

APPENDIX 3

Environmental Statement April 2002 - March 2003

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

Statement from Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

To be added.

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 280,000. It is a multi-racial city, with over a third of the population being of ethnic minority origin; a large student population is associated with its two universities.

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

The City Council has 54 Councillors, elected from 22 wards. The Council's Cabinet 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 Leycroft Road.

Leicester City Council employs approximately 14,000 staff (including manual workers and teachers) within six different departments:

Chief Executive's Office
Resources, Access & Diversity
Housing
Environment & Development
Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal
Social Care & Health
Education & Life Long Learning.

Environment & Development and Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal are currently in the process of merging.

For the 2003/2004 financial year the Council has set a budget for its general services, excluding council housing, of £342.8 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 recently adopted corporate direction aims to make Leicester more attractive for our diverse communities to live, work and invest in. The corporate direction has two strategic objectives. The second objective specifically considers the environment:

“To improve our environment to make local neighbourhoods and the city centre places for people to be proud of”

In order to achieve our strategic objectives, nine key priorities have been identified. The second priority relates specifically to sustainable development:

“Make our city’s developments sustainable so that we do not close down choices for our children and grandchildren”

EMAS has an important role to play in delivering both the strategic objective and the key priority.

EMAS

To ensure that these standards are monitored, maintained and improved wherever possible, the Council has adopted the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or EMAS in short. This Europe Union scheme helps 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 four schools are included within one corporate EMAS system. Work continues to bring more schools into the corporate system.

Leicester City Council first became registered to EMAS in July 1999. This is our sixth Environmental Statement covering the period April 2002-March 2003. It has been checked by an independent verifier to ensure compliance with the EMAS scheme.

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.

Table 1 – Summary of progress towards EMAS targets 02/03

Target No.	Target	Progress against base year	Progress towards target	Commentary on key issues
1	COUNCIL USE OF ENERGY & FUEL			
1.1	Reduce the council's total building energy consumption (to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025)	8% reduction	✓	<p>Since 1997 funding for the capital works programme has stopped and subsequent work on schools was not included in this target.</p> <p>A programme of energy efficiency investment, financed through a Payback Fund loan scheme is now operational and is key to getting the energy target back on track. With this and other future actions there is confidence that the target will be met.</p>
1.2	Increase the council's use of renewable energy (from 0% in 1997 (Mar) to 20% of energy requirement in 2020)	4.5%	✓	<p>Substantial progress has been made through the purchasing of electricity from green energy suppliers. Renewable energy contracts supply 50% of the electricity used in larger buildings. However, the target will not be achieved purely by transferring to renewable energy contracts.</p>
1.3	Reduce the fuel used by staff vehicles at work (not commuting) (5% reduction of the fuel used in 2000/01 by 2005/06)	9.6% increase	✗	<p>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.</p> <p>Work on private car use has focused to date on harmonising a single mileage rate for car users and a report is now due to go to cabinet to recommend a single mileage rate. In addition the enforcement of existing conditions of service is being investigated to reduce mileage and the allocation of car parking spaces.</p> <p>More action is needed to achieve progress towards this target.</p>
2	LEICESTER'S USE OF ENERGY AND FUEL			
2.1	Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the city (Increase SAP rating of houses)	Target to be developed		<p>The Council already has an obligation to private housing through the Home Energy Conservation Act and a number of initiatives are in place. The first phase of the ESCO could connect 5000 homes to the district heating scheme benefiting from CHP.</p>
3	THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO AIR POLLUTION			
3.1	Reduce fleet vehicle emissions	Target to be developed		<p>All diesel vehicles within the council's fleet started to use a 5% blend of ULSD biodiesel from July 2002.</p> <p>Alternative fuel options for the council's fleet are still being discussed.</p>

4				Air Quality in Leicester
4.1	To achieve national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide within the city by 2005 (<i>short term exposure - the one hour mean should not exceed 200 µgm³ more than 18 times per year. Long term exposure - the annual mean should not exceed 40 µgm³</i>)	Unvalidated results for New Walk Centre - 0 exceedance of 1 hr mean. - Annual mean of 34 µgm ³ . Numerous short & long term exposure exceedances on roads with heavy traffic.	✘	There will be a failure to meet the national objectives within the city centre and along major road corridors by 31 st 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. The key action for reducing car journeys to the city centre is the proposed Leicester West Park and Ride Transport scheme. The Air Quality Action Plan will be completed in the summer of 2004.
4.2	To reduce car trips to the city centre (4% reduction of 2001 level in car trips to the city centre in the morning peak by 2006 and 8% by 2011)	3.2% increase	✘	The key action for reducing car journeys to the city centre is the proposed Leicester West Park and Ride Transport scheme.
4.3	Reduction in proportion of car journeys to school (25% reduction of 2001/2002 level by 2011)	4% decrease	?	This trend is not conclusive as the comparable sample only includes 21 schools across two data points. A School Travel Plan Officer has been appointed. In addition, the expansion of EMAS into schools could cover 50% of all city schools and this will identify transport as a key issue.
5				The council's waste
5.1	Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill (40% of City Council waste to be recycled by 2005)	Data not available		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.
6				WASTE FROM LEICESTER (INCLUDES HOUSEHOLD AND CONSTRUCTION WASTE)
6.1	Increase recycling of household waste (40% of household waste collected in 2005 to be recycled)	11.6%	✓	The new waste management facility at Bursom Business Park will become operational in July 2004 and the recycling target should be achieved shortly afterwards.
6.2	Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill	Target to be developed		Funding is sought from the LSEP for a study to recommend a construction and demolition waste management strategy for the City. A target would be developed as part of the study.

7	THE COUNCIL USE OF WATER			
7.1	Reduce potable water used in council buildings (5% reduction of 2000 levels by 2005) Include reporting of action on greywater	5% increase	X	A number of initiatives have been established in recent years that will put progress towards this target back on track. The council's Payback Fund scheme, an example of this being the 'Waterguard' programme for schools, will make a significant contribution.
8	COUNCIL USE OF PAPER			
8.1	Reduce consumption of paper (5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000, by 2003)	Data not available		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. Better compliance with the corporate paper policy is necessary.
8.2	Increase the use of recycled paper (98% of the paper purchased in 2003 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste)	Data not available		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. Better compliance with the corporate paper policy is necessary.
9	THE QUALITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND			
9.1	To ensure key aspects of the natural environment on council -owned land are sustainably managed (to develop management plans for parks, open spaces, the riverside and trees and woodland by 2005)	Data not available		Monitoring progress towards this target is difficult because the total number of sites has not been established, but work on management plans is on-going.
9.2	Ensure prime ecological sites are retained (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 schedules..)	Overall decline in quantity and quality	X	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.
9.3	Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality (completion of first monitoring programme by 2010)	Limited progress	X	There has been limited progress towards this target in the last two years due to a lack of officer in post. A recruitment process will commence in January 2004.
10	THE USE OF THE COUNCIL'S OWN LAND			

