

Significant effect: 1. Council use of energy and fuel

Objective 1.1: Reduce the council's total building energy consumption.

Target 1.1: Reduce to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025

This is a target taken from the 1994 Leicester Energy Strategy. The figure does not include energy used in schools.

Progress Towards Target:

Year	Percentage reduction on 1990 level	Energy consumption (GWH)
1990		181.2
1997/98	4.0 (Assumed 4% reduction pre unitary status (SCOG 17/2/00))	174.0
1998/99	6.7	169.0
1999/00	3.5	174.8
2000/01	8.6	165.7
2001/02	3.4	175.0
2002/03	8.8	165.3

To achieve this target a year on year 1.4% reduction in energy use is needed. To be on target a 18.4% reduction is needed by 2002/03. The actual percentage reduction achieved by 2002/03 is 8.8%, and so therefore at the current rate the target will not be achieved. The reduction between 2001/02 and 2002/03 is due largely to building closures (such as social services hostels). With future planned actions there is confidence that the target will be met.

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

Target 1.2: From 0% of the energy requirement of all council buildings in 1997 to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020

Progress Towards Target:

Year	% of total energy from renewable sources	% of electricity from renewable sources
1997/98		0
1998/99		11.6
1999/00		12.0
2000/01	5.7	36.4
2001/02	4.2	29.1
2002/03	4.5	31.1

Substantial progress has been made through the purchasing of electricity from green energy suppliers. The above figures do not include the provision of renewable energy through some practical schemes such as the installation of sun pipes and solar water panels to council buildings. The figures therefore slightly under- estimate the total percentage from renewable schemes.

Objective 1.3: To reduce the fuel used by staff vehicles at work (not commuting) Includes previous objective to increase the use of bicycles at work

Target 1.3.1: 5% reduction of the fuel used in 2000/01 by 2005/06. (Includes previous target relating to cycling as a specific area of action)

Progress Towards Target:

Litres of fuel used by staff vehicles at work (excludes teachers and private contractors)

Year	Litres of fuel	Percent Change on baseline
1997/98	2,237,342	
1998/99	2,286,912	
1999/00	2,447,182	
2000/01	2,448,292	
2001/02	2,540,000	3.7% increase
2002/03	2,682,862	9.6% increase

The above figures show that fuel use has been increasing year on year up to, including and past the baseline year of 2000/01. This trend continued into 2002/03 with a 9.6% increase in fuel use from the baseline. However, despite this overall increase there was a 2.9% fall in litres of fuel claimed for private mileage from 514,326 litres in 2001/02 to 499,418 litres in 2002/03.

The increase in fuel use by staff vehicles at work since 1997 has been approx 20 percent (approx 450,000 extra litres of fuel per year) costing the authority approximately an extra £300,000 per year. The reasons for this increase require further investigation.

Cyclists on council business

Progress:

Date	Number of cyclists	Mileage claimed
97/98	22	5,357
98/99	33	5,597
99/00	37	6,458
00/01	42	6,485
01/02	32	6,971
02/03	26	6,184

The number of staff using their bike for work decreased for the first time during 01/02, and the number of miles being cycled on work business had also peaked. There has been a fall both in the number of cyclists and the amount of mileage claimed in 2002/03.

Significant effect: 2. Leicester's use of energy and fuel

(New) Objective 2.1: Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the City (includes previous objective on council housing)

New target to be developed relating to increasing SAP* ratings of houses in Leicester

*SAP is a national "standard assessment procedure" for rating the energy efficiency levels of dwellings. Leicester City Council is required to monitor this information under the Home Energy Conservation Act.

Progress Towards Target

The new target has yet to be developed. An officer was appointed in October 2003 using PSA funding, and data collection for the private sector housing stock will begin in the near future. This will complement existing data held for the council's housing stock. A baseline figure for the new target should be available in March 2005.

