

## **Appendix 4**

### **Environmental Statement April 2001 - March 2002**

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

Statement from Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

This Environmental Statement is produced so that the people of Leicester can make a proper judgement about the environmental performance of their council. It demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that we play our part in creating a better environment for generations to come.

This is the authority's 5<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> statement, and covers the time period April 2001 -March 2002. ~~During this period~~In 2000 Leicester was recognised as a Beacon Council for 'Maintaining a Quality Environment'. Leicester's work has been recognised as an example of best practice and will be a showcase council, and will share its experience on environmental issues with other councils across the country.

EMAS is a key tool the council uses to manage the environmental impact of its operations and services and to set targets for continuous improvement. Leicester City Council wants to promote environmental awareness within its community and believes it needs to 'get its own house in order' to be able to do this effectively and with credibility.

We welcome your comments and feedback on our environmental performance and this statement

## 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 ~~289~~290,000. The population density is approximately ~~40-38~~ 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 household waste collection, environmental health, education, libraries, social services, housing, museums, leisure centres, roads, planning, parks, and street cleaning.

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~~Resources Access & Diversity, Housing, Environment, ~~Regeneration & Development~~, ~~Arts & Leisure~~Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal, Commercial Services, ~~Health & Social Services-Care~~ and Education.

In the ~~20002001/2001-2002~~ financial year the City Council budgeted to spend ~~£xxx534~~ million.

### 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. In 2000, Leicester City Council was awarded Beacon Council status for 'Maintaining a Quality Environment'.

The City Council has 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 EMAS in short. This Europe-wide scheme ~~will help~~s 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 two~~ schools are included within one corporate EMAS system. ~~Work continues to encourage bringing more schools to join into the corporate 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-fifth~~ Environmental Statement covering the period April ~~2000~~2001-March ~~2001~~2002. It has been checked by an independent verifier to ensure compliance with the EMAS scheme.

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 was approved by Leicester City Council's Policy and Resources Committee.**

## 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 Environment & Development Department. The Sustainable City Officer Group (SCOG) is an inter-departmental group of officers with responsibility for co-ordinating the process across the authority. SCOG contains a representative from each of the 8 departments. Papers are taken forward from SCOG for approval at Directors Board who recommend that approval be obtained either by delegated powers conferred on the Director of Environment, Regeneration & Development Department and the Chair of the Arts, Leisure & Environment Scrutiny Committee or for significant changes to the system approval by Cabinet.

### 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 method 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
- 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 identified environmental effects are defined in a register, one of the key documents in the EMAS procedures manual. 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.

The following is a list of the environmental effects identified by Leicester City Council. Objectives and Targets are set against the 8 most significant of these and progress is reported in the Objectives and Targets section of the statement.

### 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

**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 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 for example, in 2000 we revised our vehicle and vehicle fuel purchasing policy to facilitate the purchase and use of alternatively fuelled vehicles.

Periodically we review and update our registers 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 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.

## Targets and actions for improvement

In 1997 we adopted 8 objectives and set 19 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 against these targets after the ~~fourth-fifth~~ year is declared in the 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.~~

An action programme to achieve targets 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. The council has an "Employee Review and Development Scheme" (ERDS) through which progress and training and development needs are identified. ERDS can help to identify environmental training needs~~

~~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:~~

### ~~1. 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.~~

### ~~2. 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. Previous verification visits have highlighted the need for the council to ensure it can demonstrate compliance with environmental legislation, particularly Duty of Care legislations controlling the disposal of waste.~~

~~During 2001-2002 extensive training was given to all staff who have responsibility for managing waste ie Building Managers, Depot Managers, Contracts Officers. Training has included information about ensuring contractors employed to carry out work on behalf of the council are also complying with Duty of Care legislation~~

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 Objectives, 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 elements of the system). The findings of these audits are reported relevant managers, members of the Sustainable City Officer Group and Directors Board.

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.

### 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 Board and Councillors about any areas of concern.

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

### Review of the EMAS system

The council's EMAS system was developed and first verified in 1999, it is planned to review the entire system during 2002-2003. The review will go back to basics; identifying the council's environmental effects, reviewing their significance, reviewing existing targets and where appropriate adopting new targets. The action plan will be updated to reflect any changes in priorities and a revised manual of procedures issued.

Objectives and Targets relating to:	Achievements during <del>2000-2001-2001-2002</del>
<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><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>The City Council used <del>XXX.X</del> <u>165.7</u> GWH of energy in its buildings, a decrease of <del>5x</del> <u>90.98</u>% from <del>1999-2000-2001</del> <u>2001</u>.</p> <p>A further <del>0-90.98</del> <u>90.98</u>% reduction in energy was achieved in council housing during <del>2000-2001-2001-2002</del> <u>2001-2002</u>.</p> <p><del>34xx</del> <u>34</u>% of electricity supplied to the Council came from a renewable source, compared to <del>4233</del> <u>15.4</u>% in <del>1999-2000-2001</del> <u>2001</u>.</p> <p>The 2000 Travel Survey <del>was not repeated in 2001 so no updated information is available. revealed a 2% decrease in the number of City Centre staff arriving at work by car since the 1997 survey against an original target of 10% by 2000</del> <u>was not repeated in 2001 so no updated information is available. revealed a 2% decrease in the number of City Centre staff arriving at work by car since the 1997 survey against an original target of 10% by 2000</u></p> <p>Vehicles used <del>2-452.54</del> <u>2.452.54</u> million litres of fuel in <del>2000-2001-2001-2002</del> <u>2001-2002</u> a <del>23.6x</del> <u>23.6</u>% increase from <del>1999-2000-2000-2001</del> <u>2000-2001</u> and a <del>9.4</del> <u>15.4</u><del>x-xx</del>% increase since 1997-98, further actions are needed to address this trend, <del>and the target of 5% by 2000 has been extended</del> <u>and the target of 5% by 2000 has been extended</u></p> <p>There <del>has been were</del> <u>32</u> cyclists using their cycles for council travel a <del>9473</del> <u>9473</u>% increase in numbers of cyclists since 1997 <del>by 2000-2001</del> <u>this was a decrease from last year when there were 42. However the number of miles cycled has increased 30% since 1997-98.</u></p>

