

## **Appendix Two**

### **Leicester City Council's Environmental Statement April 2004 - March 2005**

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

##### **Statement from Chief Executive and Leader of the Council [needs endorsement from CX and Leader]**

Leicester City Council is committed to protecting and improving the local environment and playing its part in seeking solutions to global problems.

EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) encourages Leicester City Council to put environmental considerations at the heart of its policy making and service provision and set targets for continuous improvement in its environmental performance. EMAS also enables the Council to promote environmental awareness and set an example of good environmental practice.

Leicester City Council is registered for EMAS and this environmental statement is produced so that the people of Leicester can judge the environmental performance of their council.

This environmental statement explains the structure of our environmental management system, the targets we have set for improved environmental performance and the progress made towards those targets.

Leicester City Council has been registered to EMAS since 1999, and this is the 8<sup>th</sup> environmental statement that covers the period April 2004 – March 2005. EMAS is an exacting European regulation awarded to only one other major city council in England for all of its service areas. To retain this registration we all need to pull together to improve our environment and make it more sustainable.

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

## **The City of Leicester and Leicester City Council Background Information**

The City of Leicester covers an area of over 7,300 hectares and has a population of around 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. Cabinet portfolios are scrutinised by the following Scrutiny Committees:

- Education and Lifelong Learning,
- Health & Social Care,
- Leisure & Environment,
- Housing,
- Resources & Equal Opportunities,
- 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 15,600 staff (including manual workers and teachers) within six different departments:

Chief Executive's Office  
Resources, Access & Diversity  
Housing  
Regeneration & Culture  
Social Care & Health  
Education & Life Long Learning

## 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. The Council was awarded Beacon Council status for 'Maintaining a Quality Environment' in 2000 and for 'Sustainable Energy' in 2005.

The **corporate direction [check]** 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 measures are monitored, maintained and improved wherever possible, the Council has adopted the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or EMAS in short. This European 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 thirty-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 eighth Environmental Statement, covering the period April 2004-March 2005. It has been checked by an independent verifier to ensure compliance with the EMAS scheme.

## **Environmental Policy**

Our Environmental Policy is presented below and was agreed by elected councillors on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

Leicester City Council's strategic objective is to improve our environment to make local neighbourhoods and the city centre places for people to be proud of. 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, reduce our own environmental impact and improve the environment for Leicester, 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 own environmental performance and to influence improvement in Leicester, 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. We will encourage the conservation of energy in Leicester's buildings.

#### ***the wise use of manufactured materials***

We will aim to 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 arising from 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 statutory powers to influence activities in the city. We will seek to improve air quality in the city through traffic management, to reduce emissions from council buildings and aim to run a cleaner vehicle fleet.

***enhancing open space and the natural environment***

We will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of Leicester's natural environment and quantity of open space. We will ensure that prime wildlife sites are retained and that open space is retained and easily accessible by all.

***enhancing the built environment***

We will use our statutory powers to seek to create a sustainable built environment in Leicester and to improve street cleanliness.

**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 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.

**Table 1 – Summary of progress towards EMAS targets 2004/05**

| Target No.  | Environmental Improvement Objective (with associated target in brackets)   | Change Since Last Year | Overall Progress Towards Target | Additional Explanation  |
|---|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Significant Effect 1: Council Use of Energy</b>                        |  |                        |                                 |   |
| 1.1   | Reduce the council's total building energy consumption ( <i>to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26</i> )                                      | <b>-ve</b>             | <b>Not on track</b>             | During 2004/05 there was an apparent significant rise in energy use that represents an increase of 1.2% from the base year. Reasons for the increase include the inclusion of new facilities in the figures for the first time including Braunstone Leisure Centre, the Depot on Rutland Street and the Cleansing and Transport Depot at Leycroft Road. A significant increase was also experienced by the Housing Department due to the CHP boiler at St Mathews being out of action for much of the year. Some of the increase is also explained by the timing of bills for some major energy users such as the District Heating Schemes. |
| 1.2   | Increase the council's use of renewable energy ( <i>from 0% in 1997 to 20% of energy requirement in 2020/21</i> )                          | <b>-ve</b>             | <b>Not on track</b>             | In 2004/05, 22.8% of electricity used in all council buildings came from renewable sources and this represents 3.5% of our total energy use (electricity and gas). The amount of renewable energy consumed by the Council has not changed but the amount of renewable energy as a proportion of the total energy consumption has fallen. This is due to the increase in overall energy consumption of the Council during 2004/5. If the target is to be achieved an increase of over 1% is needed each year.  |
| 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> )                  | <b>+ve</b>             | <b>Not conclusive</b>           | There was a decrease in the amount of fuel used by fleet vehicles and the number of miles travelled in private vehicles on council business.  |
| <b>Significant Effect 4: Air Quality in Leicester (including traffic)</b> |  |                        |                                 |   |
| 4.1   | Improve air quality within the city ( <i>To achieve national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2005</i> ) | <b>neutral</b>         | <b>Not conclusive</b>           | Road traffic is one of the major contributors to poor air quality in Leicester and it is probable that Leicester will not meet the 2005 national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide.   |