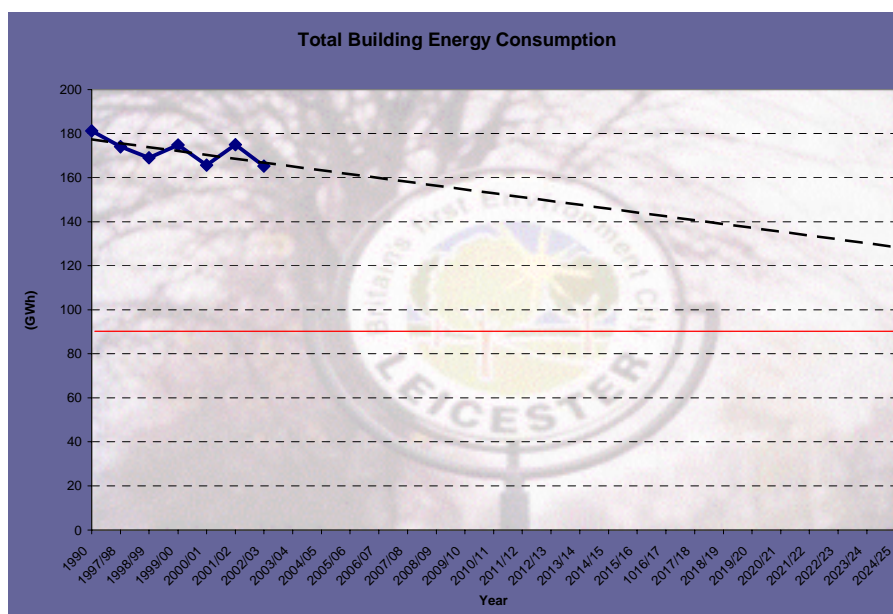
10.1	Ensure that the council continues to provide Leicester people with publicly accessible green space (<i>publicly accessible green space owned by the council covers at least as much land in 2020 as it did in 1994 = 863 hectares</i>)	Increase of 2.1 ha to 878 ha	✓	There has been an increase of 2.1 hectares to 878 hectares due to increases in public space at Martin Square and Groby Road.
11	QUALITY OF LEICESTER'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT			
11.1	To create a sustainable built environment within the city (Target to be developed based on the Leicester Better Buildings Guidance)	Target to be developed		The Leicester Better Buildings Guidance will be completed by the end of 03/04. An application has been made for funding to take it into an implementation phase. At this point a target will be developed.
12	STREET CLEANLINESS IN LEICESTER			
12.1	To improve the cleanliness of the city centre (Cleaning Index (PSA measure) in the city centre to be 75% or above by 2005)	75%	✓	This target has already been achieved. Three litter wardens were appointed in March 2003 so that paired patrols could take place Monday to Saturday. In August 2002 an additional 'Street King' mechanical sweeping vehicle and a street scrubbing machine commenced operations in the city centre. An 'anti-litter week' was held from April to May 2003 and this was used to launch the statutory fixed penalty ticket for dropping litter.
13	EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING IN LEICESTER			
13.1	To improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents (Target to be developed using People Panel to monitor)	Target to be developed		Awareness raising campaigns relating to climate change have 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. Education and awareness raising is a theme contained within the Leicester Environment Strategy.

1. COUNCIL USE OF ENERGY AND FUEL

1.1 Reduce the council's total building energy consumption (to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025)

It is estimated that the energy consumed in buildings accounts for about half of the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide (The Business Case for Sustainability in the UK Property Sector, Sustainable Construction Task Group report). The consumption of energy in buildings is used for space heating and cooling, lighting, electrical equipment such as computers and the operation of other appliances such as lifts and automatic doors.

Progress Towards Target



To achieve the target a year on year reduction of 1.4% of energy use is needed. The reduction achieved by 2002/03 is 8.8% of 1990 levels.

Since 1997 funding for the capital works programme has stopped and subsequent work on schools was not included in this target. However, a programme of energy efficiency investment, financed through a Payback Fund loan scheme is now operational and is key to keeping the energy target on track.

Case Study – Intelligent Metering

Leicester City Council's energy monitoring systems have traditionally been based around billing data provided by the utility companies. However, this type of system only shows changes in consumption two to three months (and sometimes more) after it occurs. Therefore the Energy Management Team within Leicester City Council have installed intelligent metering systems which allow for real time data capture.

The system uses low power radio to automatically transmit meter readings to a central receiver or 'data logger', avoiding the need for conventional hard wiring. The meter reading is then automatically downloaded to a computer at the energy efficiency centre where it can be analysed.

The Intelligent Metering system can highlight immediate problems, reveal leaks and wastage, and provide consumption profiles based on historical trends.

The intelligent metering system allowed a faulty automatic cistern valve at Leicester's New Walk Museum to be identified and fixed in just over two weeks, whereas with conventional billing it would possibly have taken up to a year to identify and rectify. This has resulted in both environmental (less water wastage) and cost savings (water leak equated to £2,263 per annum).

Future Actions

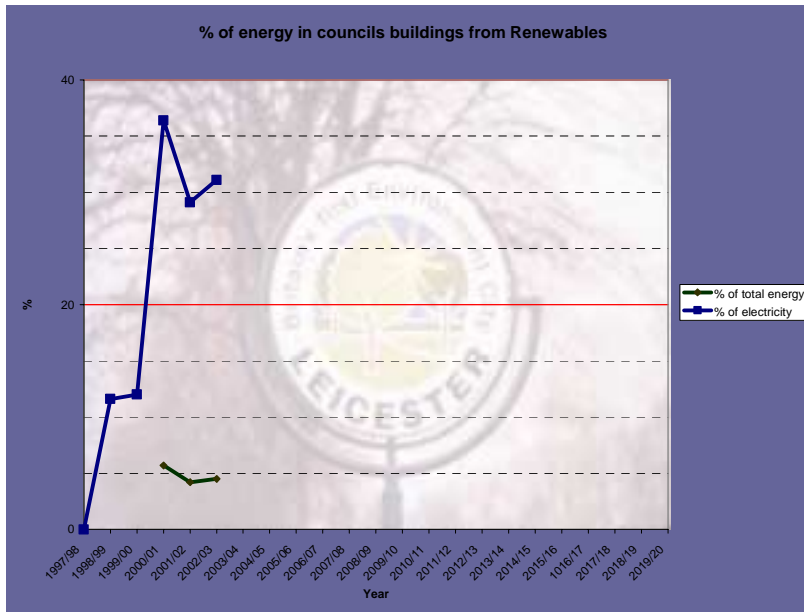
A key action is to establish an Energy Service Company (**ESCO**) to help deliver affordable heat and power across the city, based upon Combined Heat and Power (CHP). Phase One is due for completion by February 2006.

All council buildings are to be certified for the EU directive on energy performance by 2005.

1.2 Increase the Council's use of renewable energy from 0% of the requirement of all council buildings in 1997 to 20% of the energy requirement of all buildings in 2020

Renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, and wind power are preferable to non-renewable fossil fuels as they are non-polluting and help to reverse the trend of global warming through reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Progress Towards Target



In 2002/03, 31.1% of electricity used in council buildings came from renewable sources. The proportion of renewable energy as a percent of the **total** energy usage is much lower at 4.5% in 2002/03.

The figures underestimate the total amount of renewable energy available to council buildings as some practical schemes such as the installation of sun pipes and solar water panels are not included.

Progress has been made towards the council’s renewable energy target through the purchasing of electricity from green energy suppliers. These green energy contracts supply 50% of the electricity used in larger council buildings.

