper
- The Council's use of timber
- The Council's use of peat
- The Council's use of water
- Leicester's land use

### **Waste**

- The Council's waste
- The Council's special waste
- Leicester's waste (including litter)

### **Pollution and discharges**

- The Council's own air emissions
- Leicester's air quality
- 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 emissions to water
- Leicester's emissions to water
- Dust and odour from the Council's own activities
- Dust and odour in Leicester

### **Quality of the environment**

- The quality of the natural environment on Council-owned land
- The quality of Leicester's natural environment
- The quality of the built environment on Council-owned land
- The quality of Leicester's built environment

Targets were set against a number of these; the targets and achievements section of this statement shows how well the Council has done so far in these areas.

### **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. So, for example, when highway work is carried out, we have a duty to control noise and pollution, just like everyone else.

In addition, the list reflects the higher standards we have adopted through our own internal policies for example, in 1990 we decided to restrict the use of tropical hardwoods in our operations.

Periodically we review and update our register of legislation to check that we are up to date with any changes.

### **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 and to guard against accidents and emergencies, with subjects ranging from office waste recycling systems to the environmental management of our contractors.

### **Targets and actions for improvement**

In 1997 we adopted 19 objectives and targets for improvement. Our first statement declared the baseline data which would enable us to monitor progress in future years. The progress we have achieved for these targets after the third year is declared in the targets and achievements section of this statement. New targets have been set for those which expired in 2000 and those relating to ecological sites to reflect a change in the way they are managed.

The action programme continues to ensure that targets are delivered, those completed and proposed are described in the targets and achievements section of this statement. The programme is monitored by officers of the Sustainable City Officers Group every 6 months and annually by Councillors.

### **Staff training and awareness**

Staff receive information on the environmental management system through a number of channels. EMAS forms part of the selection process for appointing new staff and is incorporated into induction training. The City Council staff magazine 'FACE' continues to run regular features about EMAS.

Campaigns help to raise awareness about specific environmental topics and they are an effective means of encouraging change. During the year two campaigns were run:

### **Water use**

To raise awareness on water use, posters were distributed to all Council buildings informing staff of the good progress made on water conservation and encouraging them to develop further actions to be listed on the poster.

### **Energy Use**

A further campaign highlighted the importance of minimising energy use. Again, a poster was sent to all Council buildings highlighting good practice and encouraging further action.

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 (like SITA, responsible for household waste collection) 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 now asked to comply with our environmental policy and are encouraged to work towards their own environmental management system. To assist their progress, we also funded a support service with Environ (a local environmental charity).

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. Further information about what we have been doing to green our supply chain, is included in the targets and achievements section of this statement.

### **Internal Audit**

We have set up an internal audit team to carry out a programme of audits (of all aspects of the system). The findings of these audits are reported relevant managers and members of the Sustainable City Officer Group.

The Internal Audit programme is an integral part of the EMAS system. It is designed to cover the whole system over two years, and does so in the following ways.

1. A systems overview audit, to ensure that all of the necessary parts of the system are in place.
2. Audits of each of the significant effects the Council has identified, assessing targets and progress towards them.
3. A range of service unit audits, ensuring that relevant environmental legislation and EMAS procedures are complied with.

The internal audit taken for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001 found that:

1. The EMAS Public Statement should be produced no later than 6 months after the year end;
2. An monitoring system should be established to facilitate the formal reporting of information; and,
3. The information contained within the Public Statement should be made more 'user friendly' and concise.

All of the above issues have or are being addressed with the exception of establishing a formal monitoring system. This area will be addressed next year.

### **Monitoring and review of the management system**

The whole environmental management system continues to be regularly monitored. Every six weeks, officers of the Sustainable City Officers Group meet to assess the progress of the

system. Reports may then be taken forward to directors and Councillors about any areas of concern.

Amendments to the system may be made at any time. A major overhaul of the was carried out during the Statement period to reflect changing political structures.

### **The City of Leicester and Leicester City Council Background Information**

The City of Leicester covers an area of over 7,300 hectares and has a population of around 290,000. The population density is approximately 40 people per hectare or 10,400 people per square mile. It is a multi-racial city, with nearly a third of the population being of ethnic minority origin; some 30,000 students are associated with its two universities.

Since April 1997, Leicester City Council has been a unitary authority, responsible for providing services such as education, libraries, social services, museums and roads as well as the services formerly provided, like planning, parks, refuse collection and sports facilities.

The City Council has 56 Councillors, elected from 28 wards. The Council's Cabinet oversees the provision of Council services. There are seven Cabinet portfolios that are scrutinised by the following Scrutiny Committees:

- Arts, Leisure and Environment,
- Education and Lifelong Learning,
- Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities,
- Highways and Transportation,
- Housing,
- Social Services and Personal Health,
- Strategic Planning and Regeneration.

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 "main administrative buildings". Direct service organisations are run from the Council's main depot at Abbey Meadows.

Leicester City Council employs approximately 14,000 staff (including manual workers and teachers) within eight different departments: Chief Executive's Office, Town Clerk's & Corporate Resources, Housing, Environment & Development, Arts & Leisure, Commercial Services, Social Services and Education.