|  |   |            |                       |   |
|--|---|------------|-----------------------|---|
| 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> )   | <b>+ve</b> | <b>On track</b>       | During 2004/05 a significant reduction was recorded in the number of car trips to the city centre but this was due to adverse weather conditions on the survey day. 'Proxy' indicators do however suggest this indicator is on track to meet the targets.   |
| 4.3  | Reduce car travel at schools with travel plans ( <i>25% reduction in car travel by 2011/12</i> )  | <b>+ve</b> | <b>Not conclusive</b> | Whilst there has been a reduction from the previous year of 5.6% it is too early to identify a trend.   |
| <b>Significant Effect 6: Waste from Leicester (including household, construction, and other waste)</b> |   |            |                       |   |
| 6.1  | Increase recycling of household waste ( <i>40% of household waste collected in 2005/06 to be recycled</i> )   | <b>+ve</b> | <b>On track</b>       | There was an increase in the recycling and composting rate despite the fire at the new waste management facility at Bursom. This meant that the facility only operated at 50% capacity for much of the year.  |
| <b>Significant Effect 7: The Council's Use of Water</b>  |   |            |                       |   |
| 7.1  | Reduce potable water used in council buildings ( <i>5% reduction of 2000/01 levels by 2005/06</i> )   | <b>+ve</b> | <b>On track</b>       | Water usage decreased by over 1% on the previous year. Despite the increase in water demand caused by the Braunstone Leisure Centre opening in 2004-5, efficiency savings were achieved in a number of locations including 16 New Walk, Attenborough House and the Indoor Market more than offset the increase. |
| <b>Significant Effect 9: The Quality of the Environment on Council Owned Land</b>                      |   |            |                       |   |
| 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> ).                       | <b>+ve</b> | <b>Not conclusive</b> | Because of staff vacancies the condition survey has not been carried out. Several SINCs have, however improved through positive management and it is known that one has been seriously damaged (as a result of the construction of the Victoria Road East Extension).   |
| <b>Significant Effect 10: The Use of the Council's Own Land</b>  |   |            |                       |   |
| 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> ) | <b>+ve</b> | <b>On track</b>       | There was a slight increase in the area of publicly accessible open space bringing the total to 903.4 hectares.   |
| <b>Significant Effect 12: Street Cleanliness Within Leicester</b>                                      |   |            |                       |   |
| 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)  | <b>-ve</b> | <b>On track</b>       | Whilst there was a slight decrease in the Cleansing Index the 2004/05 target was exceeded. A new target will be developed in line with the new Best Value Performance indicators.   |

*Table 2 – Summary of environmental objectives where targets and/or data collection methodology are currently being developed*

| <b>Target no.</b>   | <b>Environmental Improvement Objective (with associated target in brackets where developed)</b> | <b>Progress with development of data collection monitoring system and/or target</b> |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Significant Effect 2: Leicester's Use of Energy and Fuel</b> |   |   |
| 2.1   | Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the city ie. increase SAP rating of               | A target will be developed  |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | houses  |   |
| <b>Significant Effect 3: The Council's Contribution to Air Pollution</b>          |   |   |
| 3.1   | Reduce emissions from vehicle fleet   | The council's previous targets on reducing vehicle fleet emissions have been achieved through the use of Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel (ULSD) fuel for diesel vehicles and a new target needs to be developed. |
| <b>Significant Effect 5: The Council's Own Waste</b>                              |   |   |
| 5.1   | Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill ( <i>40% of City Council waste to be recycled by 2005/06</i> )   | Data will be collected during 2005/06 on the amount of waste being diverted from landfill through the proposed office waste recycling scheme.   |
| <b>Significant Effect 6: Waste from Leicester</b>                                 |   |   |
| 6.2   | Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill   | Baseline data will be collected for this indicator once the proposed construction waste recycling facility is operational.  |
| <b>Significant Effect 8: Council's Use of Paper</b>                               |   |   |
| 8.1   | Reduce consumption of paper ( <i>5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000/01, by 2003/04</i> )   | There continues to be data collection problems for this indicator due to problems of collecting information for out-sourced documents.  |
| 8.2   | Increase the use of recycled paper ( <i>98% of the paper purchased in 2003/04 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste</i> )   | There continues to be data collection problems for this indicator due to problems of collecting information for out-sourced documents.  |
| <b>Significant Effect 9: The Quality of the Environment on Council-owned Land</b> |   |   |
| 9.1   | To ensure key aspects of the natural environment on council-owned land are sustainably managed ( <i>to develop management plans for parks, open spaces, the riverside and trees and woodland by 2005/06</i> ) |   |
| 9.3   | Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality and complete the first monitoring programme by 2010/11  | Due to ongoing staffing problems there has been no progress on developing the indicators of ecological quality.   |
| <b>Significant Effect 11: The Quality of Leicester's Built Environment</b>        |   |   |
| 11.1  | To create a sustainable built environment within the city   | The Project Manager for the Leicester Better Buildings initiative took up post in October 2004 and will help develop a target.  |
| <b>Significant Effect 13: Education and Awareness Raising in Leicester</b>        |   |   |
| 13.1  | To improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents  | The 2005 Leicester Resident's Study will provide baseline data upon which a target can be developed.  |



# ENERGY AND FUEL USE

Our climate is changing and climate change is a serious threat facing Leicester and the rest of the world.