<b>2 Council air emissions</b>	
<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 Reduce fleet vehicle emissions.</b>  <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>Estimated reductions in emissions from diesel vehicles in <del>2000</del><u>2001-04-02</u> compared to 1997-98 were:  Sulphur Dioxide 98%  Hydrocarbons 13%  Nitrogen Oxide 13%</p> <p>These reductions were achieved by diesel vehicles using ultra low sulphur diesel. <del>A new target will be developed as part of the EMAS review. A purchasing policy was adopted by the Council relating to low polluting vehicles that will enable further progress.</del></p>
<b>3 Council waste</b>	
<p><b>3.1 Reduce the amount of Council waste going to landfill.</b>  <i>40% of Council waste to be recycled by 2003.</i></p>	<p><del>A tendering process was initiated to introduce a corporate waste contract. The contract specification includes a requirement to recycle at least 40% of the council's waste. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) bid was successfully accepted by the Government to assist the Authority to provide a waste treatment facility within Leicester, which will divert waste from landfill by recycling and composting. The procurement process has commenced and is expected to be completed by April 2002. The design specification will enable 40% of waste to be diverted.</del></p>
<b>4 Household waste collected by the Council</b>	
<p><b>4.1 Increase recycling of household waste.</b>  <i>40% of household waste collected in 2004 to be recycled</i></p>	<p>The recycling rate was <del>13.7</del><u>13.7</u>%, an increase from <del>10.5</del><u>13.7</u>% in <del>2000</del><u>1999-2001</u>.</p> <p><del>The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) waste treatment facility will enable the council to divert waste from landfill by recycling and composting. The design specification will enable regions at least 40% of waste to be diverted. Achieving the 40% target should be achieved upon the construction of the PFI waste treatment facility and extending the target from 2003 to 2004.</del></p>
<b>5 Council use of water</b>	
<p><b>5.1 Reduce water use in Council buildings.</b>  <i>5% reduction of 2000 levels by 2005</i></p> <p><b>5.2 Increase the use of greywater in place of potable water.</b>  <i>15% of total water consumption to be from greywater by 2010 (reviewed in 2000 and 2005).</i></p>	<p>In <del>2000</del><u>2001-2004</u> <del>227,323</del><u>226,540</u><del>xxx,xxx</del><sup>3</sup> of water was used by the Council, an <del>11.90</del><u>6.2</u><del>xx,x</del>% reduction on <del>1999-2000</del><u>2000-2001</u> levels and a <del>4.85</del><u>2.2</u><del>xx,xx</del>% reduction on 1997-1998 levels.</p> <p><del>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.</del></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>Although the original target to reduce paper purchased by 5% from 1997-1998 by 2000 was achieved it has not been possible to collect accurate figures during the <del>2000</del><u>2001-2001-2002</u> period.</p> <p>The original target of 95% of paper purchased <del>to be 100% recycled post consumer waste was achieved in 1999-2000 being post consumer waste was achieved.</del> However without knowing the full quantity of paper purchased it is also not possible to report this figure for <del>2000</del><u>2001-2001-2002</u></p> <p>Steps <del>need to be</del><u>being</u> taken to improve the collection of data.</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. (extended from 2000 to align with other Arts &amp; Leisure targets)</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> The first phase of the habitat monitoring programme to be completed by 2010.</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. <del>Xx plans were completed in 2001-2002</del></p> <p>Baseline data for Tree Management Plans for <del>27</del><u>xx</u> parks and <del>54</del><u>xx</u> highways was collected.</p> <p><del>A</del> <u>The 'summary' Riverside Strategy was consulted on in Summer 2001. 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. It is now pending, awaiting progress with the LRC Master Plan and the City of Leicester Local Plan</u></p> <p>The area of Council owned SINC sites remained unchanged <del>in 2001-2002- 12 SINC's sites were surveyed against their schedule. The findings will be published next year.</del></p> <p><del>The wording of this target was developed in the light of the review of the habitat survey.</del></p> <p><del>No progress was made in 2001-2002 on this target but it is still on target to be completed by 2010. A habitat monitoring programme has started and will provide baseline information for the development of appropriate indicators.</del></p>
<b>8 The quantity of open space on Council-owned land</b>	
8.1 Ensure that the Council continues to provide Leicester people with accessible green space.	

<p><i>Publicly accessible green space covers at least as much land in 2020 as it did in 1994 (863 hectares).</i></p>	<p>The area of publicly accessible open space <del>decreased</del> <u>increased</u> by <del>0.690.17</del> hectares</p>
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## Use of energy in buildings

### Background

The use of energy produced from burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal uses finite resources and produces carbon dioxide, a major contributor to the greenhouse effect the earth is experiencing, the result of which being global warming and ultimately climate change.