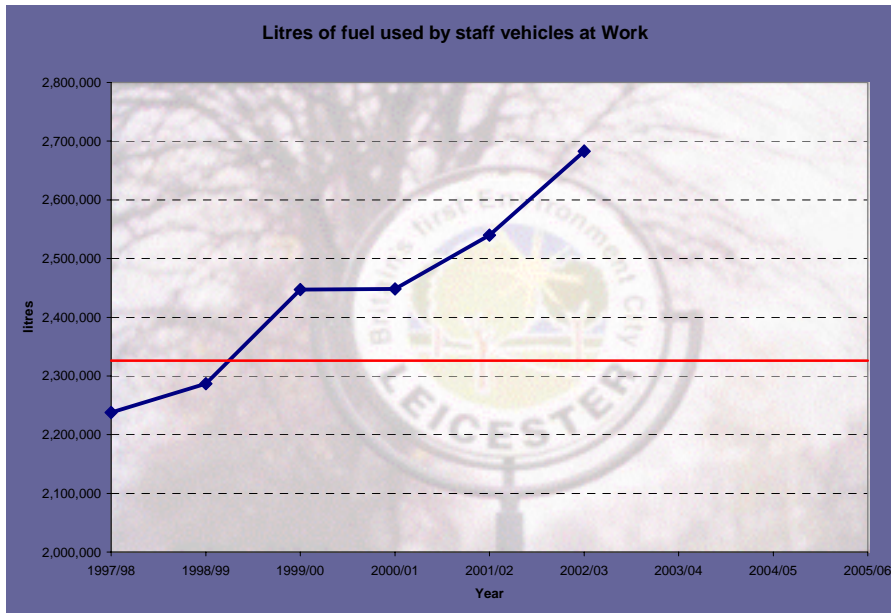
Future Actions

Increase the proportion of contracted electricity supplies from sources which are exempt from Climate Change Levy to 50% of the total requirement.

1.3 Reduce the fuel used by staff vehicles at work by 5% of the fuel used in 2000/01 by 2005/06

Fuel for transport uses considerable amounts of finite fossil fuels through the use of petrol and diesel, leading to increased production of carbon dioxide and the problems associated with global warming. Reducing the fuel used by staff at work also has a positive impact on local air quality and helps to save money.

Progress Towards Target



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, 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.

Efforts to reduce private car use for work purposes has focused on harmonising a single mileage rate for car users. Other measures include investigating the provision of car parking spaces and the enforcement of existing conditions of service.

Future Action

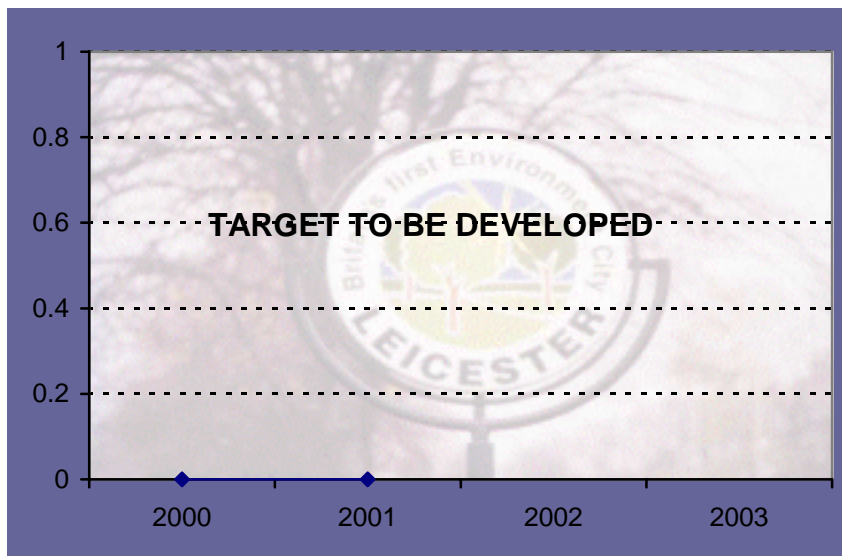
A council mobility management plan is currently being developed and a report outlining key opportunities will be presented within the council by for the summer of 2004.

2. LEICESTER'S USE OF ENERGY AND FUEL

2.1 Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the city (increase SAP rating of houses)

Increasing the energy efficiency of homes within the city helps to reduce the fuel bills of Leicester residents, improves health and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.

Progress Towards Target



This is a new objective and a target is yet to be developed. The target will be based around increasing the SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating of homes within the city. This is the government's recommended system of measuring the overall energy efficiency of homes.

The council already has an obligation to private housing through the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) and has improved its own stock of council housing through the installation of new double glazed windows and the fitting of efficient central heating boilers.

Warm, Safe and Sound

Health through Warmth aims to provide sustainable practical help to households at risk of ill health due to cold and damp living conditions. In order to achieve this front line health and social care providers have been trained to:

- Recognise the links between fuel poverty and ill health
- Identify clients at risk from cold and damp homes
- Complete a client referral form

The Home Energy Office then matches referrals with appropriate local schemes and/or national sources of funding for energy efficiency/affordable warmth measures. Approximately 1,000 staff from health, social care and voluntary sector organisations

will be trained in order to generate sufficient referrals to carry out measures for 750 vulnerable households by March 2004.

Other Key Benefits:

- Improved health and well-being (reduced risk of ill health as a result of inadequate heating, condensation and mould growth).
- Will allow residents to remain in their homes longer and promote independent living.
- Economic savings as a result of energy efficiency
- Will contribute towards achievement of “a decent home” for every citizen of Leicester.
- Installation of energy efficiency measures will help to reduce consumption of non-renewable sources of energy, reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions and promote best practice.

Future Action

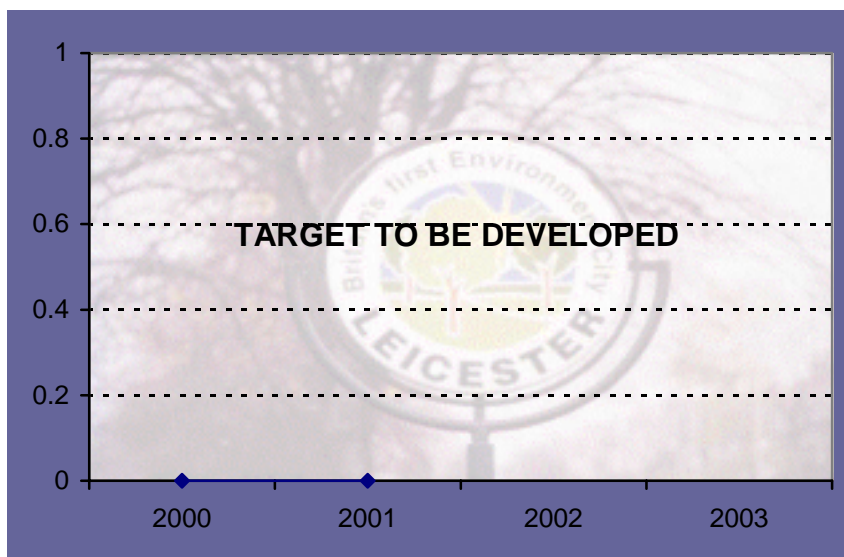
A number of initiatives to help reduce energy consumption within homes have been developed including the Health Through Warmth scheme, the Humberstone Energy Conservation scheme (through SRB funding), grants for recipients of benefits, and energy efficiency grants for private houses funded through the housing investment programme.

3. THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO AIR POLLUTION

3.1 Reduce vehicle fleet emissions

Local air quality is significantly influenced by emissions from vehicles. As Leicester City Council has a fleet of over 800 vehicles helping to make sure they emit less pollutants will have a beneficial effect on the health of Leicester residents.

Progress Towards Target



The council's previous targets on reducing vehicle fleet emissions have now been achieved through the use of Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel fuel for diesel vehicles and so therefore a new target is being developed.

There are 27 LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) vehicles operating within the fleet which emit very low levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates, key urban pollutants. The authority also operates two electric pool vehicles which, when recharged using renewable sources of electricity, result in zero emissions.

All diesel vehicles within the council's fleet now use a 5% biodiesel blend of Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel which emit less carbon dioxide and up to 28% less particulate pollution compared to conventional ULSD (source: Greenergy).

Future Action

The possibility of using higher grades of biodiesel is currently being investigated, as is the use of fitting regenerating particulate traps to diesel engines through Energy Saving Trust funding.