*In the 2000/2001 financial year the City Council budgeted to spend £xxx.x million.*

<b>Objectives and Targets</b>	<b>Achievements during 2000-2001</b>
<b>1 Council use of energy</b>	
<p><b>1.1</b> Reduce the Council's total building energy consumption. <i>Reduce to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025</i></p> <p><b>1.2</b> Improve the energy rating of Council houses. <i>Reduce energy usage of Council houses by 30% of the 1996 level by the year 2006.</i></p> <p><b>1.3</b> Increase the Council's use of renewable energy. <i>From 0% of the energy requirement of all Council buildings in 1997 (March), to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020.</i></p> <p><b>1.4</b> Reduce staff commuting by car. <i>10% reduction of the number of people coming to work by car in 2000, by 2005.</i></p>	<p><u><i>The City Council used xxx.xGWH of energy in its buildings, a decrease of 0.3% from 1999-2000.</i></u></p> <p>5.03% reduction in energy was achieved compared with 1996.</p> <p>13% of electricity supplied to the Council came from a renewable source, compared to 12% in 1999-2000.</p> <p>The 2000 Travel Survey revealed that there has been a 2% decrease in the number of City Centre staff arriving at work by car since the 1997 Survey. This was due, however, to the number of staff arriving as a car passenger falling more than than an</p>

<p><b>1.5</b> Reduce the fuel used by staff vehicles at work (not commuting). <i>5% reduction of the fuel used in 2000 by 2005</i></p> <p><b>1.6</b> Increase the use of bicycles at work (not commuting). <i>100% increase of 1997 levels by 2000 and 200% increase of 1997 levels by 2002</i></p>	<p>increase in car drivers.</p> <p>Vehicles used 2.45 million litres of fuel in 2000-2001 which is a 4% increase from 1997-98, further actions are needed to address this trend.</p> <p>There has been a 91% increase in numbers of cyclists since 1997</p>
<p><b>2 Council air emissions</b></p>	
<p><b>Targets 1.1–1.6 also relate to this environmental effect in terms of carbon dioxide reduction.</b></p> <p><b>2.1</b> Reduce fleet vehicle emissions. <i>Total emission from fleet vehicles of: sulphur dioxide reduced by 98%, total hydrocarbons reduced by 42%, nitrogen oxides reduced by 12% of April 1997 levels by 2002.</i></p> <p><i><u>Estimated reductions in emissions from diesel vehicles in 1999-00 compared to 1997-98 were:</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Sulphur Dioxide 98%</u></i> <i><u>Hydrocarbons 13%</u></i> <i><u>Nitrogen Oxide 13%</u></i> <i><u>These reductions were achieved by diesel vehicles using low sulphur 'City Diesel'. Research started into the suitability of alternative fuel vehicles, leading to a revised policy being adopted next year.</u></i></p>	
<p><b>3 Council waste</b></p>	
<p><b>3.1</b> Reduce the amount of Council waste going to landfill. <i>40% of Council waste to be recycled by 2003.</i></p>	<p>A Private Finance Initiative bid was successfully accepted by the Government to assist the Authority to provide a waste treatment facility within Leicester, which will divert 40% of the waste from landfill by recycling and composting. The procurement process has commenced and is expected to be completed by April 2002.</p>
<p><b>4 Household waste collected by the Council</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b> Increase recycling of household waste. <i>40% of household waste collected in 2004 to be recycled</i></p>	<p>The recycling rate was 13.7%, an increase from 10.5% in 1999-2000.</p> <p>Achieving the 40% target should be achieved upon the construction of the PFI waste treatment facility.</p>
<p><b>5 Council use of water</b></p>	
<p><b>5.1</b> Reduce water use in Council buildings. <i>5% reduction of 2000 levels by 2005</i></p> <p><b>5.2</b> Increase the use of greywater in place of potable water. <i>15% of total water consumption to be from greywater by 2010 (reviewed in 2000 and 2005).</i></p>	<p>In 2000-2001 226,000m<sup>3</sup> of water was used by the Council, a 14% reduction on 1999-2000 levels.</p> <p>The Humberstone Heights Golf Course project to re-use rainwater for watering the greens was completed in June 2000. Further schemes for leisure centres and schools are being explored.</p>

<b>6 Council use of paper</b>	
<p><b>6.1</b> Reduce the quantity of paper used. <i>5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000 by 2003.</i></p> <p><b>6.2</b> Increase the use of recycled paper. <i>98% of the paper purchased in 2003 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste.</i></p>	<p><u>During 1999-00 the Council used 73.4 million sheets of A4 paper, which is a 34.7% decrease on 1997-98 levels.</u></p> <p><u>95% of paper purchased in 1999-00 was made from 100% post consumer waste, an increase of almost 5% from the previous year.</u></p>
<b>7 The quality of the natural environment on Council-owned land</b>	
<p><b>7.1</b> Ensure parks and open spaces are sustainably managed. <i>100% of parks and open spaces managed by Arts and Leisure to have corporate management data in place by 2000 and full plans by 2005.</i></p> <p><b>7.2</b> Ensure the trees and woodland owned by the Council are sustainably managed. <i>100% of trees and woodland managed by Arts &amp; Leisure to have corporate management data in place by 2000 and full plans in place by 2005</i></p> <p><b>7.3</b> Ensure the Riverside Park is sustainably managed. <i>100% of the Riverside Park to have a management plan in place by 2005.</i></p> <p><b>7.4</b> Ensure prime ecological sites are retained. <i>The area of land covered by council-owned SINC sites (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) to be maintained at 1999 levels until 2003 and to be managed according to their SINC schedule.</i></p> <p><b>7.5</b> Ensure improvement in the ecological quality of Council-owned sites included in the Habitat Survey. <i>Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality (completion of first monitoring programme by 2010).</i></p>	<p>Management data is now in place for all parks and open spaces and a programme is in place to ensure full plans are finished by 2005.</p> <p><u>Baseline information for Tree Management Plans for 7 open spaces and 67 streets were completed.</u></p> <p>A "summary" Riverside Strategy was published for consultation and approval given to appoint a Riverside Development Officer. An Action Plan/Programme for achieving the sustainable management of the Riverside Park will be based on the final Strategy.</p> <p>The area of Council owned SINC sites remained unchanged. A survey was carried out of all SINC sites against their schedule. The findings will be published next year.</p> <p><u>The wording of this target was developed in the light of the review of the habitat survey. This will be reported in next year's statement.</u></p>
<b>8 The quantity of open space on Council-owned land</b>	
<p><b>8.1</b> Ensure that the Council continues to provide Leicester people with accessible green space. <i>Publicly accessible green space covers at least as much land in 2020 as it did in 1994 (863 hectares).</i></p>	<p><u>Nearly 2 hectares of publicly accessible space were created – mainly due to the creation of Bede Island Park. A more accurate categorisation of sites also lead to improvements in baseline data.</u></p>