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 20010 – 20024

#### In Leicester

- The overall energy efficiency improvement reported under the Home Energy Conservation Act was ~~2.551.91~~% for all tenures (compared to the 1996 baseline year) resulting in a saving of ~~19,94815,325~~ tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The monetary value of savings made was equivalent to approximately ~~£40.4913.70~~ per household, in Leicester.
- ~~1,407298~~ 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)~~
  - ~~Single Regeneration Budget funding (SRB2)~~
  - ~~European Union Article 10 funding~~
    - ~~Leicester Warm & Healthy Homes~~
    - Health Action Zone Innovation Funding
    - Sure Start funding
    - New HEES/Warm Front
    - Renewal Grants in the Evington Valley, ~~and~~ Belgrave North ~~and~~ New Humberstone Renewal Areas

[From the Energy Efficiency Commitment, London Electric have made home insulation grants available as part of the Energy Sense initiative](#)

[The interactive Energy-Sense website \(www.energy-sense.co.uk\) is now live and householders can now request information on line](#)

- The Energy Efficiency Advice Centre sold ~~£xx,xxx102,500~~ worth of energy saving equipment during the year. ~~X,xxx5,364~~ low energy light bulbs were sold and ~~x,xxx1,200~~ 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 ~~x,xxx3,465~~ tonnes.
- The Centre received ~~46,517xx,xxx~~ visitors, an ~~(de)~~increase of ~~xx19~~% on last year, and dealt with ~~4,230x,xxx~~ freephone telephone calls from people asking for advice. Staff processed ~~7,014x,xxx~~ home energy surveys through the Energy Efficiency Centre giving specific advice to individual home owners.
- ~~£403.050xx,xxx~~ worth of funding was obtained from the Energy Saving Trust.
- Staff from the Energy Advice Centre took part in ~~70-xx~~ radio events as well as a number of TV appearances and exhibitions.

#### Within the Council

##### Energy in Council Buildings

- The Energy ~~audit~~-Audit shows that the ~~amount of energy used in council buildings has increased council has reduced its energy consumption by by 6x5%~~ to ~~178.9~~

~~xx-x165.7~~GWH (compared to ~~168.5 174.8~~GWH in ~~19992000-20001~~) ~~through the implementation of energy management measures.~~

~~xx34~~% of electricity supplied to the Council came from a renewable source compared to ~~3442~~% in ~~20001999-20010~~. 29 buildings are supplied with electricity from a renewable source.

~~The Council achieved the Government's Quality Assurance for its Combined Heat and Power Schemes.~~

~~Energy issues were incorporated into training for new Council staff.~~

### Energy in Council housing

~~A further 0.980~~% improvement/reduction in energy was achieved in Council housing in ~~2000/2001~~ (compared to 1996 baseline year)

~~Based on HECA report data 2,371085~~ properties had new double glazed windows and ~~1,989746~~ 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.

~~Plans to fit solar (thermal) panels to 5 council houses to pre-heat hot water have been scrapped in favour of fitting energy efficient gas condensing combination boilers which heat hot water on demand and means there is no need to store hot water. Panel are to used on sheltered housing schemes (see below in Future Actions)~~

### Future actions

~~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 autumn 2001.~~

~~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.~~

~~The SRB6 area is awaiting East Midlands Development Agency approval, once approved funding will become available to provide 'affordable warmth' with new central heating systems~~

~~Health Through Warmth: funding from Npower to provide training to care workers visiting people in their own homes to help identify vulnerable households at risk of ill health due to inadequate heating~~

~~Solar (thermal) panels are to be fitted to a sheltered housing scheme, heating and hot water is provided centrally to residents and thermal panels will pre-heat water.~~

## Transport

### Background

Fuel consumption for transport is a growing proportion of energy use, and the consequences of increasing road traffic are considerable. It uses finite fossil fuels leading to increased production of Carbon Dioxide and the problems associated with global warming and climate change but also locally it results in congestion, delays, increased risks of accidents and poor air quality. (see also 'Air Quality' section)