The SAP rating for the council housing stock during 2002/03 was 60. In recent years an annual improvement of two SAP points per annum has been the norm. This improvement has been due to the capital programme of works which includes boiler replacements, advanced timer controls, central heating systems, and a window replacement programme. These measures have resulted in a 3.75% energy efficiency saving within the council housing stock for 2002/03. The council housing stock is still achieving/exceeding the target of 3% improvement per annum.

Significant effect: 3 The council's contribution to air pollution

Objective 3.1 Reduce council's vehicle emissions

Target 3.1: New target to be developed
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Progress Towards Target:

During 2002/03 there was continued debate surrounding the appropriateness of alternative fuels for the vehicle fleet.

Significant effect: 4 Air quality in Leicester (including traffic)

Objective 4.1: To improve air quality within the city

Target 4.1: To achieve national air quality objectives* for nitrogen dioxide within the city by the end of 2005

* These are defined in the Air Quality Regulations (2000) and provide the statutory basis for the system of Local Air Quality Management Areas.

Year	Number of times nitrogen dioxide one hr mean exceeded at NWC Background Monitoring Station	Nitrogen dioxide annual mean at NWC Monitoring Station
2002	0	34 μgm^3

Progress Towards Target:

The recent air quality assessment of Leicester has excluded all pollutants except nitrogen dioxide as being of major concern to local health. There are two national air quality objectives relating to nitrogen dioxide. The first relates to short term exposure where the one hour mean should not exceed 200 μgm^3 more than 18 times per year. The second objective relates to long term exposure, where the annual mean should not exceed 40 μgm^3 . These two objectives need to be met by 31st December 2005.

Unvalidated data for the 2002 calendar year indicates no exceedances of the one hour mean and an annual mean of 34 μgm^3 at the New Walk Centre monitoring station. However, the NWC station only measures a background reading. Of the seven roadside monitoring stations, four recorded an annual mean above 40 μgm^3 . The monitoring station on Melton Road recorded an annual mean of 69 μgm^3 . This means there will still be a failure to meet the national objectives within the city centre and along major road corridors by 31st December 2005. This is likely to be the case with all large urban areas within the UK due partly to a national policy gap and a lack of radical action locally.

(New) Objective 4.2: To reduce car trips to the city centre (include previous objective to reduce staff commuting by car)

(New) Target 4.2: 4% reduction in car trips to the city centre in the morning peak by 2006 and 8% by 2011

Progress Towards Target:

Year	Number of car trips to city centre during AM peak (8-9am)	Proportion of total vehicles	% change in number of trips compared to 2001 baseline
2001	4932	89.3%	
2002	4998	88.5%	1.3 increase
2003	5090	89.6%	3.2 increase

The number of cars entering the city centre during the peak morning rush hour (8-9am) increased by 1.3% from 2001 to 2002 and increased by 3.2% from the baseline to 2003. The proportion of cars as a total of all vehicles entering the city centre during morning rush hour fell slightly during 2002 but increased during 2003. If this pattern is followed in future years then the target will not be met. The Local Transport Plan is currently being revised for submission in July 2005 and the target will be reconsidered.

(New) Objective 4.3: To reduce car journeys to schools.

(New) Target 4.3: 25% reduction in the proportion of car journeys to schools by 2011

Progress Towards Target:

The proportion of car journeys to school within the 2002/03 sample was 37%. This is 4% lower than the 2001/02 figure of 41%. This trend is in the right direction to achieve the target but is not conclusive as the comparable sample only includes 21 schools. In addition, the surveys were conducted in December and January meaning car usage figures may be higher than the annual average.

Significant effect: 5. The council's waste

Objective 5.1: Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill

Target 5.1: 40% of council waste to be recycled by **2005/06**

Progress Towards Target:

1997/98 Data started to be collected on the total waste arisings of the new unitary authority - a questionnaire was sent out to all buildings

1998/99 Results of the questionnaire were nearly complete

1999/00 The Waste Audit was completed in July 2000. This piece of work was a scoping exercise in preparation for letting the new contract in 2001 and did not aim to collect quantitative data on recycling.