Climate change is closely linked to energy and fuel use, it is caused by the release of 'greenhouse gases' into the atmosphere, one of the most significant greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide. The burning of fossil fuels such as gas and oil for electricity generation, gas for heating and petrol and diesel for vehicles releases carbon dioxide. It is important to reduce our use of fossil fuels, their supply is limited, prices are rising and they are damaging our planet.

Leicester has adopted a climate change strategy that aims to raise awareness of climate change in Leicester and outline some of the responses needed to address this major issue.

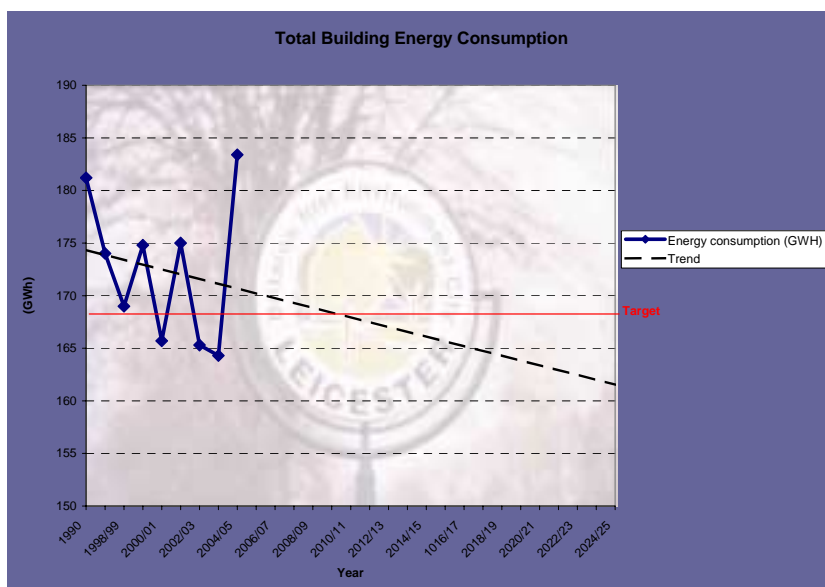
More information about the Climate Change Strategy can be found at: [www.leicester.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/climatechange)

## 1. COUNCIL USE OF ENERGY AND FUEL

### 1.1 Reduce the council's total building energy consumption (to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26)

Leicester City Council has over 300 buildings and uses a significant amount of the electricity and gas to heat the buildings in winter and cool them in the summer, electricity for lighting and the operation of equipment such as computers, lifts and machinery.

#### Progress Towards Target



To achieve this target a year on year 1.4% reduction in energy use is needed, with a 21.2% reduction required by 2004/2005. During 2004/5 there was a significant increase of 11.7% in the amount of energy used by council buildings, representing a significant move away from the target. Some of this increase is attributed to an expansion of some services and the inclusion of

new buildings such as Braunstone Leisure Centre, Leycroft Road and the Depot on Rutland Street. Consequently, a further exercise now needs to be carried out to “normalise” the data to take into account of changes in total floor area. Another reason for the increase is attributed to the combined heat and power plant at St Matthews being out of action for most of the year. This meant that the council had to buy in electricity to compensate for the lost renewable electricity which would have been generated by the plant.

Finally, the timing of receipt of major bills (upon which the figures are based) for facilities such as St Marks and St Mathews District Heating Schemes have “skewed” the results. Further work now needs to be carried out to improve the quality of the billing information included in the target figure. (For example, St Marks received a bill during 2004/05 that included 7 months of energy use from 2003/04.)

The installation of the intelligent metering system in our buildings since 2001 has increased the ability to identify the wastage of energy and to highlight opportunities to make significant savings.

The Carbon Trust **Local Authority Energy Financing scheme (LAEF)** to set up its own Loan Scheme which will help fund energy efficiency projects. These loans will be financed 50% by the “invest to save” grant, with the remaining 50% match funded by the Local Authority. The Council also implemented the Carbon Trust funded Local Authority Energy financing (LAEF) scheme.

By funding projects through energy efficiency loans, the energy cost savings from each project will be recovered, making this a self-sustained fund for future projects. Once the initial capital loan associated to each project has been repaid to the fund, the loan recipient will continue to benefit from the ongoing energy savings.

During the first of two years of the scheme a range of loans have been allocated and considerable efficiency savings have already been achieved. Projects that have been funded include the installation of variable speed drives on the water pumps at Leicester Leys Leisure Centre, insulating swimming pool covers at Evington and Aylestone Leisure Centres (see Case Study) and a portable plant room for the boiler replacement scheme.

