



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: All

Cabinet

24 April 2006

**ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SCHEME (EMAS)
Progress for 2004/05, Proposed Action for 2006/07**

Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Cultural Services

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This annual report provides Cabinet with information on the Council's progress towards the corporate environmental improvement targets. The targets form part of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), the corporate environmental management system. Reporting progress to Cabinet is a requirement of EMAS registration. The information is important for driving improvements in the Council's environmental performance. The report also presents the draft text of the eighth EMAS public statement covering the financial year 2004/05, and the proposed actions to be included in the 2006/07 action programme.

2 Summary

2.1 EMAS is being used to manage and improve the environmental performance of the Council. Maintaining EMAS registration and meeting EMAS improvement targets is measure B2 of the corporate plan. It also contributes to delivering the aims of the Leicester Environment Partnership (as set out in the recent Leicester Environment Strategy) and the Leicester Partnership, and sets a good example to our partner organisations in the City.

2.2 Leicester City Council pioneered the adoption of EMAS by local authorities and was the largest local authority in Europe to register when it did so in 1999. Leicester is still considered at the forefront of European municipalities and this is proving influential in attracting EU funding. For example, the Council is currently receiving £157,000 for leading the LIFE-funded European Eco-procurement project and EMAS was the key reason for our selection as lead authority.

2.3 The European Commission's recent communication "Towards a thematic Strategy for the Urban Environment" makes it a requirement for all municipalities in Europe, over 100,000 inhabitants, to adopt an environmental management plan and recommends the use of an EMS

such as Leicester's for implementation. Leicester is quoted in the Communication as an example of best practice for others to follow.

- 2.4 EMAS drives improvements in environmental performance, reduces the risk of breaching environmental legislation and demonstrates a level of performance management that has been viewed favourably in several inspections and awards (e.g., Comprehensive Performance Assessment, Beacon Status for a Quality Environment). Achieving some of the targets should produce financial benefits. For example, if the Council meets the EMAS target to reduce fuel consumption by 5% of 2000/01 level by 2005/6, this would save the authority £86,900 p.a. A further £29,582 would be saved by achieving the EMAS water reduction target.
- 2.5 EMAS has 12 environmental improvement objectives with associated targets and monitoring systems. Targets and/or monitoring systems are currently being developed for 9 others.
- 2.6 The Council is able to demonstrate that 4 targets are successfully on track to be met. In addition 5 other targets have progressed positively during the year, (but without being able to conclude that the target is on track). Progress towards 1 target is neutral or inconclusive. There are 2 targets showing a negative trend, which are described in more detail in the supporting information (paragraphs 4 and 5). A detailed review of our overall progress towards all the objectives and any changes since last year is given in appendix 1. A summary of progress is given in table 1 below.

Table1 Summary of progress towards corporate environmental improvement objectives

Target No.	Environmental Improvement Objective (with associated target in brackets)	Change Since Last Year	Overall Progress Towards Target	Additional Explanation
12.1	To improve the cleanliness of the city centre (Cleansing Index – PSA measure – in the city centre to be 75% or above by 2004/05)	+ve	Achieved, further target proposed	This target was achieved two years ahead of schedule and in 2003/4 exceeded it by 10.6%. The index remained high during 2004/5. A new target is proposed to reflect BVPI199, which sets a target that no more than 25% of street should fail a street cleanliness inspection. Our EMAS target will be set at no more than 15% of streets to fail, by 2007/8 when it will reviewed again.
7.1	Reduce potable water used in council buildings (5% reduction of 2000 levels by 2005/06)	+ve	On track	During 04/05 water used in Council buildings fell by 1% again, indicating that the target will be met. Despite the increase in water demand from Braunstone Leisure Centre, the

				intelligent metering system identified significant efficiency savings across council buildings.
9.1	Ensure key aspects of natural environment on council-owned land are sustainably managed (<i>develop management plans for parks, open spaces, riverside trees and woodland by 2005/6</i>)	+ve	On track	Progress has been made on management plans during the year which would indicate that the target of 100% completion by 2006 is achievable.
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 2020/21 as it did in 1994 = 863 hectares</i>)	+ve	On track	0.3 hectares of publicly accessible green space were acquired by the Council during 2004/05 (at St David's Road Kirby Frith and the Riverside Walk at Aylestone), taking the total to 903.4 ha.
1.3	Reduce the fuel used by staff vehicles at work (not commuting) (<i>5% reduction of fuel used in 2000/01 by 2005/06</i>)	+ve	Not conclusive (Proposed amended wording)	It is proposed to improve this target and to report in future on a) liters of fuel used by the fleet and b) miles claimed by staff. Using this wording, over the past 3 years each of these targets has shown an apparent improvement – 8% for fleet and 14.6% for staff mileage. More detailed investigation of these figures is now required.
4.2	Reduce morning rush hour car trips to the city centre (<i>return to 2000/01 levels by 2006/07 and a 1% decrease by 2010/11</i>)	+ve	Not conclusive	During 04/05 monitoring was carried out in abnormal weather conditions. However, proxy indicators suggest a slight decrease again this year.
4.3	Reduce car travel at schools with travel plans (<i>25% reduction in car travel by 2011</i>)	+ve	Not conclusive	Changes were made to the wording of the target last year reflecting improvements in data collection. This means only two year's of data has been collected. Since last year, car travel has reduced by 5.6% indicating good progress towards the new target, but too soon to declare a trend.
6.1	Increase recycling of household waste (<i>40% of household waste collected in 2005/06 to be recycled</i>) <i>Proposed amended wording: (40% of household waste collected in 2005/06 to be recycled or composted)</i>	+ve	Not conclusive (Proposed amended wording)	The wording of the target is recommended for amendment to reflect the government's requirement to report on recycling and composting. In 2004/5 the recycling rate was 13.59%. Repairs to the Bursom mill took longer than expected and the processing capacity was only around 50% throughout the year. For the couple of months data during which the ball mill was fully operational, data does indicate that we can get this target back on track.