## Use of energy in buildings

### Background

Leicester is the main Energy Efficiency Advice Centre for the East Midlands with 42 satellite centres throughout the region. The Council continues to have duties to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the city under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA). For Council buildings, the engineering services group provides a 24-hour service responding to requests for maintenance.

### Achievements in 2000 – 2001

#### In Leicester

- The overall energy efficiency improvement reported under the Home Energy Conservation Act was 1.91% for all tenures (compared to the 1996 baseline year) resulting in a saving of 15,325 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The monetary value of savings made was equivalent to approximately £10.30 per household.
- 1,298 households received a home energy survey and information pack under the "Energy Sense" scheme. Home energy loans were offered in partnership with the Co-operative Bank and discounts were negotiated with a number of manufacturers and retailers.
- Energy efficiency grants were offered to homes in the city under:
  - Single Regeneration Budget funding (SRB2)
  - European Union Article 10 funding
  - Health Action Zone Innovation Funding
  - Sure Start funding
  - New HEES/Warm Front
  - Renewal Grants in the Evington Valley and Belgrave North Renewal Areas
- The Energy Efficiency Centre sold £102,500 worth of energy saving equipment during the year. 5361 low energy light bulbs were sold and 1200 lamps were given away as part of a promotion. The estimated saving in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> that these low energy bulbs will make over their lifetime is 3465 tonnes.
- The Centre received 16,517 visitors, an increase of 19% on last year, and dealt with 4,230 freefone telephone calls from people asking for advice. Staff processed 7,011 home energy surveys through the Energy Efficiency Centre giving specific advice to individual home owners.
- £103,050 worth of funding was obtained from the Energy Saving Trust.
- Staff from the Energy Advice Centre took part in 70 radio events as well as a number of TV appearances and exhibitions.

#### Within the Council (\*1.1, 1.2, 1.3)

##### Energy in Council Buildings

- The Energy audit shows that the council has reduced its energy consumption by x% to xxxGWH (compared to 174.8GWH in 1999-2000) through the implementation of energy management measures. [info not yet available due to late billing]
- 13% of electricity supplied to the Council came from a renewable source compared to 12% in 1999-2000.
- Energy issues were incorporated into training for new Council staff.

##### Energy in Council housing

- A further 0.90% improvement/reduction in energy was achieved in Council housing in 2000/2001 (compared to 1996 baseline year)
- Based on HECA report data 2,085 properties had new double glazed windows and 1,716 homes had a new efficient central heating boiler fitted. These measures contributed to a greater level of fuel efficiency across the Council's housing stock.

##### Future actions (ie since April 2001)

- The City Council continues to explore the contribution that renewable energy can make to improvement programmes and intends to fit solar (thermal) panels to a further 5 council houses.

- Funding is to be made available through the Energy Efficiency Commitment for Energy Sense insulation measures.
- Renewal grants (Including a separate package of energy efficiency measures) have been extended to the New Humberstone Renewal Area.
- Opportunities continue to be identified for partnership working and to provide energy awareness training for front line services and for community groups.
- The new interactive "Energy Sense" web site, which will allow all households to enter details and request information on line, is due to go live in the autumn.
- Progress towards target 1.1 'Reduce the Council's total building energy consumption' is dependent on a successful combined heat and power programme. The City Council will continue to move the supply of electricity to its buildings towards renewable sources to enable target 1.3 to be achieved.
- Energy issues will continue to be incorporated into training for new staff.

## Transport

### Background

In response to growing concerns over transport issues, the Council has adopted a transport policy which aims to encourage people to use less problematic forms of transport - public transport, cycling and walking.