### **Future Actions**

The LAEF will continue during 2005/6 leading to further efficiency savings. This will continue to be complemented by the expansion of intelligent metering. It is proposed that all schools will have intelligent metering by the end of 2006.

The Council will also be participating in a European project called ‘DISPLAY’. The project involves publicly displaying through a poster the energy performance of public buildings (in a similar way to ‘white goods’ ie an A to G rating. It is a pilot project relating to the implementation of the European Energy Performance in Buildings Regulations.

## Case Study – Evington and Aylestone Leisure Centre Pool Covers

Evington and Aylestone Leisure Centres have used 'Invest to Save' (Local Authority Energy Financing Scheme) to fund energy saving swimming pool covers. The supply and install of swimming pool covers at each site cost approximately £14,000 and are expected to easily pay for themselves within 3 years through reduced fuel costs.

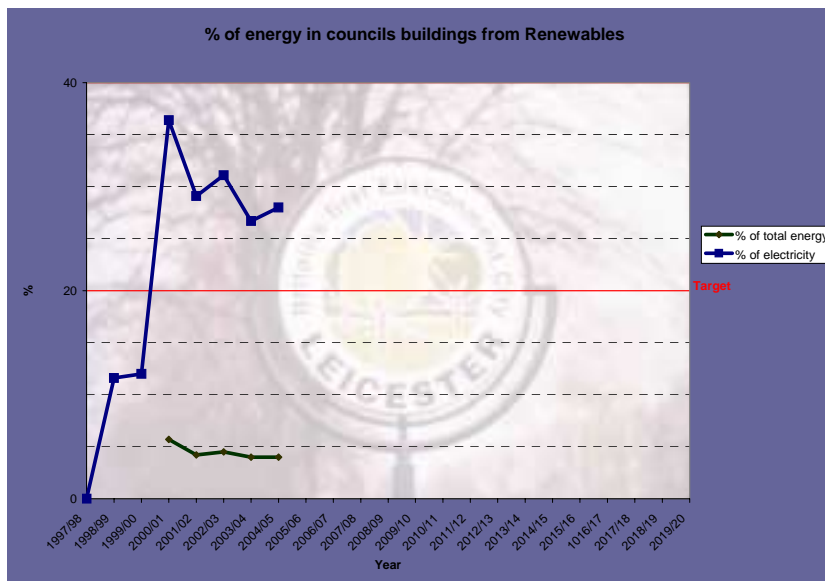
Public swimming pools are generally closed for at least 8 hours every night, but many maintain 24 hour/day heating and ventilation regime. When the pool is not in use a well-fitted pool cover provides an insulating, impermeable layer that greatly reduces heat loss from the water. The additional benefit of pool covers is that they virtually eliminate heat loss through evaporation.

Over the first year of use they have saved around £3,000 in gas bills and £500 in electricity bills. Once the cost of the covers has been recouped the leisure centres will benefit from substantially reduced running costs. These savings could increase significantly as energy prices are set to rise.

### 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 2020/21

Alongside a programme of reducing energy use a key way to reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions is to use energy produced from renewable sources such as solar, biomass, and wind power. They are less polluting and help to reverse the trend of global warming and climate change.

#### Progress Towards Target



In 2004/05, 22.8% of electricity used in all council buildings came from renewable sources and this represents 3.5% of our total energy use

(electricity and gas). The amount of renewable energy consumed by the Council has not changed but the amount of renewable energy as a proportion of the total energy consumption has fallen. This is due to the increase in overall energy consumption of the Council during 2004/5.

Two schools have also turned to renewable technologies to meet their energy requirement. Eyres Monsell Primary School now have a wind turbine in their grounds and Buswell Lodge Primary have turned to geothermal energy for their newly constructed classrooms. As well as saving money they provide a great educational resource for the pupils.

### **Future Actions**

The energy contract for the Council will be renewed in 2005/06. This will provide an opportunity to increase the proportion of energy procured from renewable resources.

It will also be important to incorporate renewable technologies into the Council's major construction programmes such as the Building Schools for the Future project.

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

Leicester City Council operates a fleet of over 800 vehicles and staff use their own vehicles for carrying out council work. Reducing the fuel used by the vehicle fleet and encouraging staff to travel less miles on council business will help to reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions.

Previously we have reported a combined figure of fuel used by the vehicle fleet and an estimate of the amount of fuel used by staff in their own vehicles (based on the number of miles travelled). We have decided to improve the way we report progress by separating the two. We will now report

- 1) the amount of fuel used by the vehicle fleet
- 2) the number of miles travelled by staff in their own vehicles

Data has been obtained retrospectively for each.