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~~2001-2004~~2002~~

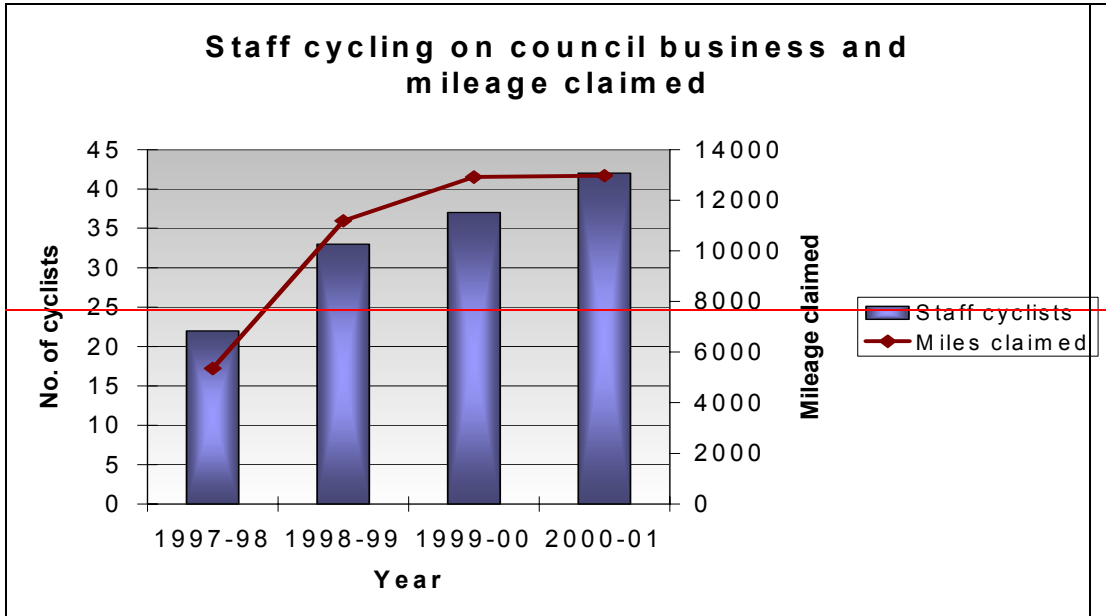
#### In Leicester

- ~~£1,000,000~~173,00 was spent on cycle improvements in the city. This included an additional ~~40.3km~~800m of towpath and 600m of boardwalk to improve cycling facilities during times of flooding of safe cycle routes and 20 new advanced stop lines at traffic lights.
- ~~There were no new length of bus lanes created (still a total of increased 3km since the last statement, making a total of 18.4km).~~
- 10.74.6km of roads were traffic calmed in the city making a total of 100.389.6 km.
- The Star Trak information system now provides realtime 'nextbus' information at 180 bus stops over 6 routes ~~was successfully introduced at 21 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 in the city.~~
- Improvements have been made to 80 bus stops including raised kerbs
- ~~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.~~
- £54,000 has been spent on improving direction signing~~In order to reduce vehicle fuel consumption due to inefficient/bad road signing.~~, ~~a new traffic group client officer (direction signs) was appointed.~~
- ~~The Local Transport Plan for Leicester was submitted~~
- ~~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.~~

#### Within the Council

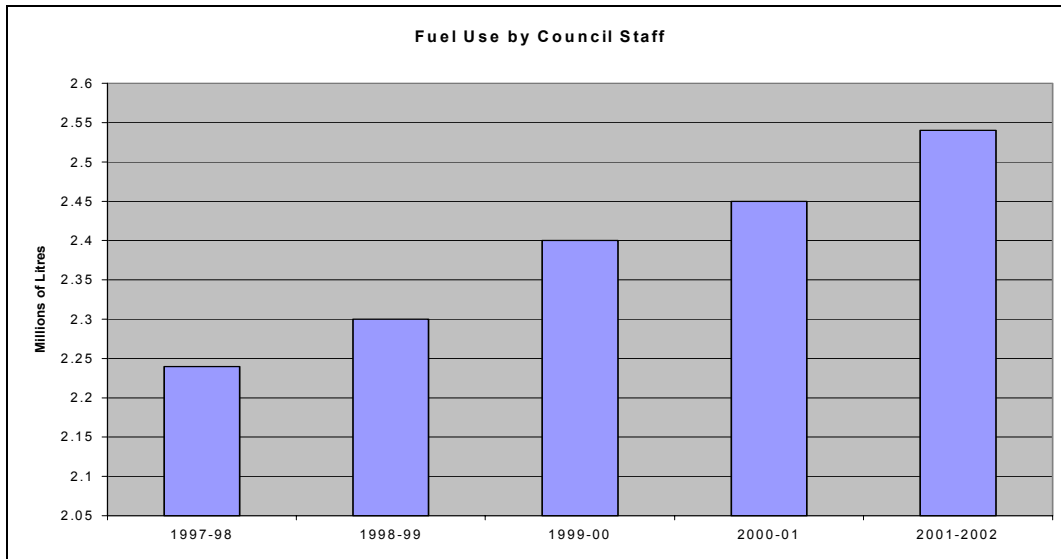
#### Bicycles





- There were 32 cyclists using their cycles for council travel a 73% increase in numbers of cyclists since 1997 this was a decrease from last year when there were 42. However the number of miles cycled has increased 30% since 1997-98
- A-The Bicycle User Group continues to meet and is a forum where cycling issues can be discussed.
- The Leicester Cycle Map is now available on the Council's Intranet 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 2.45-54 million litres of fuel in 2001-2002 – a 3.62% increase on last year and a 9.415.4% increase since 1997-1998
- 68-xx new, more fuel efficient vehicles were bought as replacements for the Council fleet. The fleet now has xx LPG vehicles
- More than 75 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 City Centre staff travelling to work by car.~~

### Future actions

#### In Leicester

- The five year Local Transport Plan for Leicester will continue to provide funding for measures which will help reduce the use of private vehicles. [The LTP allocation for 2002-2003 is £6.6 million.](#)

#### 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 actions.
- ~~Information about staff travel by bicycle will be included in induction packs and training. The council's Cycling Policy will be reviewed~~
- ~~Leicester Cycle Map will be placed on the Intranet.~~

## Air quality

### Background

Local air quality is significantly influenced by emissions from vehicles (see also 'Transport Section) and emissions from industrial premises. Poor local air quality has implications for the health of people living and working within the city and has been linked to increase in respiratory illness particularly in children. Emissions to air can also acidify rain and cause damage to buildings, woodland and wildlife

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 schedule B process).