4. AIR QUALITY IN LEICESTER

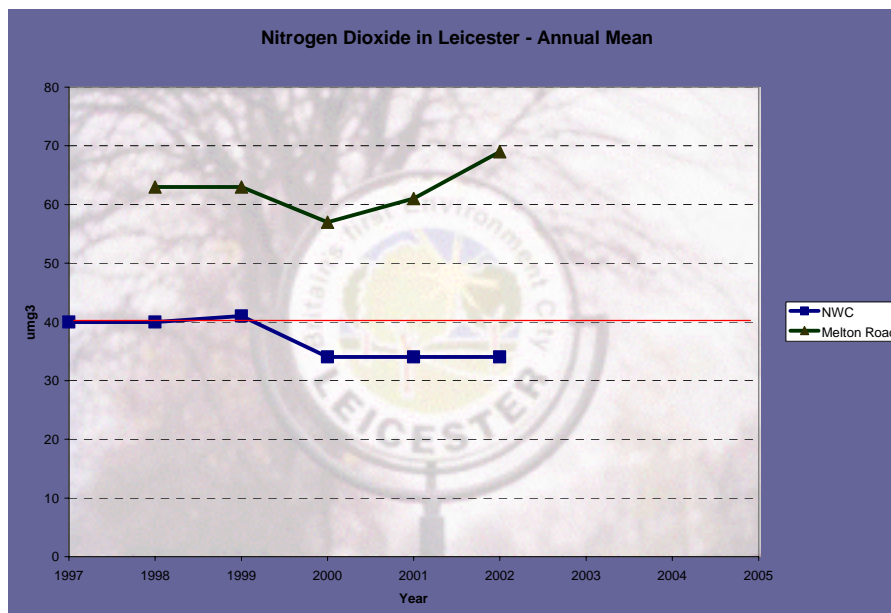
4.1 Improve air quality within the city by achieving national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide by the end of 2005

Poor local air quality has implications for the health of people living and working within the city and medical studies have linked poor air quality to increases in respiratory illnesses, particularly in children. Emissions to the air can also acidify rain and cause damage to buildings, woodland, and wildlife.

Leicester City Council monitors air quality in the city and has legal responsibilities to enforce the control of air pollution from local industry. Leicester City Council is also obliged to meet national air quality objectives by 2005.

The recent air quality assessment of Leicester identified the pollutant nitrogen dioxide as being of concern to local health. There are two governmental national air quality objectives relating to nitrogen dioxide. The first relates to short term exposure where the one hour mean should not exceed $200 \mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$ more than 18 times per year. The second objective relates to long term exposure, where the annual mean should not exceed $40 \mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$. These two objectives need to be met by 31st December 2005.

Progress Towards Target



Unvalidated data for the 2002 calendar year indicates no exceedances of the one hour mean and an annual mean of $34 \mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$ at the New Walk Centre (NWC) monitoring station. However, the NWC station only measures a background reading. Of the seven roadside monitoring stations, four recorded an annual mean above $40 \mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$. The monitoring station on Melton Road recorded an annual mean of $69 \mu\text{g}\text{m}^3$. It is probable therefore that there will be a failure to meet the national objectives within the city centre and along major road corridors by 31st December

2005. Most large urban areas within the UK will also be likely to fail the objectives due to a national policy gap and a lack of radical action locally.

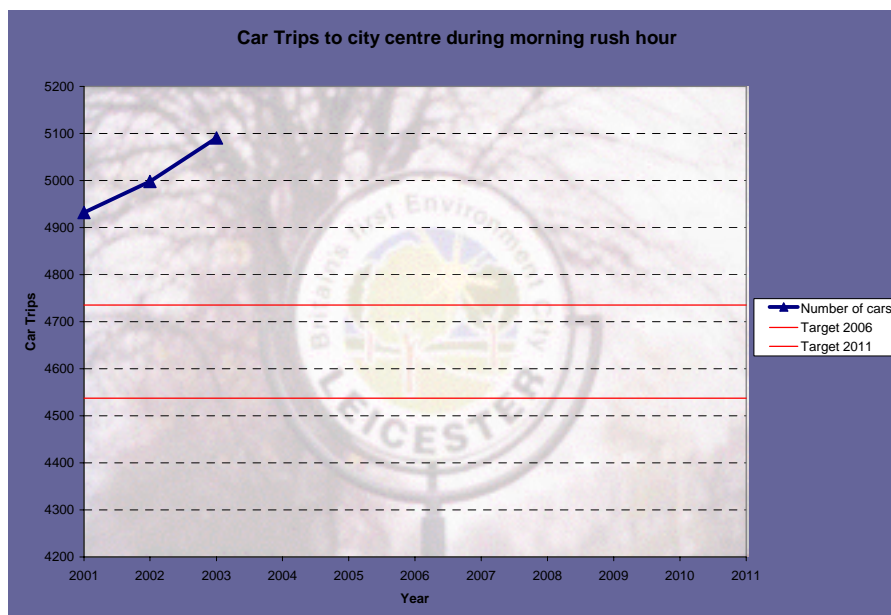
Future Actions

The completion of the air quality assessment for Leicester will help to provide a basis for an Air Quality Action Plan which will be completed in 2004.

4.2 Reduce Car Trips to the City Centre – 4% reduction of the 2001 level in car trips to the city centre in the morning peak by 2006 and 8% by 2011

Congestion causes air and noise pollution, increases costs to businesses, increases the risk of traffic accidents and casualties, and has a negative impact upon health. Car passengers in slow-moving traffic face pollution levels two to three times higher than those experienced by pedestrians (ETA, 1997). Reducing the number of people commuting into the city centre by car through the increased use of public and alternative forms of transport will help to reduce the amount of congestion within the city.

Progress Towards Target



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.

Future Action

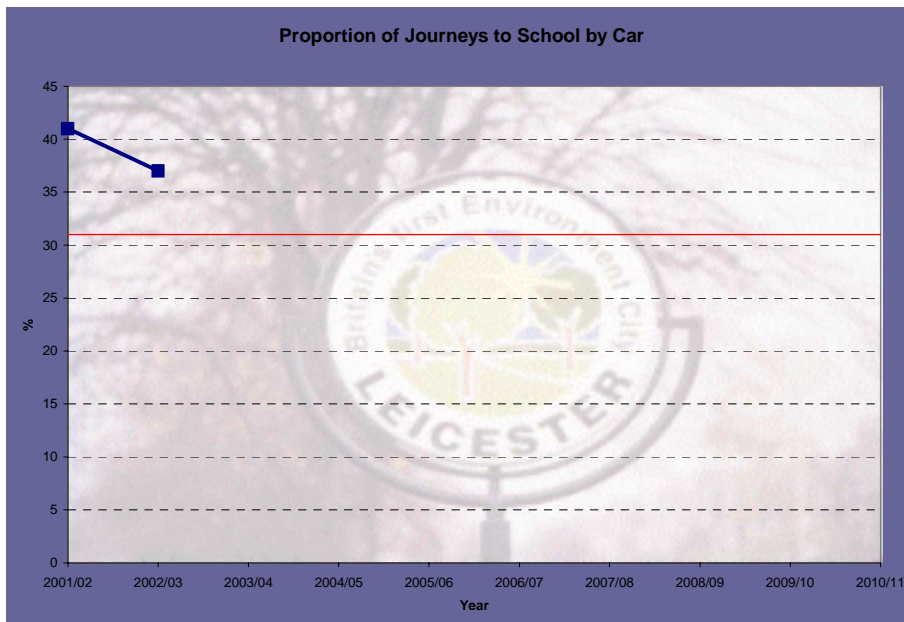
The key action for reducing car journeys to the city centre is the proposed Leicester West Park and Ride transport scheme. Investigations are currently under way to find

the most suitable location to enable commuters to park their cars and travel by bus into the city centre.