9.2	Ensure prime ecological sites are retained (<i>The area of land covered by council-owned Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation to be maintained at 1999 levels and managed according to their schedules</i>).	+ve	Not conclusive	It is known that several SINCS have improved in quality. However, the required condition surveys were not carried out due to staff shortages and so the target has not been able to be measured.
4.1	Improve air quality within the city (<i>To achieve national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide by 2005</i>)	neutral	Not conclusive	It is not possible to establish a clear trend from the data collected from the 9 air quality monitoring stations so we aren't able to conclude whether this target has been met. It is proposed to roll forward this target to 2010. Road traffic is one of the major contributors to poor air quality in Leicester.
1.1	Reduce the council's total building energy consumption (<i>to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26</i>)	-ve	Not conclusive	Energy consumption in council buildings in 2004/05 was 11.7% higher than in the previous year, which represents an increase of 1.2% from the base year 1990. Some of this increase is attributable to the inclusion of new buildings such as Braunstone Leisure Centre and the Depot on Rutland Street, which highlights the need for a more rigorous council process for delivering low carbon buildings in future. In addition the CHP boiler at St Matthews was out of action for much of the year. However, further investigation is needed to explain this increase in full. We will look for comparator data from other local authorities to look at how our energy use compares to other similar authorities.
1.2	Increase the council's use of renewable energy (<i>from 0% in 1997 (Mar) to 20% of energy requirement in 2020/21</i>)	-ve	Not on track	In 04/05 22.8% of electricity used in council buildings was renewable – this has not changed over the year, and as a proportion of total energy, it has fallen due to the overall increase in energy consumption.

2.7 Regarding the council's use of energy, it is recommended that further work be undertaken to explore the apparent increase in consumption. In addition, Members are asked to consider the adoption of a more rigorous standard of low energy consumption in new council buildings and to receive a further paper on the subject.

2.8 Progress with the areas of concern raised in last year's cabinet report, is given in section 6 of the supporting information. Generally there is

positive progress to report except the review of EMAS targets has been frozen until the new Local Area Agreement is finalized. Further work needs to be carried out to investigate the apparent trends reported for the transport targets.

- 2.9 Some minor amendments are proposed to the EMAS targets for 2005/6. These are presented in appendix 4.
- 2.10 The monitoring exercise has informed the eighth annual EMAS public statement (appendix 2). The statement is a requirement of the EMAS regulation.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet members are recommended to:

1. Note progress towards the EMAS targets during 2004/05 (see sections 2, - 5 in the main report and appendix 1)
2. Agree the minor amendments proposed to the EMAS targets for 2004/05 (see appendix 4)
3. Agree the implementation of the proposed 2006/07 action programme (see appendix 3)
4. Agree the draft text for the 8th EMAS Public Statement (see section 8 in the main report and appendix 2)
5. Consider the adoption of a more rigorous standard of low energy consumption in new council buildings and receive a further paper on the subject.

4. Financial & Legal Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

- 4.1.1 EMAS is managed by the staff in the Environment Team and is financed through the Team's budget. The team budget for 2005/6 is £216.1k. This covers the verification costs and all associated printing of documents required for the process, including publication of the annual public statement. Members of the Sustainable City Officers Group (SCOG) and several other individual officers from across the authority are involved in the implementation of EMAS. The implementation of the proposed 2006/07 action programme will be met from resources that are already committed (e.g., through the Local Transport Plan).

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4.2 Legal Implications

- 4.2.1 The corporate environmental policy commits the organisation to "fulfil our statutory environmental responsibilities". A prosecution for breaching the relevant legislation would result in automatic removal from the EMAS register. The Council does take effective measures to

ensure that its contractors comply with the EMAS obligations by ensuring it is an evaluation criteria in the procurement process and including clauses requiring compliance within all standard and bespoke contract terms.

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)