2000/01 Preparation of the corporate waste contract continued.

2001/02 Corporate waste contract has been prepared and awarded and will commence in April 2003.

2002/03 The corporate waste contract is now operational but the recycling dimension still needs to be developed. Existing contracts with waste management companies are being cancelled and all city council buildings shall be using the corporate contract by August 2004. Trials of a recycling scheme involving the separation of paper will start early in 2004 with the residual waste going to the waste management facility at Bursom Business Park when it becomes operational in July 2004. Baseline data will be available for 2004/05 although this will be an estimate using information from the first group of buildings to use the recycling scheme.

Significant effect: 6. (reworded) Waste from Leicester (including household, construction and other trade waste)

Objective 6.1: Increase recycling of household waste

Target 6.1: 40% of household waste collected in **2005/06** to be recycled

Year	Recycling rate⁸
1997/98	10.3%
1998/99	9.62%
1999/00	10.5%
2000/01	13.7%
2001/02	10.7%
2002/03	11.6%

⁸These figures include material collected from the kerbside collection round, the bring sites and litter from streets and composting.

Progress Towards Target:

The apparent fall in the recycling rate during 01/02 is explained by the redefined categories of waste included in the Best Value indicator (BV82a and b) which now excludes separated inert waste and scrap and abandoned vehicles (if these were included the rate would be 13.9%).

In 2002/03 the recycling rate increased to 11.6% A significant increase will occur from July 2004 when the new waste management facility at Bursom Business Park becomes operational.

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

(New) Target 6.2: to be developed for construction waste*

* This consists of any waste that arises from the construction, repairs, maintenance and demolition of buildings and structures.

Progress Towards Target:

An expression of interest was submitted to the LSEP for funding for £50,000 to complete a feasibility study. A target would be developed as part of the study.

Significant effect: 7. The council's use of water

(Reworded) Objective 7.1: Reduce potable water use in council buildings (including previous objective for greywater)

Target 7.1: 5% reduction of 2000/01 levels by 2005/06 (includes previous target on greywater as specific area of action)

Progress Towards Target:

Year	Cubic metres water used	% reduction on 2000 level
1997/98	238,819	n/r
1998/99	214,917	n/r
1999/00	261,154	n/r
2000/01	227,323	n/r
2001/02	234,052	2.9% (if 00/01 used as base year) increase
2002/03	238,701	5.0% increase

To achieve the target an annual 1% decrease is needed. There was a sharp drop in water usage between 99/00 and 00/01, explained by the closure of St Margarets Swimming Pool and the repair of an underground leak at Western Park. However, over the last two years water usage has increased, representing a move away from the target. One factor contributing to this is an increase in building occupancy.

Significant effect: 8. Council use of paper

Objective 8.1: Reduce the quantity of paper used

Target 8.1: 5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000, by 2003

Year	Number of A4 sheets purchased
1997/98	112,494,946
1998/99	79,962,405
1999/00	73,421,050
2000/01	Not available
2001/02	Not available

2002/03	Not available
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Progress Towards Target:

Difficulties with the collection of accurate monitoring information in relation to out-sourced documents and paper have continued despite an awareness raising campaign. From April 2004 data will be available annually for the amount and type of paper purchased by Creativity Works. However this will not include out-sourced documents and paper, and will therefore only cover a proportion of all paper use within the authority.

Objective 8.2: Increase the use of recycled paper

Target 8.2: 98% of paper purchased in 2003 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste
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Year	% of paper from 100% recycled
1997/98	88%
1998/99	89.9
1999/00	94.8%
2000/01	Not available
2001/02	Not available
2002/03	Not available

Progress Towards Target:

Difficulties with the collection of accurate monitoring information in relation to out-sourced documents and paper have continued despite an awareness raising campaign. From April 2004 data will be available annually for the amount and type of paper purchased by Creativity Works. However, this will not include out-sourced documents and paper and will therefore only cover a proportion of all paper use within the authority.