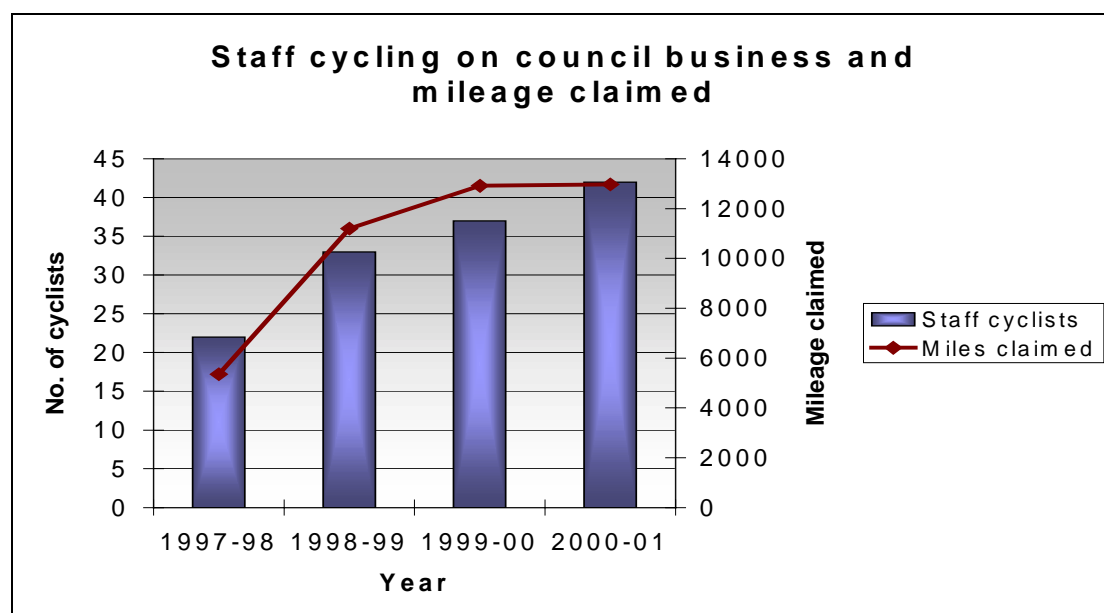
### Achievements in 2000-2001

#### In Leicester

- £1,000,000 was spent on cycle improvements in the city. This included an additional 12km of safe cycle routes and 15 new advanced stop lines at traffic lights.
- The length of bus lanes increased 3km since the last statement, making a total of 18.4km.
- 8.35km of roads were traffic calmed in the city making a total of 93 km.
- The Star trak information system was successfully introduced at 25 bus stops on two routes that operate in the City. This system provides real-time information on 'nextbus' arrival time on the routes fitted with the system.
- Alternative forms of transport on the school run have been encouraged at five schools through the implementation of safer routes to school schemes.
- The walking and cycling strategy was adopted by City members in May 2000.
- A Travel Plans Officer was appointed to work with companies in the private sector.
- In order to reduce vehicle fuel consumption due to inefficient/bad road signing, a new traffic group client officer (direction signs) was appointed.

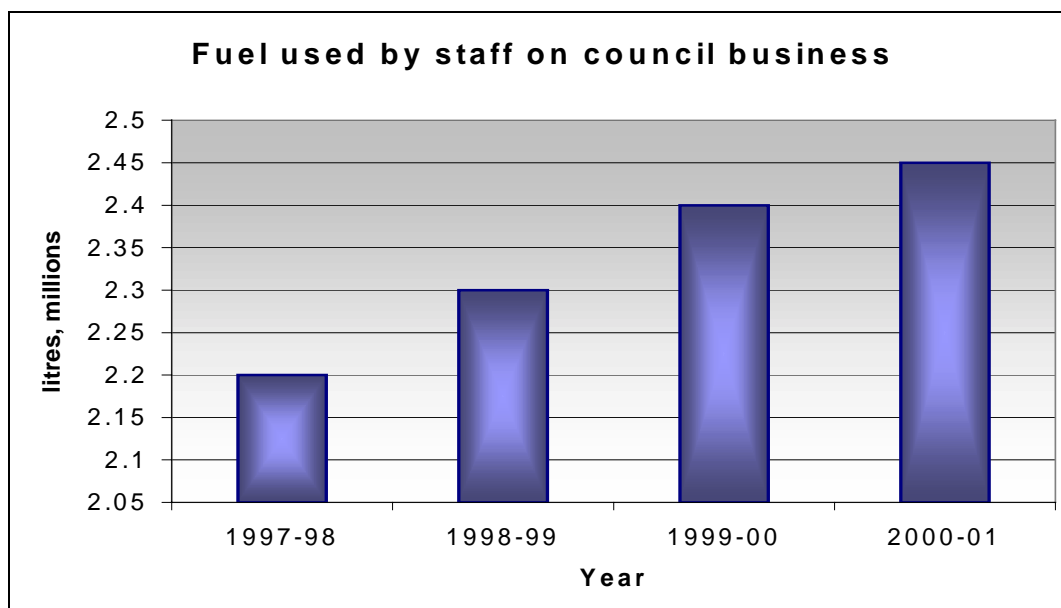
#### Within the Council (\*1.4, 1.5, 1.6)

#### Bicycles



- 42 cyclists claimed mileage payments for using their bicycles at work cycling a total of 12,970 miles. This was a 15% increase in cyclists, and a small increase of 77 miles in miles claimed from the previous year.
- A Bicycle User Group was established and met regularly to provide a forum for staff to discuss cycling issues.

#### Vehicle-use at work



- Vehicles on Council business used over 2.45 million litres of fuel in 2000-2001 – a slight increase on last year and a 5% increase since 1997.
- 68 new, more fuel efficient vehicles were bought as replacements for the Council fleet.
- 12 dual fuel LPG vehicles were purchased as part of the fleet.
- About 100 high mileage drivers received training on fuel efficient driving.

#### **Staff commuting**

- A Staff Travel Survey was carried out in Partnership with De Montfort University and a Report of the findings published.
- The staff Travel survey revealed that since 1997 there has been a 2% decrease in the number of people travelling to work by car (whilst there had been an increase in the number of people driving to work this was exceeded by a decrease in the number of people arriving as a car passenger).

#### **Future actions**

##### **In Leicester**

- The five year Local Transport Plan for Leicester has lead to a dramatic increase in funding for measures which will help reduce the use of private vehicles.

##### **City Council**

- Work will continue on the development of a broad range of measures to replace the former "Staff Travel Package"
- Work will continue by Departments to gather data on their fuel use with a view to developing their own action.
- Information about staff travel by bicycle will be included in induction packs and training<sup>3</sup>.
- Leicester Cycle Map will be placed on the Intranet.

## Air quality

### Air quality

#### Background

The City Council monitors air quality in Leicester and has legal responsibilities to enforce the control of air pollution from local industry. Gilroes Crematorium is owned by Leicester City Council and regulated by the Environmental Protection Act (a scheduled B process).