4.3 Reduction in proportion of car journeys to school (25% reduction of 2001/2002 level by 2011/12)

The Department for Transport estimates that the 'school run' accounts for around 17% of vehicle traffic during the morning rush hour. The British Medical Association also estimates that around a million children in the UK are clinically obese. Furthermore, twice as many children are driven to school now in comparison with 20 years ago – around 40% of primary pupils and 20% of secondary pupils. Most of these journeys are less than 2 miles (Transport Trends, 2003). Reducing the proportion of car journeys to school will help to reduce congestion, increase the health of children, and improve local air quality.

Progress Towards Target



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

A Schools Travel Plan Officer has been appointed within Leicester City Council to help individual schools develop their own Travel Plans which encourage alternative forms of transport. In addition, the expansion of EMAS into schools within the city means that schools are now taking a more active interest into how they impact upon the environment.

Whitehall Primary School

Whitehall Primary School was the first school within the City to be registered with EMAS. The school has developed an Action Plan, led by 'ECO Warriors', a group of pupils, to tackle the schools environmental impacts. Staff, Governors, parents and pupils have all been contributing to improving the environmental performance of the school.

The school is keen to reduce air pollution and congestion by encouraging more pupils to walk or cycle to school. Actions undertaken include the development of a 'Walking Bus' scheme, the promotion of 'walk-to-school' weeks and the implementation of Cycling Proficiency courses for pupils in Year Five. The school recognises that these actions also help to promote a healthier lifestyle. Other actions undertaken include recycling activities, litter picking and looking after and improving the wildlife in their school grounds.

Future Actions

Forty new School Travel Plans will be developed during 2004/05 as well as a programme of child pedestrian and cycling skills training.

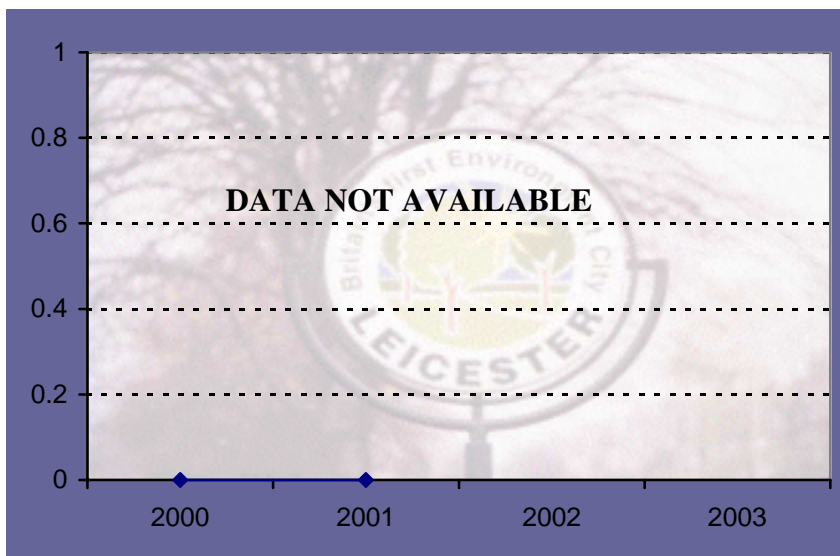
5. The Council's Waste

5.1 Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill (40% of City Council waste to be recycled by 2005)

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. Problems include increased risk of pollution, health hazards, impacts upon biodiversity, loss of amenity, and wastes reuseable materials and products.

Waste that is not recycled is currently sent to landfill sites outside Leicester.

Progress Towards Target



Quantitative data on recycling of the city council's waste is not currently available. The corporate waste contract is now operational but the recycling dimension is still being developed.

Future Action

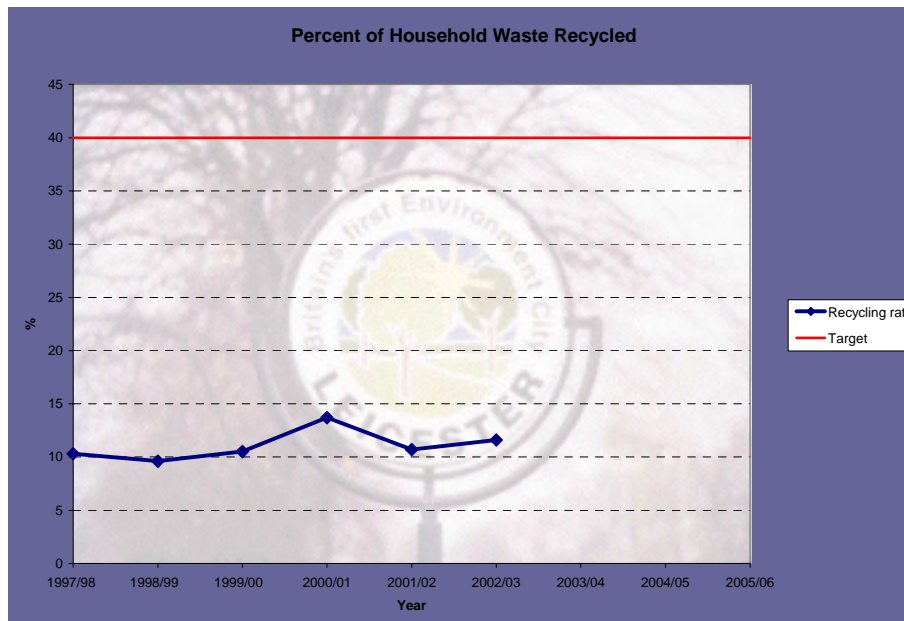
Existing contracts with waste management companies are being cancelled and all city council buildings shall be using the corporate contract by August 2004. Trials of a recycling scheme involving the separation of paper will start early in 2004 with the residual waste going to the waste management facility 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.

6. Waste from Leicester (including household, construction and other trade waste)

6.1 Increase recycling of household waste (40% of household waste collected in 2005 to be recycled)

The government's waste strategy has set a target for 25% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005. As Britain's first Environment City, Leicester City Council is keen to achieve targets which go beyond government minimum standards.

Progress Towards Target



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

The apparent fall in the recycling rate during 2001/02 is because the figure no longer included separated inert waste and scrap and abandoned vehicles.

In 2002/03 the recycling rate increased to 11.6% from 10.7% in 2001/02.

Future Action

Integrated Waste Management Contract

A significant increase in recycling will occur during 2004 as a new integrated waste management facility becomes operational. The facility is an innovative public-private partnership project involving Leicester City Council and Biffa Waste, who have been awarded a 25 year contract for the collection, treatment and disposal of household waste.

There are targets to recycle and compost a minimum of 40% of household waste by the year 2005/6 (thus meeting the EMAS target and exceeding the government's 27% statutory target). Assessments of the contract with Biffa will be held every three months to ensure the 40% target is maintained as a minimum.

Two new sites will be developed: A materials recovery facility at Bursom Industrial Estate and a facility for dealing with compostable material at Wanlip Sewage Works. The technology used will be the most up to date available from Europe and North America.

Other key benefits:

- The project will make it cheaper to recycle and compost rather than landfill.
- Will generate local employment opportunities
- Will reduce primary resource use.
- Will reduce the use of fossil fuel through the generation and combustion of methane at the Wanlip site.