Significant effect: 9 The quality of the natural environment on council-owned land

Objective 9.1 (reworded): To ensure that key aspects of the natural environment on council-owned land are sustainably managed.

Target 9.1 (reworded): To develop management plans for parks, open spaces, the riverside and trees and woodland by 2005

Parks and Open Spaces

Progress Towards Target:

97/98 the standard format for management plans was developed and approved and the total number of plans identified as 70, covering 190 sites.

98/99 the management plan for Castle Gardens was completed.

99/00 the management plan for Castle Hill Park was completed in draft: it is currently awaiting consultation. Management data is now in place for all sites.

00/01 Management data was collected for all parks and open spaces and a programme was developed to ensure the plans are completed by 2005.

01/02 In December 2001 a team of three officers was established, dedicated to producing management plans for parks and open spaces.

02/03 At the end of the financial year a total of ten plans had been completed with another ten in progress. The total of approximately 80 plans should be complete by 2005.

Trees and Woodland

Progress Towards Target:

97/98 the standard format for management plans was developed and approved. 2 new officers started in post and produced 3 Arts and Leisure Open Spaces plans and 5 street plans.

98/99 15 Open Space plans and 67 street plans were completed. A priority action plan was completed for tree management within Housing, Education, Social Services, Property Services and Museums.

99/00 7 open spaces plans and 72 street tree plans were completed.

00/01 Baseline data for Tree Management Plans for 27 Parks and 54 highways were completed.

01/02 Baseline data for tree management plans for 251 sites including 22 parks and 128 highways were collected.

02/03 Baseline data collected for additional 117 sites including two parks and 86 highways. This was lower than the previous year due to the storm of October 2002. Over 300 sites were damaged costing approximately £140,000 from a total of £226,000 for emergency spending over the whole year.

Riverside

Progress Towards Target:

97/98 The standard format for management plans was developed and approved in conjunction with Arts and Leisure.

98/99 A programme for the production of a Riverside Park Strategy was prepared. This will then be used as the basis for developing management plans. Interim management responsibilities for the park were agreed.

99/00 A strategy for the Riverside Park was produced by consultants and approved by members as a basis for further action. Progress was hampered by the departure of the Riverside Development Officer (May 2000) and the subsequent freezing of this post.

00/01 Approval was given to recruit a Riverside Development Officer and a draft 'summary' Riverside Strategy was completed for consultation. Ongoing capital improvement works were carried out.

01/02 A Riverside Development Officer was appointed in June 2001. A consultation exercise on the draft Riverside Strategy was undertaken. The adoption of the final strategy was postponed due to the impact of the LRC Masterplan and CLLP development. The programme of capital improvement works continued.

02/03 Management Plans for priority ponds and wetlands and scrub and woodland at Aylestone Meadows have been completed as working drafts, and implementation of these plans has now commenced. Information gathering has also commenced to help develop an overall Riverside Management Plan. Furthermore, riverside strategic and management information has been fed into the Leicester Regeneration Company Masterplan process and riverside capital and revenue programmes have continued to help sustain riverside sites.

Objective 9.2: Ensure prime ecological sites are retained

Target 9.2: The area of land covered by council-owned SINC* sites to be maintained at 1999 level until 2003 and to be managed according to their SINC schedule.

*Sites of importance for nature conservation

Progress Towards target:

97/98 It was estimated that Leicester City Council owned 818 hectares of land of highest ecological value (A and A* in the Leicester Habitat Survey) However, this figure was not declared in the public statement as there were concerns over its accuracy. The important step of identifying land-ownership of our A and A* sites was completed. All A and A* sites were marked on the council's land ownership records and identified in the computer database.

98/99 The area of A and A* sites remained unchanged. However, no further work was undertaken to improve the accuracy of the baseline figure due to the review of the whole Habitat Survey.

99/00 Again, the area of A and A* sites remains unchanged.

00/01 The wording of the target was amended to reflect the new monitoring of the SINC system.

01/02 The Biodiversity Site Alert Map was approved by Members (though its inclusion in the Local Plan). 12 SINC sites were monitored against their schedule. SINC enhancement work was carried out at Watermead and Kirby Frith.