The existing fleet vehicles with diesel engines use an Ultra Low Sulphur fuel and a new policy will allow the purchase of alternatively fuelled vehicles in the future

### Achievements in 2000-2001 - 2001-2002

#### In Leicester

- In 2000-2001 National Air Quality Standards were exceeded on 40-xx occasions, over 5-x days (compared to 309-40 over 38-5 days in 1999-2000/2000-2001).
- The average response time for the Council's industrial noise and pollution callout service was 29-xx minutes compared to 34-29 minutes for 2000/1999-2001.
- N~~o~~xx notices were served for smoke and 6-x notices were served for other types of air pollution. No prosecutions were made.
- The Council received and responded to 494-xxx complaints about various emissions to air.
- At the end of the year there were 86-xx authorised processes in the city (compared to 93 86 in 1999-2000-2001)
- ~~The Council completed its first statutory Air Quality Review and Assessment and, as a result, an Air Quality Management Area was declared.~~

#### Within the Council

- xxx706 out of 754-xxx (xx94%) of the vehicle fleet uses diesel fuel and xx45 use petrol and xx use LPG
- Reductions in emissions since 1997 from diesel vehicles were estimated to be: Sulphur Dioxide 98%, Hydrocarbons 13% and Nitrogen Oxide 13%.
- ~~A new vehicle purchasing policy was approved. The policy facilitates the purchase of alternatively fuelled vehicles such as LPG or electric~~
- ~~Research was completed with De Montfort University to investigate the use of an electric delivery vehicle.~~

#### Future actions

- The Council will roll forward a further Review and Assessment of air quality within 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.
- 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.
- The council will investigate the supply and emission data for Biodiesel

## Waste

### Background

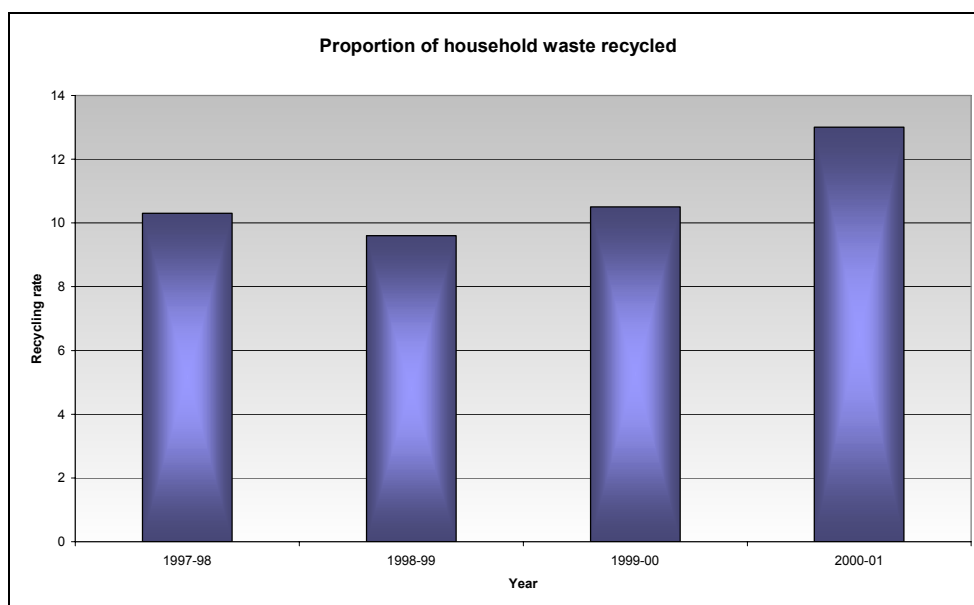
The City Council is responsible for both the collection and disposal of household waste. Recycling reduces the demand for scarce landfill space and avoids many of the problems associated with simply throwing rubbish into a hole in the ground. It also provides raw materials for potential new products.

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 - 2001-2002

#### In Leicester

- 117,688xxx,xxx tonnes of waste was collected from Leicester households and sent to landfill – a x2% (in) decrease from 19992000-20002001.



- The recycling rate was 13.7xx.x%, an increase from 10.513.7% in 1999-20002001-2002.
- 91-xx glass recycling sites had been established by the end of 20010-20024.
- An estimated 6,600x,xxx smaller 140 litre wheeled bins were distributed as replacements for broken, lost or missing 240 litre wheeled bins.
- 58.9589 waste collections per 100,000 households were missed compared to 58.952.9 in 19992001-2002. This dramatic increase was due to waste collections being suspended due to ice and snow weather conditions for 2 days and landfill closures due to high winds in Feb 2001.-2000
- X,xxx2,106 tonnes of green waste was separated at the Bridge Road and Freemans Common Household Waste Recycling Centres for delivery to Lount Tip for composting.
- 2,633x,xxx tonnes of inert waste was separated at the Bridge Road and Freemans Common Waste Recycling Centres for recycling.
- Approximately 3,0001919 complaints were received during the year about litter, dog-mess, and fly tipping. In total almost 24,00028,512 tonnes of litter dog mess and fly tip waste were collected from Leicester's streets.
- From the sample taken the average time taken to remove fly tips was 1.3542 days.