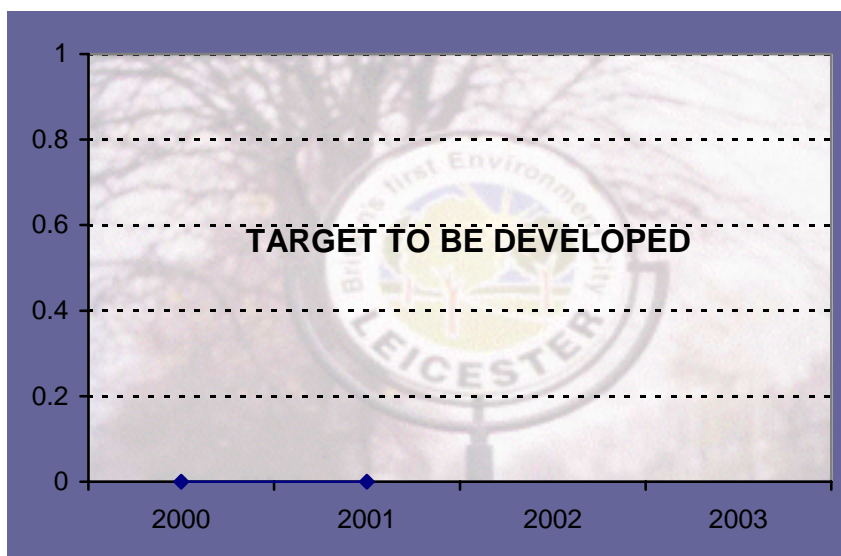
6.2 Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill

Demolition and construction waste is one of the largest sources of waste within the UK, accounting for about 17% of all waste produced (source: DEFRA).

Construction waste refers to any waste arising from the construction, repair, maintenance and demolition of buildings and structures.

Plans to rejuvenate Leicester's city centre, as unveiled in the Leicester Regeneration Company's ten year Masterplan, could result in a large increase in construction work in the city. A strategy to deal with a potential increase in construction waste would help to reduce the amount being sent to landfill.

Progress Towards Target



A target for reducing the amount of construction waste going to landfill has still to be developed.

Future Action

Funding is currently being sought from the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership for a study to recommend a construction and demolition waste management strategy for the city. The study would commence in 2004 and a target would be developed as part of the study.

7. The Council's Use of Water

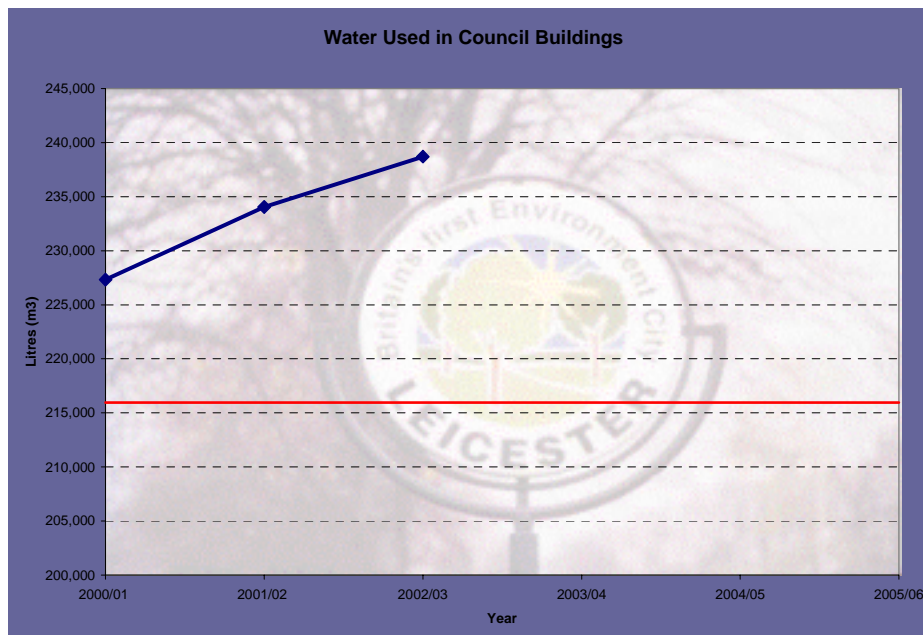
7.1 Reduce potable water use in council buildings (5% reduction of 2000/01 levels by 2005/06)

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.

Progress Towards Target



To achieve the target an annual 1% decrease is needed. However, over the last two years water usage has increased, representing a move away from the target. In 2000/01 227,323 cubic metres of water was used by the authority and by 2002/03 this increased to 238,701 cubic metres. One factor contributing to this is an increase in building occupancy.

A number of initiatives have now been established that will enable progress towards this target. Intelligent metering is now installed in 60 council buildings providing water management officers with accurate and up to date information about water consumption and this should help to identify individual areas that require attention.

Water reduction projects are also eligible for funding under the council's Payback Fund scheme.

Future Action

The reclamation of water used during filtering at swimming pools is currently being investigated.

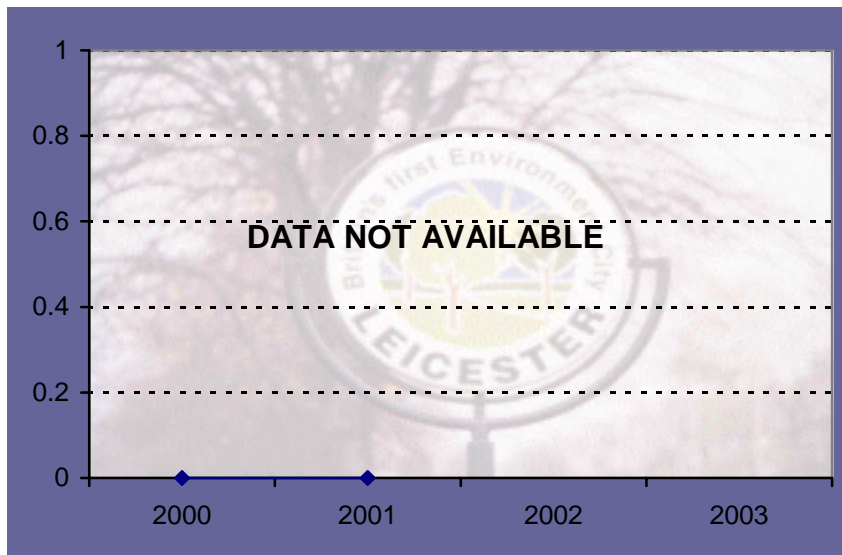
8 The Council's Use of Paper

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

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.

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.

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, the council's internal reprographics service. However this will not include out-sourced documents and paper, and will therefore only cover a proportion of all paper use within the authority.

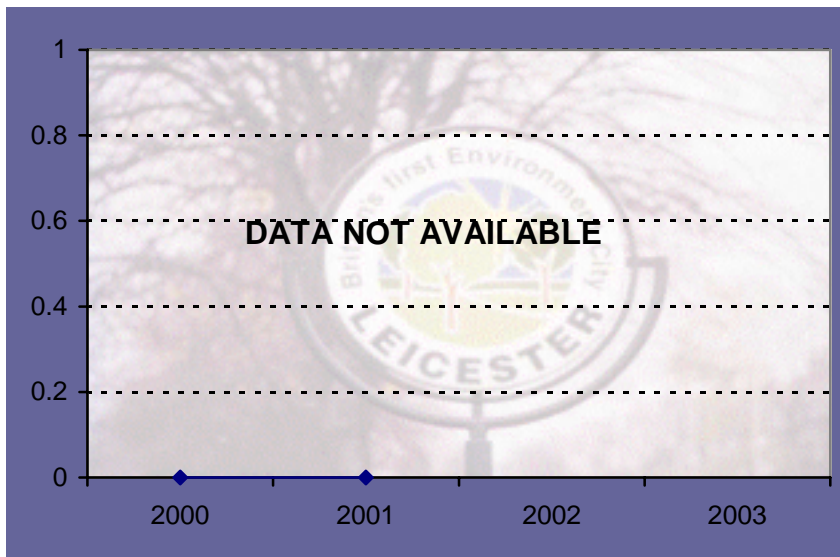
Future Action

The Environment Team will work with individuals likely to be using large quantities of out-sourced printed materials during 2004/05.