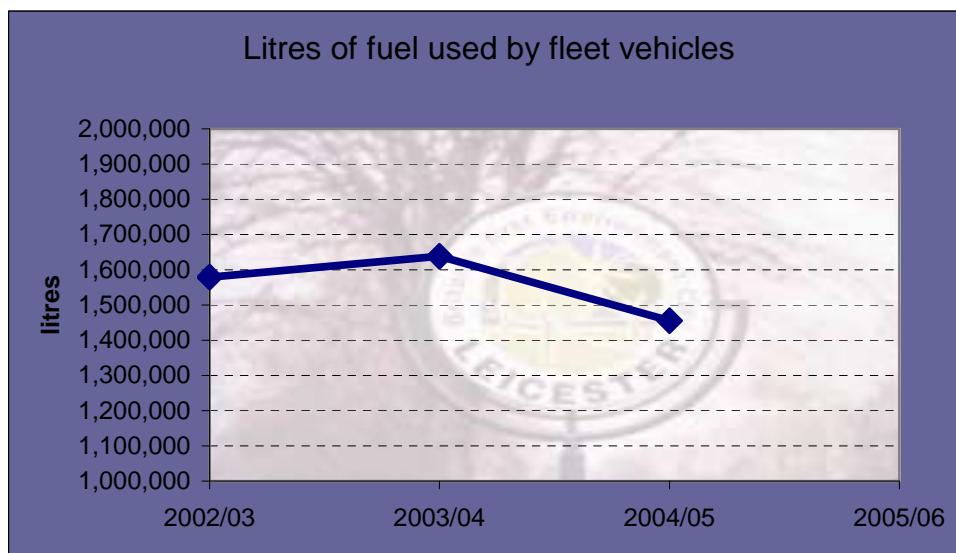
#### **Fleet vehicles**

Each year about 100 old vehicles that are becoming expensive to run and maintain are replaced with new vehicles. New vehicles meet Euro III or IV standards and are more fuel efficient than ones they are replacing and have fewer harmful emissions.

In previous years fleet fuel has included fuel used in the provision of the domestic refuse collection. With the new contract, Biffa re-fuel their vehicles from their own refuelling tanks. The fleet fuel figures below have been adjusted to remove fuel used as part of this contract.

It is too soon to establish a clear trend relating to this data. Further investigations are needed to determine if the reduction are due to improved fuel efficiency of the fleet vehicles

| Year    | Fuel use (litres) |
|---------|-------------------|
| 2002/03 | 1,578,680         |
| 2003/04 | 1,638,597         |
| 2004/05 | 1,455,621         |



### Future Action

The replacement vehicle programme will continue with new, more fuel efficient vehicles replacing old and inefficient vehicles. From January 2006 new vehicles will need to meet Euro IV standards, this standard requires engines to be less polluting and these vehicles will gradually be introduced to the vehicle fleet.

A new target will be developed to reflect that we are now reporting fleet fuel use separately from fuel used by staff in their own vehicles.

### Staff Vehicles

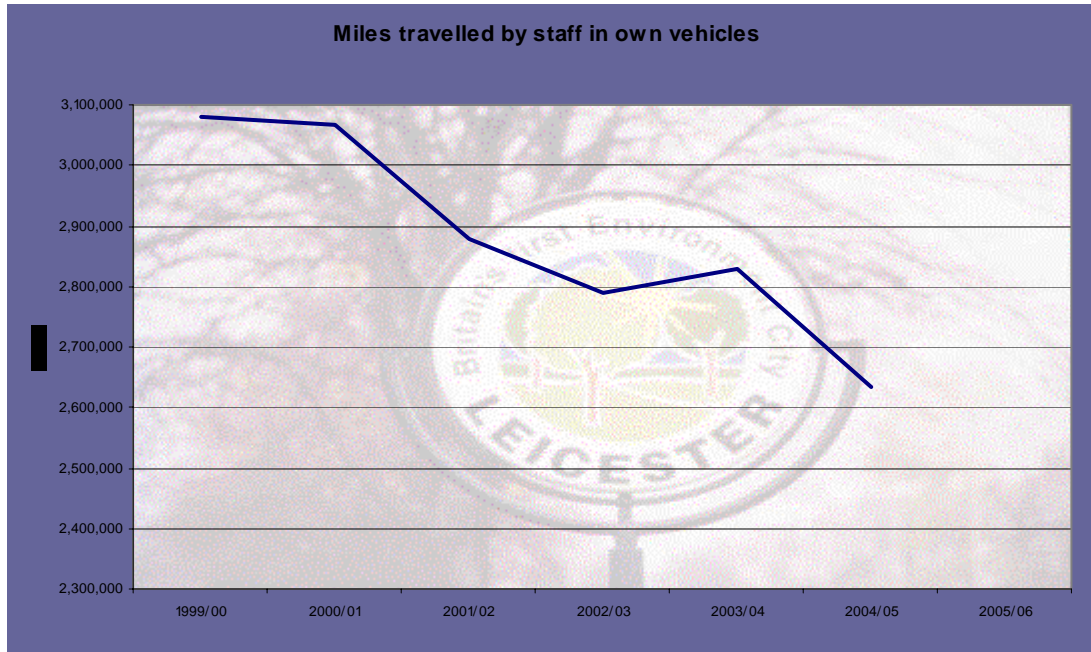
#### 1.3b To reduce the number of miles staff travel on council business in private cars. Target to be developed

Some council staff who need to travel for work purposes use their own vehicles and claim an allowance per mile travelled. Previously this information has been combined with the fuel used by the fleet vehicles, in future it will be reported separately and a target developed.

