

## **Appendix 5 Findings of LRQA Audits and Internal Audit relating to the EMAS Review**

### March 2001 PS29 - O

Observation relating to the Public Statement: "Consideration could be given to public consultation on what they want to know and see published, as the views of interested parties must be taken into account in EMAS. Provided that the really significant issues were covered in the Statement (and these should align with public concerns and may need to be reviewing in the light of the consultation)"

### March 2001 CER09 -O

"Concern was expressed with regard to the increase in Landfill Tax in last week's budget and its impact on fly tipping. Fly tipping is not referenced in the Environmental Statement. Fly tipping is not only a cost issue for LCVC but also a potential concern for LCC stakeholders. Justification for the exclusion of fly tipping statistics and action plans from the statement will be examined during the remainder of the verification visit."

(Also CER13)

### March 2001 CER15 - O

"There is no reference in the (EMAS Public) statement to DETR targets for "Brownfield" site remediation and LCC's progress towards these targets. LCC has performed well against these targets."

### March 2002 PS3

Action Programme "As also identified in the thematic audits it is still difficult to determine how each action specifically contributes to the numerical target and this should be a topic which is considered during the EMAS system review "

"Although raised in previous reports, LCC should reconsider separating out from the action programme those actions which will actually contribute to the numerical targets and define how much each will contribute from those which present qualitative improvement or provide for control or monitoring."

### March 2002 PS13 d

Trees and Woodland. "In addition to the EMAS Action Programme detailed Trees and Woodland PI's have been developed for monitoring service delivery for the Best Value Review . The content and format of the PI's was well received and could be adopted to support EMAS to supersede the current Action Programme. Similar programmes could also be developed throughout LCC..... developed locally but periodically reviewed by SCOG, In this way personnel involved in achieving EMAS targets may gain a greater feeling of ownership of the programmes."

### March 2002 PS25

Serious consideration should be given to the content and format of the next EMAS Statement, in particular what will be of interest to the reader. In its current form it is still in danger of overwhelming the public with data and information that may be of little value or interest. A review of other LA EMAS statements may assist in developing a different approach."

### May 2002 PS3 - O

Consideration should be given to including references to the District Heating and CHP schemes and also the progress being made on contaminated land remediation in the Environmental Statement 2001-

## **Internal Audit Report Findings**

### The Council's contribution to air pollution

Target: 2.1 Reduce fleet vehicle emissions (98% reduction in SOX, 42% reduction in total hydrocarbons, 12% reduction of NOX by 2002)

Significant improvements in fleet vehicle emissions were delivered by switching to green diesel, this was innovative in 1997 but is now standard practice. A 5% reduction in overall fuel use is targeted under the Council's use of energy section, but the objectives of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and particulates are not being addressed.

Targets for air emission improvements in all areas need reviewing

### The Council's waste

Target: 3.1 Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill (40% of council waste to be recycled by 2003)

The target of 40% recycling does not address the 'avoidance' aspect of waste management, a target for reduction of waste should be considered.

Progress of actions in this area has been weak, largely due to the delay in setting up the corporate waste contract. The corporate waste contract will require all buildings to have recycling facilities.

Several waste streams were identified where recycling took place (Grounds maintenance at Abbey Park and Knighton Park, Housing depot waste, waste oil at Abbey Meadows) but these are not currently quantified.

A system for to monitor re-use and recycling of highway materials would be useful as this would benchmark and encourage progress.

### The Council's use of paper

Targets: 6.1 Reduce consumption of paper (5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000 by 2003)

6.2 Increase the use of recycled paper (98% of paper purchased in 2003 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste)

The Councils has clearly made substantial savings in paper use since monitoring began in 1997. A serious problem remains, lack of accurate data on paper usage is undermining attempts to track the now marginal improvements being made.

Efforts could be focussed on large scale initiatives linked to IT developments and set targets in line with central government guidelines.

### The quality of the natural environment

Targets: 7.1 100% of parks and open spaces managed by Arts and Leisure to have corporate management data in place by 2000 and full plans in place by 2005.

7.2 100% of trees and woodland managed by Arts and Leisure to have corporate management data in place by 2000 and full plans in place by 2005.

7.3 Ensure Riverside Park is sustainably managed (100% of the park to have a management plan in place by 2005)

7.4 Ensure prime ecological sites are retained (The area of land covered by council-owned SINC sites to be maintained at 1999

levels until 2003 and to be managed according to their SINC schedules.)

7.5 Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality (completion of first monitoring programme by 2010.).

Development of more accurate data and management strategies are relevant improvement objectives but only if they lead ultimately to increased protection and enhancements of these resources.

Target dates for actions under 7.5 need to be amended

The use of Council owned land

Target: 8.1 Ensure that the Council continues to provide Leicester people with publicly accessible green space (publicly accessible green space owned by the Council covers at least as much land as it did in 1994 = 863 hectares).

Overall it would appear that the Council is exceeding this target and should consider a more ambitious target but related more to distribution and quality. Nevertheless, with increasing development pressures in a contiguous city, maintenance of existing hectares of open space can be considered an achievement in itself.