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

Making paper from recycled pulp uses less energy and requires less bleaching and chemical use than paper produced from virgin pulp. Recycling paper also diverts waste from landfill.

Progress Towards Target



As with the council's paper consumption target (target 8.1) there have been difficulties in monitoring the amount of recycled paper used within the authority. Data will be available from 2004 onwards, although data collection regarding out-sourced paper is an on-going issue.

Future Actions

The Environment Team will work with individuals likely to be using large quantities of out-sourced printed materials during 2004/05.

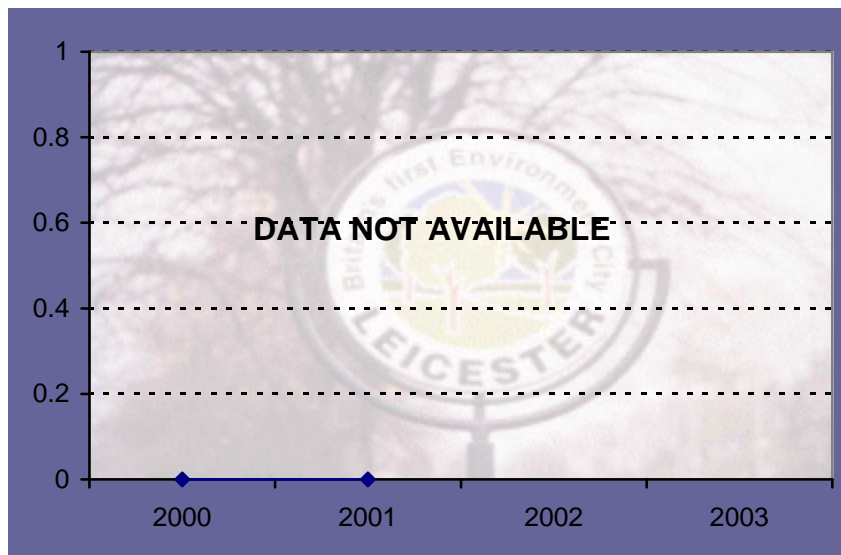
9 The Quality of the Environment on Council Owned Land

9.1 To ensure key aspects of the natural environment on council-owned land are sustainably managed (to develop management plans for parks, open spaces, the riverside and trees and woodland by 2005)

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 the natural environment

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

Progress Towards Target



Monitoring progress towards this target is difficult because the total number of sites has not yet been fully established, but work on management plans is ongoing.

Parks and Open Spaces

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

The Riverside

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.

Trees and Woodland

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.

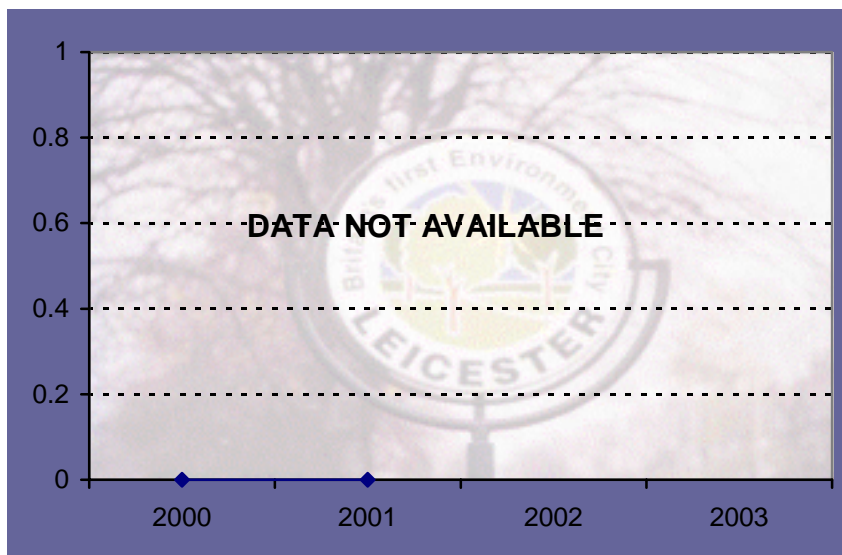
Future Actions

Further plans will be developed, including a management plan for Aylestone Meadows Local Nature Reserve. There will be a continuation of the implementation, monitoring, and review of completed plans and a wider implementation programme of new plans through the revenue and capital programme.

9.2 Ensure prime ecological sites are retained (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 schedules).

SINCS represent the city's very best wildlife and geological sites.

Progress Towards Target



There is a lack of baseline data regarding the overall amount of council owned land containing areas of the highest ecological value. However, 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.

Future Action

The resource allocation for the management of SINCS will be considered during the review of funding for the management of parks and open spaces which will be completed during 2004.

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

Progress Towards Target

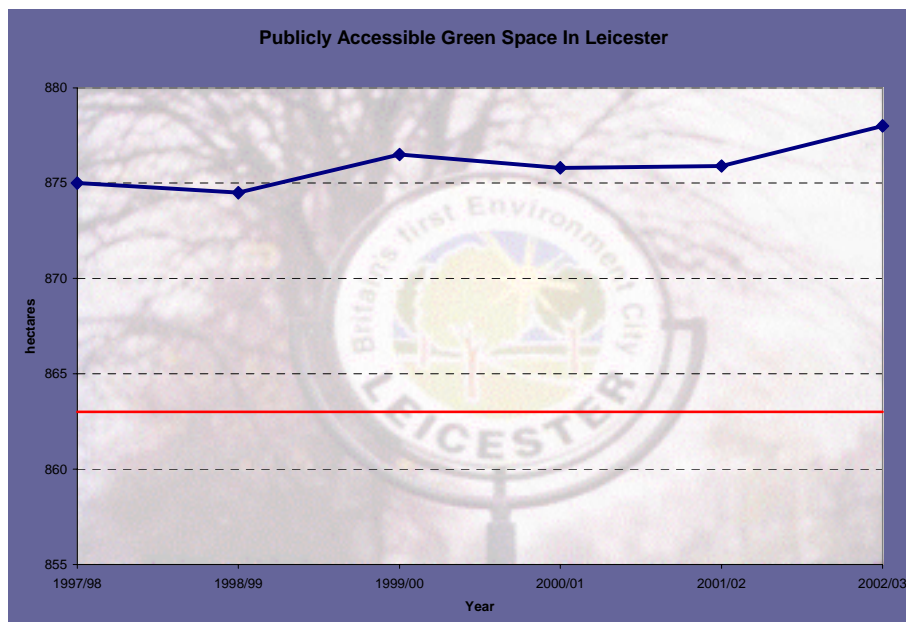
There has been a lack of progress towards developing measurable indicators of ecological quality due to a lack of officer in post. A recruitment process commencing in 2004 will help to develop this target.

10 The Use of the Council's Own Land

10.1 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 in 2020 as it did in 1994 = 863 hectares*)

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

Progress Towards Target



There was an increase of 2.1 hectares of publicly accessible green space from 875.9 hectares in 2001/02 to 878 hectares in 2002/03. This target is currently being exceeded.

Future Action

Five new possible areas for the creation of publicly accessible open space were identified in 2002/03 (the Orchards, Harrison Road, Stokeswood Park, Fosse Lane, and Queens Park Way) and an additional area may be agreed in the near future (Grobby Road).