The number of miles travelled by staff in their own vehicles has fallen by nearly 15% since 1999/00.

| Year    | Miles travelled | Change on previous year |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1999/00 | 3,081,640       |                         |
| 2000/01 | 3,065,757       | -0.5%                   |
| 2001/02 | 2,879,297       | -6.08%                  |
| 2002/03 | 2,789,807       | -3.10%                  |

|         |           |                    |
|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| 2003/04 | 2,829,596 | +1.42%             |
| 2004/05 | 2,632,780 | -6.95%             |
|         |           | Change since 99/00 |
|         |           | -14.56%            |



### Future Action

A new target will be developed to enable the number of miles travelled by staff in their own vehicles to be reported annually. Staff will continue to be encouraged to reduce the number of miles travelled in vehicles. Information about travelling by bicycle, and public transport will be made available to staff as part of their induction programme and placed on the Intranet.

## 2. Leicester’s use of energy and fuel

### 2.1 Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the city (increase the SAP rating of houses by 1 point one year)

Energy use in homes contributes to Carbon Dioxide emissions to the atmosphere and contributes to climate change.

Improving energy efficiency in homes within the city helps residents by reducing their fuel bills but also helps to reduce their impact on the environment.

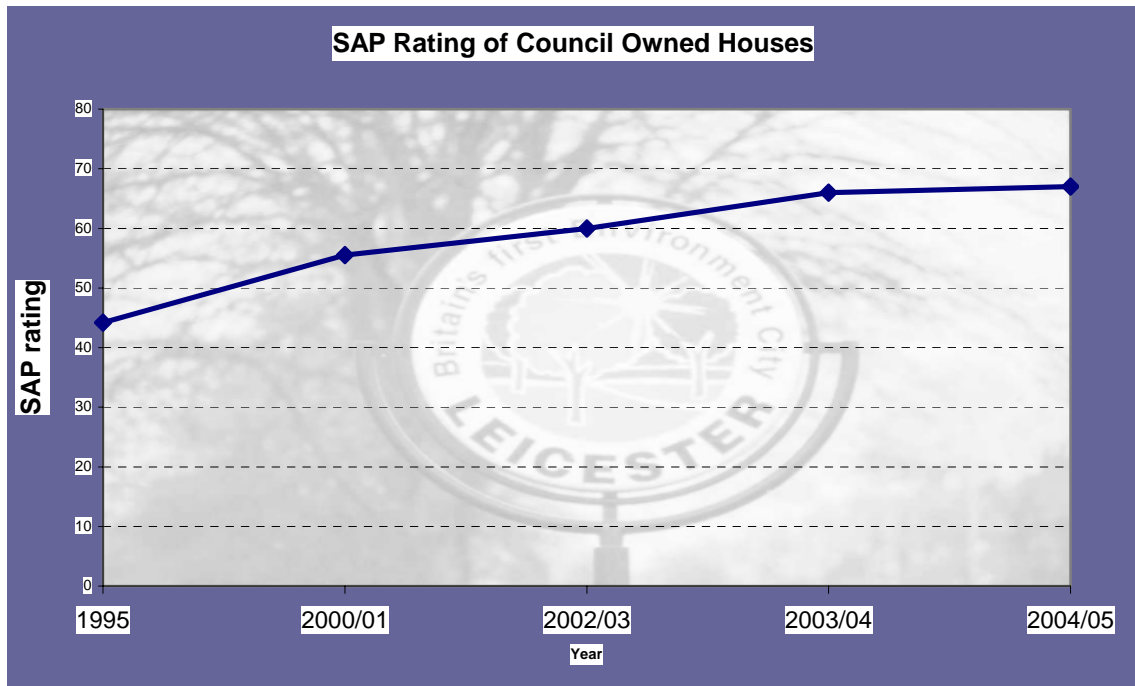
#### Progress towards target.

The method of assessing energy efficiency in houses is called the Standard Assessment Procedure or SAP which awards a rating to each house.

### Energy efficiency in Council owned houses

Information is collected about the energy efficiency of council owned houses and in 2004/05 the average SAP rating for council housing was 67, an increase of 1 point from 2003/04.

The council has a programme of improvements for council housing including cavity wall insulation, replacement double glazed windows, loft insulation and installing energy efficient central heating boilers. From the 1995 baseline significant improvements of the SAP ratings have been achieved, further significant improvements are more difficult to achieve as a lot of houses are now energy efficient.



### Energy efficiency in private owned houses

The council has an obligation to improve the energy efficiency of privately owned houses through the Home Energy Conservation Act.

An officer has been appointed to collect data on the baseline SAP ratings of the private houses in Leicester and to develop a target.

Improvements to private housing in Leicester are made in a number of ways:  
Offering advice about energy efficiency through awareness raising campaigns and free energy efficiency surveys

Providing information about grants and financial help for energy efficiency improvements.

### Future Actions

Initiatives to help reduce energy consumption will continue and the council will continue to seek funding for this work. The Energy Efficiency and Advice Centre will continue to offer help to householders including those on benefits who may be eligible for energy efficiency grants.