02/03 Out of 34 sites monitored in 2001 and 2002, four sites improved in value and 16 experienced no overall change. Eleven SINCS showed slight decline, one suffered moderate decline and one suffered a serious decline in value in 2001 with partial loss. One SINC was completely lost in 2002. Overall there has been a decline in the quality and quantity of SINCS, representing a move away from the target.

Objective 9.3: Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality

Target 9.3: Completion of the first phase of habitat monitoring programme by 2010

Progress Towards Target:

98/99 No further work was carried out until the review of the Habitat Survey was completed.

99/00 A new monitoring system was developed to monitor grassland SINC sites to safeguard against loss of wildlife interest. 1999-00 was really a period of familiarisation with the system but 5 sites were completed during the year. A timescale was established for completing Phase 1 and Phase 2 Habitat Surveys and for establishing an Environmental Records Database.

00/01 Developmental work on the Biological Records Centre continued and a recording package was installed at New Walk Museum and at Environ.

01/02 Little progress due to loss of lead officer on the project. There were also problems with gaining access to land to carry out survey work because of the foot and mouth crisis. Extra monitoring work will take place over future years to ensure that the target is met.

02/03 There has been no progress towards this target due to a lack of officer in post. A recruitment process will commence in January 2004.

Significant effect: 10. The use of the council's own land

Objective 10: Ensure that the council continues to provide Leicester people with accessible green space.

Target 10.1: Publicly accessible green space covers at least as much land in 2020 as it did in 1994 (863 hectares)

Progress Towards Target:

Year	Hectares
1997/98	875
1998/99	874.5
1999/00	876.5
2000/01	875.8
2001/02	875.9
2002/03	878

97/98, Leicester City Council owned 875 ha of publicly accessible green space. (There were still a few discrepancies to resolve with this figure. The figure excluded all housing estate land. Most of this land is not publicly accessible and so falls outside the scope of the target. However further work needed to be carried out to investigate housing land in more detail.)

98/99 0.5ha of publicly open space was lost due to the sale of Kirby Frith.

99/00 1.973 hectares of public open space was gained mainly due to the development of Bede Island Park

00/01 The area decreased by 0.69 hectares due to land being sold for the Belgrave Baheno Community Centre in Belgrave.

01/02 There was a net increase of 0.17 hectares to 875.95 hectares. Whilst land was sold at Willow Street, a new open space was acquired at Elm Tree Close and Hazeldene Road. Several sites have been identified in the Allotments Strategy with potential for publicly accessible open space.

02/03 There has been an increase of 2.1 hectares to 878 hectares due to increases in public space at Martin Square and Groby Road.

Significant effect 11. Quality of Leicester's built environment

Objective 11.1: To create a sustainable built environment

Target 11.1: To be developed

Progress Towards Target:

The target will reflect the number of buildings in Leicester that have followed the Leicester Better Buildings Guidance. This will not come into effect until a process has been developed to support adoption of the guidance. The Leicester Better Buildings Guidance is due to be completed by the end of 04/05. An application has been made for funding to take the guidance into an implementation phase.

New Significant effect 12. Street cleanliness within Leicester

Objective 12.1: To improve the cleanliness of the City Centre

Target 12.1: Cleaning Index (PSA measure) in the city centre to be 75% or above by 2005.

Progress Towards Target:

01/02: The PSA Cleaning Index was 69%.

02/03 The PSA Cleaning Index was 75% which means the target has already been achieved.

New Significant effect 13. Education and awareness raising

Objective 13.1: To improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents

Target 13.1: to be developed

Progress Towards Target:

The target will be developed during 04/05.

Awareness raising campaigns relating to climate change have already been developed that link to EMAS objectives including energy use and air pollution. This is a three year programme designed to encourage change in individual behaviour. The “Keep Leicester Cool” campaign was launched in October. Continuation of the programme is dependent upon extra resources being identified.