The City Council vehicle fleet continues to use City Diesel, a low sulphur diesel that also gives improved hydrocarbon and particulate emissions.

#### Achievements in 2000 - 2001

##### In Leicester

- In 1999 National Air Quality Standards were exceeded on 40 occasions, over 5 days (compared to 309 over 38 days in 1999-2000<sup>1</sup>).
- The average response time for the Council's industrial noise and pollution callout service was 29 minutes compared to 31minutes for 1999-2000<sup>1</sup>.
- No notices were served for smoke and 6 notices for other types of air pollution. No prosecutions were made<sup>1</sup>.
- the Council received and responded to 494 complaints about various emissions to air<sup>1</sup>.
- At the end of the year there were 86 authorised processes in the city (compared to 93 in 1999-2000)<sup>1</sup>
- The Council completed its first statutory Air Quality Review and Assessment and, as a result, an Air Quality Management Area was declared<sup>1</sup>.

##### Within the Council (\*2.1)

- 748 out of 795 (94%) of the vehicle fleet uses diesel<sup>2</sup>.
- Reductions in emissions from diesel vehicles were estimated to be: Sulphur Dioxide 98%, Hydrocarbons 12%, Nitrogen Oxide 13%<sup>2</sup>.
- 12 LPG dual fuel vehicles were purchased as part of the vehicle fleet<sup>2</sup>.
- Research was completed with De Montfort University to investigate the use of an electric delivery vehicle<sup>4</sup>.

##### Future actions

- The Council will roll forward a further Review and Assessment of air quality with the Air Quality Management Area. This will facilitate the development of an Air Quality Action Plan involving a range of Council functions and will include full public consultation<sup>1</sup>.
- -In order to improve performance towards target 2.1 the Council will continue its research into the suitability of alternative fuels for the Council's fleet. A new target will be developed for reducing air emissions from fleet vehicles<sup>3</sup>.

## Waste

### Background

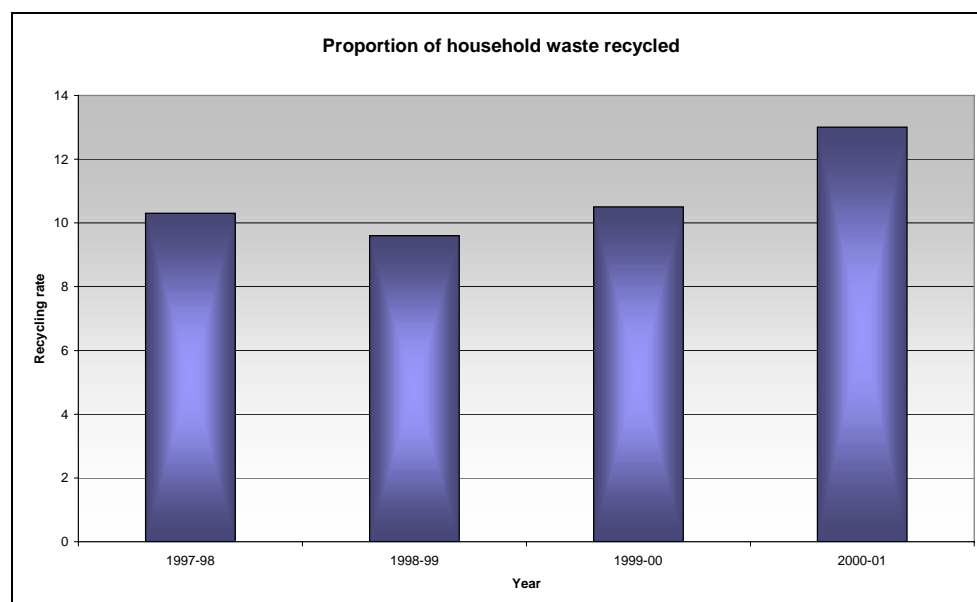
The City Council is responsible for both the collection and disposal of household waste. Recycling reduces the demand for scarce landfill space and avoids many of the problems associated with simply throwing rubbish into a hole in the ground. It also provides raw materials for potential new products.

The City Council promotes recycling by encouraging residents to place their recyclable waste into green bags, which are then collected from the kerbside. The contents are sorted and sent for recycling. There are also recycling sites throughout the city and 2 civic amenity sites. Waste that is not recycled is sent to landfill sites about eight miles from the city centre at Narborough, Enderby and Bradgate.

### Achievements in 2000 - 2001

#### In Leicester (\*4.1)

- 117,688 tonnes of waste was collected from Leicester households and sent to landfill – a 2% decrease from 1999-2000.



- The recycling rate was 13.7%, an increase from 10.5% in 1999-2000.
- 91 Bring sites (recycling sites) had been established by the end of 2000-2001..
- An estimated 6,158 smaller 140 litre wheeled bins were distributed as replacements for broken or stolen 240 litre wheeled bins.
- 2106 tonnes of green waste was separated at the Bridge Road and Freemans Common Household Waste Recycling Centres for delivery to Lount Tip for composting.
- 2633 tonnes of inert waste was separated at the Bridge Road and Freemans Common Waste Recycling Centres for recycling.
- Approximately 1,200 complaints were received during the year about litter and dog-mess<sup>T</sup>. In total almost 18,000 tonnes of litter (including fly tips and dog mess) were collected from Leicester's streets.
- The average time taken to remove fly tips was 1.42 days.

#### Within the Council (\*3.1)

- A Private Finance Initiative bid was successfully accepted by the Government to assist the Authority to provide a waste treatment facility within Leicester, which will divert 40% of the waste from landfill by recycling and composting. The procurement process has commenced and is expected to be completed by April 2003.
- Research continued into the potential for greater recycling of highway material concentrating on the reuse of existing materials.