#### Within the Council

- Work continued with tA-he 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 construction contractors including waste management was completed and site monitoring forms being used.~~ Waste legislation training was provided for all staff with responsibility for disposing of waste, this included building managers, depot managers, contracts officers
- The council now uses 6mm (instead of 10mm) salt on highways, this reduces spread as well as 'bounce' which can cause damage and accidents

**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.~~
- ~~Waste legislation training will be provided for Building Managers.~~ Revitalising Neighbourhoods; Street cleaning will be re-organized with each of 10 'neighbourhoods' having a dedicated cleaning crew
- A procedure for planned highway maintenance recycling will be drafted and circulated for for consultation and discussion. It is intended that this procedure be implemented when the Highways and Transport Division has undergone re-organisation

## Use of water by the Council

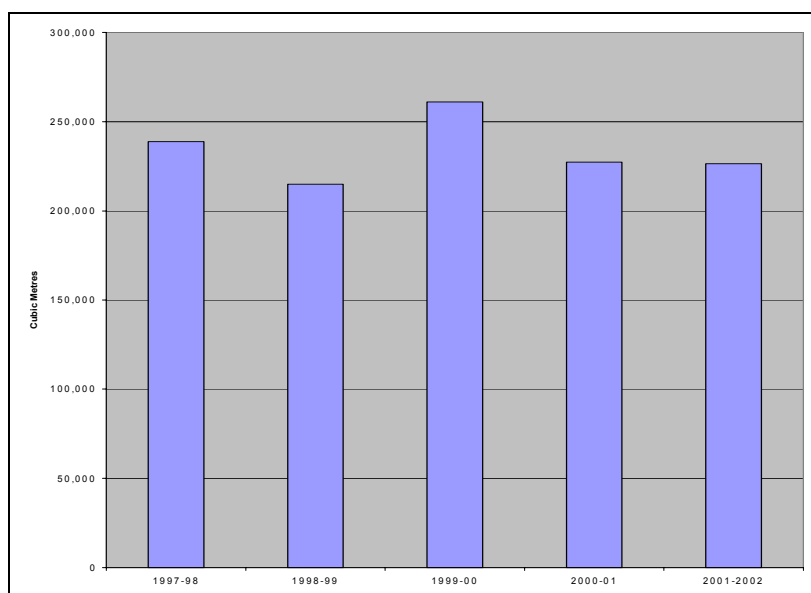
### Background

Water resources are of both international and national concern and becoming ever more a significant environmental issue. Extremes of weather in the UK in recent years have seen both floods and drought within very short spaces of time.

The city council is continuously using water for a wide range of uses; swimming pools, street cleaning, watering plants, bowling greens and golf courses. Water is abstracted from an Artesian well for use at Cossington Street swimming pool, reducing the need for mains water

The council recognises that many of its water needs do not require the water to be of drinking quality. Collected rainwater ('greywater') is adequate for uses such as watering greens and plants and flushing toilets. This not only makes wise use of a natural resource but can also have significant cost savings.

### Achievements in 2000-2001 – 2001-2002



In 2001-2002 226,540m<sup>3</sup> of water was used by the Council, a 0.62% reduction on 2000-2001 levels and a 5.2% reduction on 1997-1998 levels

~~Water consumption fell significantly by 11.9% in the year 2000—2001 to 227,323m<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.~~

~~A 4.8% reduction was achieved overall since 1997-1998~~

~~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 from 4,108m<sup>3</sup> to 3,197m<sup>3</sup>. The collection of rainwater at Humberstone Heights golf course continues to reduce the need to use tap water for watering greens~~

~~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. Intelligent metering is now installed in 60 buildings and provides water management officers with accurate and up to date information about water consumption~~

~~All swimming pools are now on 'Trade Effluent Discharge Tariff' and as a result are making financial savings~~

~~\* The reported decrease of 21.5% in 1999-2000 was in fact a 21.5% increase~~

### Future actions

- Work will continue on the programme of installing sub water meters in all City Council buildings. the intelligent metering programme will continue and is expected to be completed by 2005. ~~and the auditing of all buildings to identify water wastage.~~
- Investigations will be carried out to assess the possibility of recovering wastewater from leisures 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.

Paper is a valuable commodity derived from natural resources; its manufacture affects, forests, natural flora and fauna and water quality on a global scale. Virgin forests are often felled to provide wood for paper pulp and if they are re-planted this is often with tree 'crops' which support less natural flora or fauna.

Modern approaches to producing and consuming goods often waste resources and harm the environment.

### Achievements in 2000-2001 - 2001-2002

The majority of paper is purchased by departments from Creativity Works, the council's reprographics service. Creativity Works uses this data to calculate how much paper is being used and what percentage is 100% recycled paper made from post consumer waste.

If departments buy paper from elsewhere or if staff are having pamphlets or brochures printed by external printers these quantities of paper need to be included in the figures.

During the time period of this statement these figures have not always been submitted and as a result progress towards this target can not be reported. Urgent work needs to take place to rectify this.

New targets have been set for paper use and the use of recycled paper, systems need to be implemented to ensure accurate data can be collected.

- ICT and Customer Access division ran an IT Awareness event in December 2000. 350 members of staff attended. The courses aimed 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 corporate 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 were distributed, now about 150 copies are sent out.
- The Council's internet web site is increasingly being used to provide information Eg
  - An 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

- Urgent action is needed to address the problems encountered collecting data. A review will take place of the paper purchasing policy and in particular the policy regarding the purchase of paper from external organisations and in relation to the printing of documents by external printers.
- The Council will continue to identify ways to reduce paper use by making documents available electronically, and the continued expansion of e-mail, Intranet, and the Internet.
- Information on duplex printers will be provided on the IT equipment Shopping List Intranet Site.