11 The Quality of Leicester's Built Environment

11.1 To create a sustainable built environment within the city – Target to be developed

Buildings have a large impact upon the environment, the economy and also the communities in which they are located. Ensuring that buildings are sustainable will have a beneficial effect both now and for generations to come. Current and future government legislation is placing an increasing emphasis on quality design and construction and Leicester City Council is keen to ensure that buildings within the city lead the way in sustainability.

The Leicester Regeneration Company's ten year Masterplan for the regeneration of the city centre places a high priority on the construction of quality buildings. Leicester is also committed to a new school building programme to update old buildings with sustainable, environmentally friendly learning environments.

Progress Towards Target



A target for this objective is still being developed. Leicester is currently in the final stages of developing its own sustainable buildings design guide, under the working title of 'Leicester Better Buildings'.

Future Action

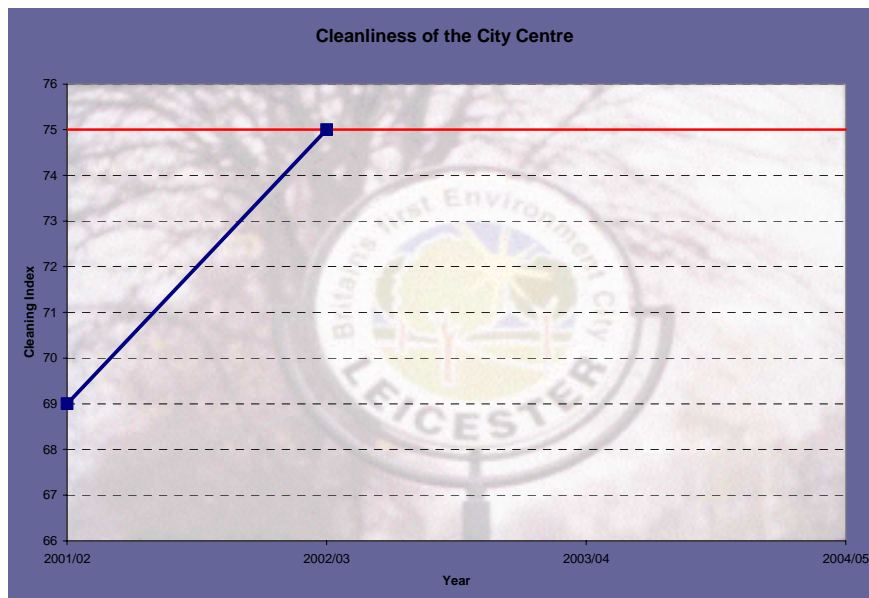
An application for further funding has been made to take the project forward into the implementation stage.

12 Street Cleanliness in Leicester

12.1 To improve the cleanliness of the city centre (Cleansing Index – PSA measure – in the city centre to be 75% or above by 2005)

Leicester has committed itself to improving the cleanliness of the city centre through a Public Service Agreement, which involves Leicester City Council setting itself a tough target for improvement in agreement with the government. The focus of this target is on reducing litter and graffiti within the city centre.

Progress Towards Target



In 2001/02 the Cleaning Index for the city centre was 69%, and in 2002/03 it had reached 75% which is in line with the target and an improvement on the previous year.

Three litter wardens were appointed in March 2003 so that paired patrols could take place Monday to Saturday. In August 2002 an additional mechanical sweeping vehicle and a street scrubbing machine commenced operations in the city centre. An 'anti-litter week' was held from April to May 2003 and this was used to launch the statutory fixed penalty for dropping litter.

The Fixed Penalty

Future Action

There are plans to appoint two area service managers for the city centre to co-ordinate work on street cleaning, graffiti removal, fly poster removal and waste

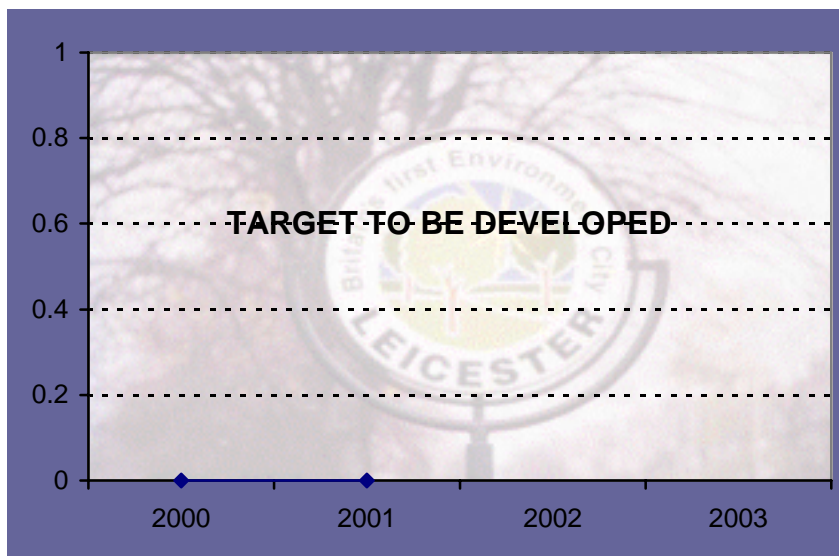
management. This is part of a larger plan to appoint area service managers for all 10 areas of the city.

13 Education and Awareness Raising in Leicester

13.1 To improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents (Target to be developed involving Peoples Panel)

Ensuring people are aware of the key environmental issues on a local, national, and global scale is key to adapting our lifestyles to live in a way which is less harmful to the environment.

Progress Towards Target



A target based on this objective will be developed during 04/05.

Awareness raising campaigns relating to climate change (Keep Leicester Cool) have 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.

Future Action

The Keep Leicester Cool campaign will continue. In addition, more schools will be supported with the introduction of EMAS raising the number from 4 to approximately 30 by the end of 04/05.

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 6 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 system.

As part of the review of the EMAS system that took place during 02/03 the list of significant environmental effects was revisited and the register updated. Some new effects were added relating to city-wide environmental issues.

A complete list of all environmental effects identified by the council is presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 2 – List of Environmental Effects which Don't Currently have Environmental Improvement Targets

Significant Effect with no Associated Improvement Target
The Council's use of timber
The Council's use of peat
Land Use in Leicester
The Council's special waste
Land contamination on the Council's own land
Land contamination in Leicester
Noise from the Council's own activities
Noise in Leicester
The Council's emissions to water
Leicester's emissions to water
Dust and odour from the Council's own activities
Dust and odour in Leicester
The quality of Leicester's natural environment
The quality of the built environment on Council-owned land

Compliance with legislation and City Council policies

Many of the significant effects relate to the large amount of legislation that we have duties to enforce, for example, we must control pollution in the City and assess planning applications. We must also act within the law. 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

During March 2003 we adopted 13 objectives and set 21 targets for improvement following a comprehensive review of the EMAS system (Table 1). These replaced the original objectives and targets set in 1997. The progress we have achieved against these new targets is declared later in the statement.

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 council has a staff appraisal scheme through which progress and training and development needs are identified. This can help to identify environmental training needs

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 and consented trade effluent discharges to sewers.

During 2003 extensive training was given to all staff during the launch of the new environmental improvement targets.

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.

Internal Audit

An internal audit team carries 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.

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.

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 consultations such as the Community Plan public consultation

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
- Telephone the General Enquiries Service Line on (0116) 252 7000
- 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 or the City Council website at 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

16 New Walk
Leicester, LE1 6UV
Tel: 0116 252 7258
Fax: 0116 255 6385
E-mail: emas@leicester.gov.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: _____

The next statement will be submitted to the UK competent body during 2005. It will cover the period April 2003 to March 2004.