- Auditing of contractors construction waste completed and site monitoring forms being used.

**Future actions**

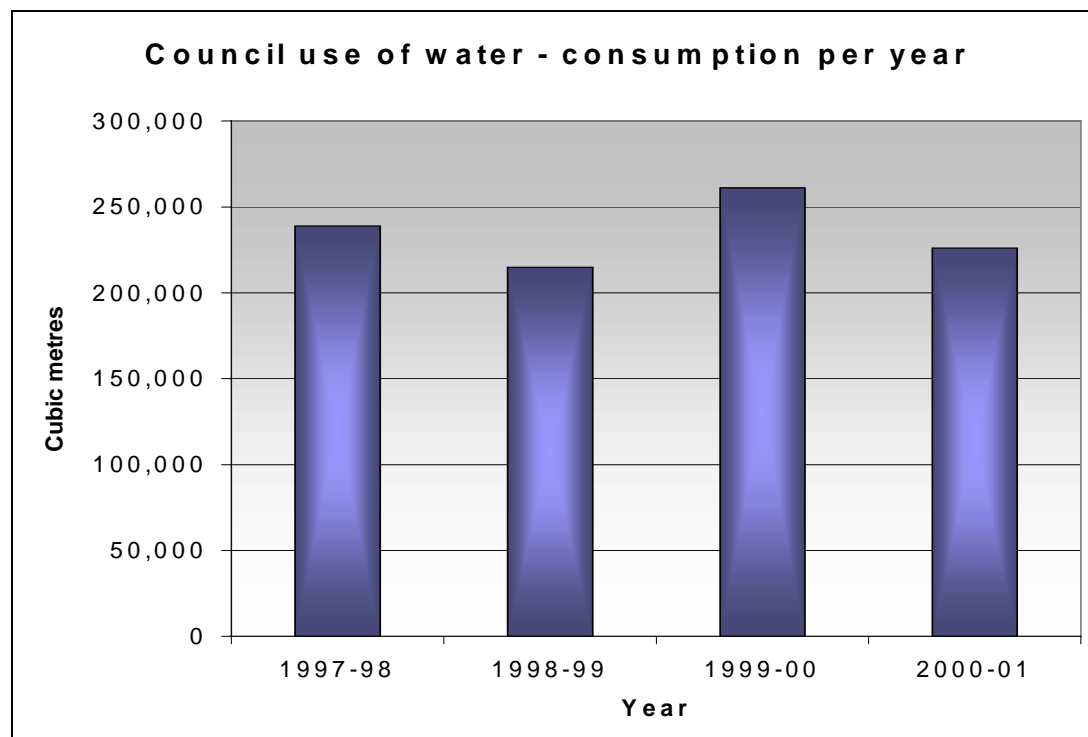
- A programme of replacing wheelie bins with smaller ones will continue, the aim being to encourage people to divert waste from the wheelie bin into a green bag for recycling.
- Preparation of the corporate contract for the City Council's own waste will continue.
- Ways of improving winter maintenance spreading of salt will be explored.
- New premises managers to receive waste training during induction.

## Use of water by the Council

### Background

Water resources are becoming an increasingly important environmental concern. The City Council uses large amounts of water for a wide variety of its activities from swimming pools to parks, from fountains to street cleaning. It is keen to reduce its consumption of water, and also investigate collecting water for re-use, this collected water is called 'Greywater'. Greywater is water not suitable for drinking e.g. bathwater and rainwater but which can be put to other uses like flushing toilets or watering plants.

### Achievements in 2000 – 2001 (\*5.1, 5.2)



- Water consumption fell significantly by 14% in the year 2000 – 2001 to 226,000m<sup>3</sup> (261,154m<sup>3</sup> in 1999-2000). This was mainly due to the closure of St. Margarets Baths and the repair of an underground leak at Western Park.
- The pioneering project to collect rainwater for irrigating the golf course at Humberstone Heights was completed. This has shown a 20% reduction in the use of mains water in the first year.
- The programme for fitting "sub-meters" to identify local water use continued and building managers continued to receive regular water consumption reports. The audit of all buildings, aimed at reducing water use, continued.

### Future actions

- Work will continue on the programme of installing sub water meters in all City Council buildings and the auditing of all buildings to identify water wastage. Investigations will be carried out to assess the possibility of recovering wastewater from leisure centre and school roofs with a view to developing further greywater projects.
- During 2001 – 2002 it is proposed to install sub-meters in swimming pools to improve the monitoring of their waste water discharge. This will also help them to make financial savings.



## Use of paper and other resources by the Council

### Background

The Council uses a large amount of paper in many ways from tickets to committee papers, from information and publicity material to Council tax bills. It is also a major consumer of other resources that affect the environment.

### Achievements in 2000 - 2001 (\*6.1, 6.2)

- The Council purchased 73.4million sheets of A4 paper an approximate 8% decrease on 1998-99 levels. Individual departments started to consider what actions they could take to reduce paper usage.
- 95% of paper purchased met the Council's target of buying paper made from 100% post consumer waste -an increase of almost 5% from the previous year.
- New targets have been set for paper use and the use of recycled paper.
- ICT and Customer Access division ran two IT Awareness events in March and November for a total of 773 attendees to raise awareness on the use of computer equipment to improve efficiency and in turn reduce the amount of paper used in the office environment.
- By April 2001 over 4,000 Members and staff had e-mail facilities and exchanged over 200,000 e-mail messages internally and externally on average every month resulting in savings on paper and memos.
- By April 2001 about 3,500 staff were connected to the council's intranet and had electronic access to over 15,000 pages of information. Documents such as standards, policies, procedures and guidelines are much easier to search and update electronically than on paper. For example, prior to the publication of the VAT Tax Manual on the Intranet, about 275 paper copies are now sent out. However, since then about 150 copies are sent out. EMAS Manual.
- The Council's internet web site is increasingly being used to provide information and for transaction. An example is the online facility to search for vacancies in schools. In January 2001 the council launched an electronic committee management system. This enables committee reports, agendas and minutes to be viewed via the internet and intranet and thereby significantly reducing the number of paper copies required.
- A major review of the Council's purchasing policies was carried out with a view to adopting new policies on ethical purchasing and genetically modified food.