## Quality of the natural environment

### Background

As farming intensifies and habitats in the countryside decline, urban sites in Leicester become increasingly important and the council recognises it has a responsibility to maintain and preserve wildlife habitats and protect species in the city. It has identified Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) which includes reed beds, ancient woodland and aquatic habitats and has made a commitment to develop management plans for its own trees, parks and open spaces.

Leicester enjoys the benefit of almost 20 km of riverside and is committed to managing this sustainably whilst at the same time encouraging people to make use of it for sport, recreation and education.

### Achievements in ~~20002001-20042002~~

#### In Leicester

- ~~22-14~~ new tree preservation orders were confirmed.
- ~~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.~~

#### Within the Council

- ~~Developmental work on the Biological Records Centre continued and a recording package has been installed at New Walk Museum and at Environ. 'Recorder' 2000 package installed at Environ for the Biological Records Centre. National Biodiversity Network Guidance has been received, delays in implementing have occurred due to staff shortages.~~
- ~~During 20002001-2004-2002 as part of the habitat monitoring programme 542 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) were surveyed out of the proposed 10as part of the habitat monitoring programme. Staff shortages have meant that the first round of monitoring of sites has been extended by 1 year. A total of 17 sites out of 34 have now been surveyed as part of the 4 year baseline survey programme.~~
- Management data is now in place for all parks and open spaces and a plan has been formulated to ensure that all sites have a full management plan by 2005.
- Baseline data for Tree Management Plans for ~~27-xx~~ parks and ~~54-xx~~ highways was collected.
- ~~Approval was given to appoint a~~ Riverside Development Officer was appointed in June 2001-
- ~~Consultation on tA-he~~ draft "summary" Riverside Strategy was completed as a basis for consultation carried out in Summer 2001. Amendments and adoption are now on hold pending the Leicester Regeneration Company Masterplan and City of Leicester Local Plan processes
- A further phase of Abbey Park canal frontage was completed.
- ~~A strategic overview of 'Biodiversity Issues in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 2001' was published.~~
- ~~Officers supported the Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan work and attended Executive Committee meetings and Wildlife Grant Scheme meetings.~~
- ~~Contributions were made to the Draft Replacement Local Plan and included policies that aim to protect SINCS.~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~A detailed path works survey along the Riverside was completed and a repair/renewal programme commenced~~
- Consultation and design work for ~~3~~the Local Transport Plan funded Great Central Way road crossings were completed and a 3 year capital programme bid submitted.

#### Future actions

- The Action Plan/Programme for achieving the sustainable management of the Riverside has been delayed but is due to be completed in 2002-2003. A Riverside Development Officer will be appointed.
- ~~The "summary" Riverside Strategy will be consulted upon, amended and adopted.~~
- ~~An Action Plan/Programme for achieving the sustainable management of the Riverside Park will be developed.~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~Members will also be asked to approve the new Biodiversity Site Alert Map. Further SINC enhancement work will be carried out on priority reedbed and species rich grassland habitats and a survey of water voles commissioned.~~
- ~~We will support the Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~A Report will be published on the findings of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Survey. Once all SINC sites have been surveyed an annual report will be written published~~
- ~~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.~~

## - Use of land

### Background

The City Council plays a vital role in providing a framework for sustainable land use across the city.

It has a legal duty to produce a Local Plan to guide and control development within the city, planning applications are assessed against this plan and a robust plan will provide for today's needs whilst protecting historic buildings, conservation areas, open space for future generations.

The Council is also a major land owner and owns approximately ~~875.78875.95~~ hectares of publicly accessible open space in Leicester. There are 52 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~~ - ~~2001-2002~~

#### In Leicester

- ~~The first Deposit Draft Replacement Local Plan was published on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The Plan seeks to provide an appropriate balance between meeting future economic and social needs and protecting the environment. During the 6 weeks of public consultation period about 4,500 representations were submitted~~
- ~~The Replacement Local Plan proposes a number of new housing developments and greenfield sites. New public open space provision will be ancillary to these proposals~~
- ~~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. All planning applications received by the council are assessed against the current adopted Local Plan and the emerging replacement Plan.~~
- ~~The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan underwent Examination in Public in Summer 2001 and the EIP Report recived September 2001~~
- ~~Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG8) was published in January 2002~~
- ~~During ~~2000-2001~~ -~~2001-2002~~, 430-447 houses were built on 'brownfield' sites (ie. previously used land) or through conversions. -This represents 77.97% of all houses built and exceeds the National Government target of 60%. There were 16 houses (3%)~~428 (23%)~~ were built on 'greenfield' sites.~~

#### Within the Council

- ~~The area of publicly accessible open space ~~decreased~~ ~~increased~~ by 0.69-17 hectares to 875.78-95 hectares. 80 sq metres of land was sold at Willow Street and 1810 sq metres of land was acquired at Elm Tree Close and Hazeldene Road. Land was sold to the Belgrave Baheno for community development. Although this land was included in the publicly accessible open space figure it was held by the council for community purposes and allocated as such on the Local Plan.~~
- ~~Staff continued to liaise regularly with allotment societies and negotiations are taking place to agree consolidation and compensation terms~~
- ~~Several sites have been identified in the city wide Allotment Strategy with potential for publicly accessible open space~~
- ~~Progress was made on adopting the allotment strategy.~~
- ~~Two allotment societies decided to relinquish the lease on their sites and therefore the number of sites leased by the Council was reduced to 35 (from 37 on 1999-2000).~~
- ~~Staff continued to liaise regularly with allotment societies.~~