### Future actions

- The City Council will continue to undergo considerable change through a range of initiatives and programmes which will have a significant impact on the way the council operates and delivers services to the communities it serves. E-government is seen as a vital element of the overall plan to deliver these programmes. The growing availability and uptake of electronically delivered services, as demonstrated by the exponential growth of e-mail, Intranet, Intranet and other electronic channels of communication in the Council, should result in further reductions in the use of paper.
- Information on duplex printers will be provided on the IT equipment Shopping List Intranet Site.
- A review of paper purchasing policy will be carried out.

## Quality of the natural environment

### Background

The Council endeavours to maintain a wide variety of wildlife habitats and protect species in the city. It is committed to developing management plans for its own trees, parks and open spaces.

### Achievements in 2000-2001

#### In Leicester

- 18 new tree preservation orders were confirmed<sup>6</sup>
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation were monitored against their site schedules<sup>3</sup>.
- There was improved liaison between the Council, British Waterways and the Environment Agency regarding operational issues and work programmes<sup>4</sup>.

#### Within the Council (\*7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5)

- The proposed amended wording for targets 7.1 to 7.5 were adopted by elected members. Target 7.4 has been revised year to reflect the adoption of the SINC system<sup>3</sup>.
- Developmental work on the Biological Records Centre continued and a recording package has been installed at New Walk Museum and at Environ.<sup>6</sup>
- During 2000-2001 12 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation were surveyed as part of the habitat monitoring programme. A total of 17 sites out of 34 have now been surveyed as part of the 4 year baseline survey programme<sup>6</sup>.
- A management plan was drafted for Castle Hill Park which needs to be finalised<sup>1</sup>.
- Management data is now in place for 177 parks and open spaces and a plan has been formulated to ensure that all sites have a full management plan by 2005<sup>1</sup>.
- Baseline information relating to Tree Management Plans for 7 open spaces and 67 streets were completed<sup>2</sup>.
- Approval was given to appoint a Riverside Development Officer<sup>4</sup>.
- A draft "summary" Riverside Strategy was completed as a basis for consultation<sup>4</sup>.
- A range of practical improvements along the Riverside were completed including the first phase of a long term scheme to transform Abbey Park Canal frontage<sup>4</sup>.
- A detailed path works survey along the Riverside was completed and a repair/renewal programme commenced<sup>4</sup>.

#### Future actions

- A Riverside Development Officer will be appointed<sup>4</sup>.
- The "summary" Riverside Strategy will be consulted upon, amended and adopted<sup>4</sup>.
- An Action Plan/Programme for achieving the sustainable management of the Riverside Park will be developed<sup>4</sup>.
- There will be an ongoing programme of capital improvements within the Riverside Park including a further phase of the Abbey Park frontage scheme and Local Transport Programme funding for access improvements<sup>4</sup>.
- Members will also be asked to approve the new Biodiversity Site Alert Map<sup>3</sup>. Further SINC enhancement work will be carried out on priority reedbed and species rich grassland habitats and a survey of water voles commissioned<sup>3</sup>.
- We will support the Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan<sup>3</sup>.
- A "Strategic Overview of Biodiversity Issues in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 2001" will be published to highlight strategic biodiversity issues that affect the City and to support policies of the emerging Structure Plan.<sup>3</sup>
- A Report will be published on the findings of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Survey.
- Policies that aim to protect Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation will be included in the Deposit Draft Version of the Replacement City of Leicester Local Plan<sup>3</sup>.

## Use of land

### Background

The City Council plays a vital role in providing a framework for sustainable land use across the City. The City of Leicester Local Plan covers the whole City, the present plan covers the period 1991-2001 and is currently under review.

The Council owns approximately 877 hectares of publicly accessible open space in Leicester and 55 allotment sites, the latter amounting to 126.25 hectares across the city or 1.7% of the surface area of Leicester.

### Achievements in 2000 - 2001

#### In Leicester

- The review of the City of Leicester Local Plan continued (the Local Plan guides and controls development within the City boundary). All planning applications received by the Council are assessed against this plan.

#### Within the Council (\*8.1)

- The area of publicly accessible open space increased by nearly 2 hectares from the previous year. This was due to the creation of Bede Island Park, and the acquisition of Hoppner Close and Hoggart Road sites.
- The allotment strategy was completed.
- The number of allotment sites remained unchanged.
- Staff continued to liaise regularly with allotment societies (who lease 37 sites in the City).
- A user group was established called the Allotment Users Consultative Committee which meets four times per year as an open forum for issues relating to allotments.

#### Future actions

- The Council will continue to look for opportunities to create more public open space, and pedestrian access to open space in the city.
- A Draft version of the local plan will be placed on Deposit for public consultation in autumn 2001. The Plan identifies areas of Open Space Deficiency within the City and contains policies to encourage the creation of public open spaces within these areas.
- The deposit draft of the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan will be subjected to an examination in Public during late June and early July 2001. The independent Panel's recommendations will be available before the end of 2001.
- New Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (the replacement RPG\*) will be published.

## **Quality of the built environment**

### **Background**

Most new buildings, extensions and alterations to buildings in Leicester require planning permission and must comply with planning regulations, which are enforced by the Council. In addition, the Council has powers to protect areas, buildings and parks of special historical character.

Currently, there are 23 conservation areas, 4 historic parks and gardens and one site of special scientific interest in the City.

The Council owns 116 listed buildings and all four of Leicester's designated historic parks and gardens.

The Council also contributes to the quality of Leicester's environment through its statutory responsibility to maintain highways and pavements and to remove abandoned vehicles from the highway.

### **Achievements in 2000 - 2001**

#### **In Leicester**

- A bid for All Saints' churchyard restoration scheme under the Heritage Economic Regeneration scheme was approved and supported by the Churches Conservation Trust.
- A bid for the restoration of Lord Rollo's Tomb in St. Margaret's churchyard, in conjunction with Abbey Parochial Church Council) from English Heritage was approved.
- A stage two application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for New Walk Restoration Scheme.
- A Character Statement for Ashleigh Road Conservation Area was approved by the Council and subsequently published.
- Three buildings were added to the statutory list of listed buildings.

#### **Within the Council**

- 1,544 (compared to 1,846 in 1999/00) requests for urgent pavement and road repairs were received in 2000-2001 of which 92% were repaired within 24 hours of inspection.
- The budget for emergency pavement repairs was increased to £460,000 from £420,000 in 1999-2000).

#### **Future actions**

- Work on All Saint's churchyard successful bid to the Heritage Economic Regeneration Fund will be completed during 2001.
- Similarly the work on Lord Rollo's Tomb, funded by a grant from English Heritage, is due to be completed.
- Character statements for the Evington Footpath and Ashleigh Road Conservation Areas are to be published and draft character statements prepared for St. George's and South Highfields Conservation Areas.
- Work will also start on a character appraisal for the Riverside.
- It is hoped that Stage Two approval for the Heritage Lottery Fund will be awarded so that work can commence on improvements to New Walk.
- The 'Buildings at Risk' survey is due to be completed.

## **Land contamination, noise and water pollution**

### **Background**

Land - The Council has a statutory duty to identify, inspect and formulate a strategy for the remediation of contaminated land. The Council can also often clean up contaminated land through the planning system.

Noise - The Council is responsible for enforcing and complying with legislation relating to noise in the city

Water - The Council can influence water quality through enforcing drainage standards. It holds a licence with Severn Trent and the Environment Agency to discharge from Abbey Meadows depot.

The Council continues to be a member of the Pesticides Trust.

### **Achievements in 2000- 2001**

#### **In Leicester**

- The City Council investigated two more contaminated sites making the total 14 since 1991.
- *There were xxxx domestic noise complaints, 313 complaints of noise from non-domestic premises and 145 complaints of noise from traffic, alarms planes etc.*
- 26 Abatement notices were served in relation to noise nuisances.

#### **Within the Council**

- Depot and building managers received environmental training in pollution management<sup>3</sup>.

#### **Future actions**

- The City Council will complete a strategy for identifying, inspecting and formulating remediation strategies for contaminated sites, under the new statutory powers that govern contaminated land.
- The City of Leicester Local Plan will be published for public consultation and contains a number of policies relating to development and pollution including regeneration sites that may be contaminated.

## Further Information & Feedback

### Public environmental information

The City Council encourages the people of Leicester to protect the environment by providing appropriate information and advice. The Environmental Policy is available from the Customer Service Centre at New Walk Centre and is displayed in Council buildings. During the statement period, an exhibition on our EMAS system toured libraries and other Council buildings in the city. In addition, regular articles on environmental issues are written in the City Council's Link magazine which is distributed monthly to every household in Leicester. There is an Environment City Website which contains a lot of information about environmental initiatives within the city and also information about the City Council's EMAS system.

The Green Life page of the local newspaper the Leicester Mercury carries many articles on environmental issues relating to the City Council's activities.

### Access to specific information and complaints

The public have a right to see much of the environmental information held by the City Council. Until summer 2000, committee papers and Council meetings were open for public scrutiny. Questions could be put to these meetings by prior arrangement. *(The arrangements under the subsequent cabinet arrangements will be described in our next environmental statement.)*

Should you wish to find out more information or complain about some aspect of the City Council's performance, you can:

- Visit the Customer Service Centre, B Block, New Walk Centre, or telephone them on (0116) 252 6480
- Use the A-Z of City Council services to find the telephone number of a specific section of the City Council. (This booklet is distributed free to every household in the City.)
- Telephone the main switchboard, 0116 254 9922
- Write to the City Council at New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG
- Visit the Environment City Website at: [www.leicester-env-city.org.uk](http://www.leicester-env-city.org.uk)

### General enquiries, & Feedback

We encourage you to give us feedback on ways we can improve our environmental performance or to request further information, either by returning the attached feedback form, or by contacting us directly:-

### Contact details

EMAS Helpline  
Environment & Development Department  
Leicester City Council  
New Walk Centre  
Leicester, LE1 6ZG  
Tel: 0116 252 7258  
Fax: 0116 255 6385  
E-mail: [emas@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:emas@leicester.gov.uk)  
[www.leicester-env-city.org.uk](http://www.leicester-env-city.org.uk)

### EMAS Validation

#### Accredited verifier

The accredited EMAS verifier for Leicester City Council is Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd., on whose behalf this statement was signed by

**Paul Smith**

#### Deadline for next Public Statement

The next statement will be submitted to the UK competent body by April 2003. It will cover the period April 2001 to March 2002.