The Allotment Users Consultative Committee continued to meet 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.
- Capital Programme funding is being sought to finance allotment improvements

- ~~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 will contain 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 by September 2001.~~
- ~~New Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (the replacement RPG) will be published. Preparation of the revised deposit draft Replacement City of Leicester Local Plan~~
- ~~Proposed Modifications to the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan will be published in June 2002. Elected Members will consider representations and approval of the Plan~~
- ~~There will be a partial Review of the East Midlands Regional Planning Guidance during 2002-2003~~

## Quality of the built environment

### Background

The council has a duty to ensure Building Regulations are complied with; the scope of the regulations covers things such as noise transmission, energy use water use and drainage and helps to ensure good quality and safe buildings.

The council can influence the quality of development through the decisions it makes on planning applications (see also land use section). It also has a duty to maintain highways and pavements and to remove abandoned vehicles.

The council also has powers to protect historic areas in the city, buildings and parks of special interest. Currently the city has 23 conservation areas, 4 historic parks and one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The council owns and maintains over 100 listed buildings.

### Achievements in ~~2000-2001~~ – ~~2001-2002~~

#### In Leicester

- ~~Improvements were completed to All Saints Churchyard from funding received from the Heritage Economic Regeneration Fund. 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~~The restoration of Lord Rollo's Tomb in St. Margaret's churchyard, (in conjunction with Abbey Parochial Church Council) with funding from English Heritage was approved~~completed~~.
- ~~A~~ Stage Two approval was confirmed for the application ~~was~~ submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for New Walk Restoration Scheme.
- ~~Evington Footpath Character Statement was adopted and published in May 2001~~
- ~~Draft Character Statements were completed for St Georges and South Highfields Conservation Area in October 2001. draft Character Statement was completed~~A Character Statement for Ashleigh Road Conservation Area was approved by the Council and subsequently published.
- ~~The 'Buildings at Risk' review was completed in February 2002~~
- ~~Three~~ 12 buildings were added to the statutory list of listed buildings.

#### Within the Council

- 1,6471,544 (compared to ~~1,846~~ in 1,541 ~~1999/2000-2001~~) requests for urgent pavement and road repairs were received in ~~2000/2001-2001-2002~~ of which 9299% were repaired within 24 hours of inspection (estimated from the sample taken).
- The budget for emergency pavement repairs was increased to £500,000 ~~460,000~~ from £4620,000 in ~~1999-2000-2001~~).

#### 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. South Highfields Character Statement to be re-drafted~~
- ~~Spinney Hill Park Character Statement to be adopted~~
- ~~Character Statements for Aylestone Village, Evington Village and Loughborough Road to be drafted~~
- ~~Conservation Directory to be reviewed~~
- ~~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' review 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 initiate the remediation of contaminated land through the planning system.

Noise - The council is responsible for controlling noise pollution in the city and provides a call-out noise monitoring service for both domestic and industrial noise. A team of dog wardens respond to specific complaints about barking dogs.

Water - the enforcement of drainage standards through building regulations helps to influence water quality in the City. The council also has a duty to comply with the Environmental Protection Act and prevent pollution of drainage systems and water courses from its own sites and buildings. It has licences with Severn Trent to discharge from Abbey Meadows Depot and from swimming pools into the public foul sewer

### Achievements in ~~2000-2001~~ - ~~2001-2002~~

#### In Leicester

- The City Council investigated two more contaminated sites making the total 14 since 1991.
- There were:
  - ~~2,309~~2,798 domestic noise complaints,
  - 301 complaints of noise from non-domestic premises,
  - 127 complaints of noise from traffic, alarms, railways and construction sites etc.
  - 165 complaints received relating to bonfire nuisances on non-domestic premises,
  - 159 complaints relating to odour.
- 24 Abatement notices were served in relation to industrial noise nuisances compared to 3 in 1999-2000 and ~~141~~143 for domestic noise nuisances compared to ~~415~~113 in ~~1999-~~2000-2001

#### Within the Council

- Depot and building managers received environmental training in pollution management.

#### 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.
- 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.

The City Council also seeks feedback from the public on areas of concern, including environmental issues, through resident MORI surveys and consultations such as the Community Plan public consultation. A feedback form was also included with all copies of last year's Statement that were sent to the general public and responses have been taken into account.

### Access to specific information and complaints

The public have a right to see much of the environmental information held by the City Council. The agenda and papers for all Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings are available on the City Council's Internet site before each meeting.

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.environmentcity.org.uk](http://www.environmentcity.org.uk) or the City Council website at [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.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, Regeneration & Development Department  
 Leicester City Council  
~~New Walk Centre~~ 16 New Walk  
 Leicester, LE1 6ZG  
 Tel: 0116 252 7258  
 Fax: 0116 255 6385  
 E-mail: [emas@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:emas@leicester.gov.uk)  
[www.environmentcity.org.uk](http://www.environmentcity.org.uk)

**EMAS Validation**

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

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

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