## **3. THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO AIR POLLUTION**

### **3.1 Reduce vehicle fleet emissions**

Emissions from vehicles have a significant effect on local air quality. Leicester City Council has a fleet of over 800 vehicles helping to make sure they emit less pollutants will have a beneficial effect on local air quality and 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 (ULSD) fuel for diesel vehicles and so therefore a new target is being developed.

There are 27 LPG (Liquified 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.

Each year about 100 old vehicles that are becoming expensive to run and maintain are replaced with new vehicles. New vehicles are more fuel efficient than ones they are replacing and have fewer harmful emissions.

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

#### **Future Action**

From 2006 new vehicles need to meet Euro IV standards, these vehicles have much improved emissions and as they start to be included in the council's fleet, emissions from the fleet will be improved.

The European Commission has announced it wants to develop new legislation that will require public bodies to spend 25% of their vehicle procurement budget on 'clean' vehicles. The council will monitor progress of this legislation and ensure it is able to comply with it.



## 4. AIR QUALITY IN LEICESTER

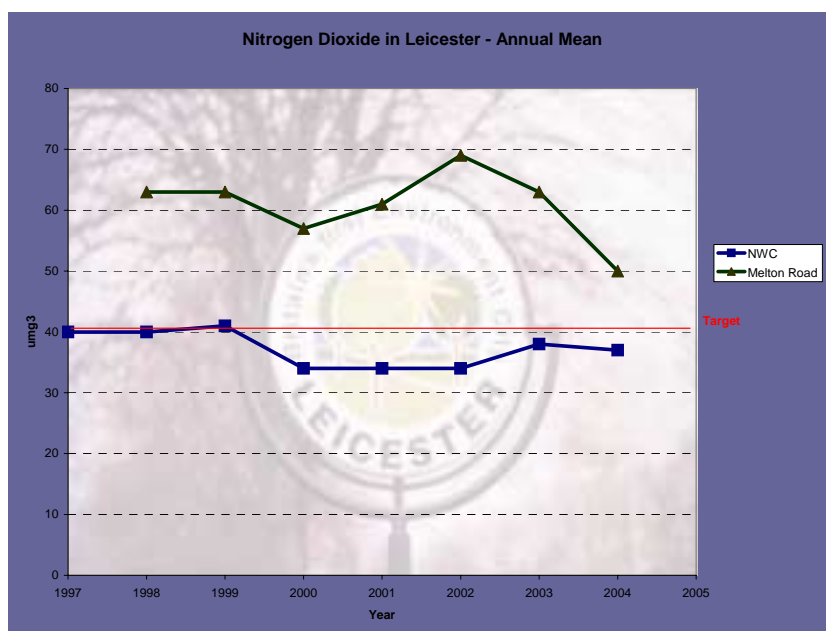
### 4.1 Improve air quality within the city by achieving national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide by the end of 2005

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 work towards national air quality objectives.

The air quality assessment of Leicester identified the pollutant nitrogen dioxide as being of concern to local health. This is attributable to emissions from motor vehicles on the main road network. There are two statutory 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

#### Progress Towards Target



$\text{NO}_2$  levels only changed slightly between 2003 and 2004 and a robust trend cannot be concluded. Whilst the Melton Road and New Walk Centre monitoring sites showed a slight decrease on  $\text{NO}_2$  levels other sites within the City experienced a slight increase. Values are expected to fluctuate from year to year due to variations in average weather conditions. However, as values at different sites do not necessarily fluctuate in the same direction in any given

year, other factors must be operating. The New Walk Centre station is a background monitoring station (as it is located away from the roadside), and is the only site in Leicester meeting the government objectives.

### **Future Actions**

The key mechanism for improving air quality in Leicester is the Air Quality Action Plan. The final version of the Plan will be available in 2005 and will form an Annex to the Provisional Local Transport Plan for 2006-2011. It will put forward a broad package of long-term measures that will need to be implemented if air quality objectives are to be met.

Web link to Air Quality Action Plan:

<http://rcweb.leicester.gov.uk/pollution/asp/reports.asp>

#### **Case Study – Breathe Easy**

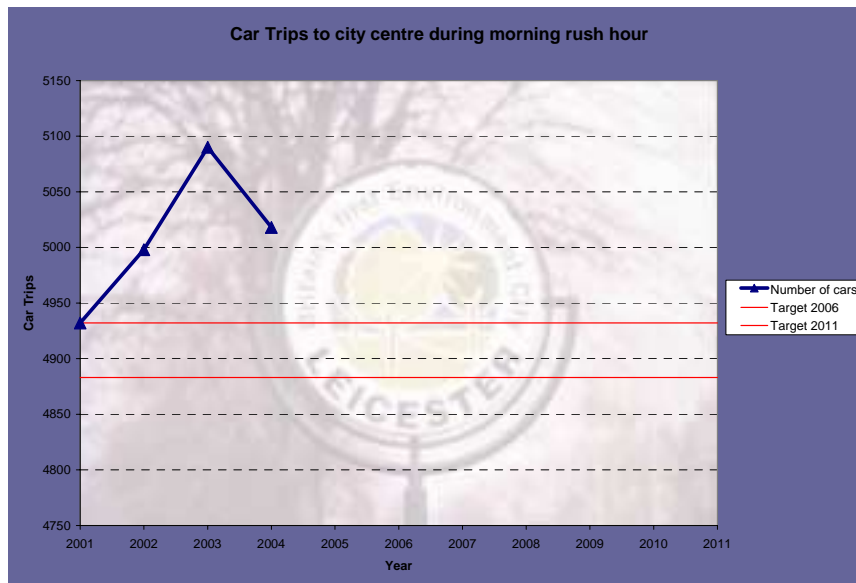
This project is a collaboration between the Pollution Control and Traffic Impact teams of the Council, which received funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. The project was targeted at primary schools within the Belgrave and Latimer wards; these wards are located within the air quality management area, and experience poor air quality. The objectives are to assist the schools in developing their own Travel Plans, by providing safer routes for walking and cycling to the schools, and to monitor the effectiveness of this by measuring the improvement in air quality, and the reduction in emissions associated with the school journeys. Each of the schools is undertaking their own air quality monitoring to monitor their progress, and officers have assisted the schools through helping to raise awareness and understanding of the issues.

This is a good example of an initiative that brings together traffic and air quality disciplines. The Breathe Easy model is to be applied across other schools within the AQMA in conjunction with the Safer Routes to School programme.

#### ***4.2 Reduce Car Trips to the City Centre – Return to 2000/01 morning rush hour car trips to city centre by 2006/07 and a 1% decrease by 2010/11***

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



In 2004/05 there was an 8.5% decrease in car trips during the morning rush hour compared to 2001/02. Whilst this more than exceeds the 2011 target there was snowfall on the survey date that significantly reduced the number of vehicles entering the city centre. As the figure is rather misleading it has not been shown on the above graph. Other 'proxy' indicators do, however, suggest that progress is being made and the indicator is on track. For instance there is evidence that more residents are satisfied with local bus services and the number of public transport trips to the city centre is increasing.

### Future Action

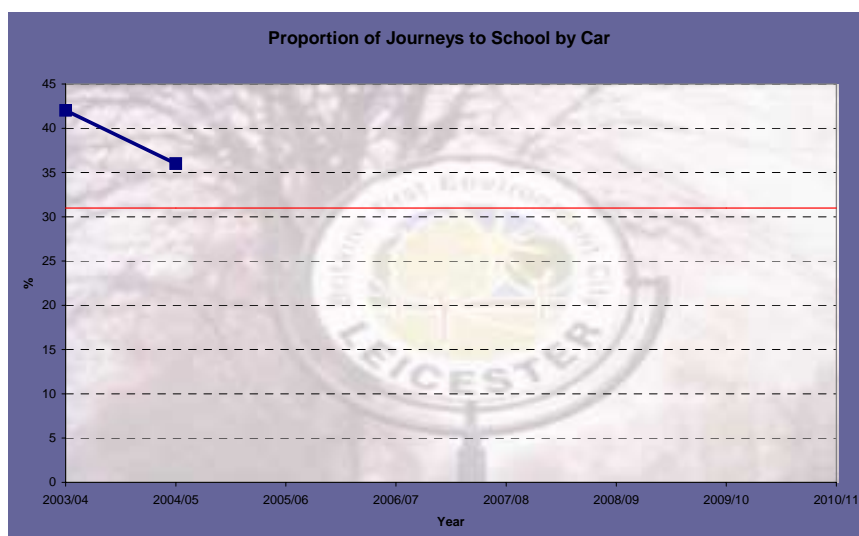
Future actions to reduce car trips to the city centre will be provided through the implementation of the second Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan for 2006-2011.

### ***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. 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 two miles (Transport Trends, 2003). The British Medical Association also estimates that around a million children in the UK are clinically obese.

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 2004/05 results show that there has been a 5.6% decrease in the number of children arriving at school by car from the previous year. In the same year there has been a 4.8% increase in the number of pupils walking to school and a 0.7% increase in bus use. These first results are encouraging but are based upon a relatively small sample of schools with travel plans and does not yet include any secondary schools.

### Future Actions

During the second Local Transport Plan period (2006-11) it is intended to roll out school travel plans to cover 100% of the school population. There will also be continued investment in the safer routes to school programme, promotional campaigns, and pedestrian and cycle training for pupils.

### Case Study – School Travel Plans

So far 22 City Schools have completed School Travel Plans and have received their Capital Grants from the DfES. Many more currently have plans in development. Concerned staff and students have worked hard to look at ways to discourage parents from driving their children to school.

The aims of the School Travel Plan are to reduce congestion and parking around the schools, encourage students and parents to adopt a healthy lifestyle and embrace sustainable forms of transport. Areas identified in the Travel Plan can then be prioritised for road safety engineering measures, such as 'Safer Routes' or improved cycle access.

As a result of Riverside College developing a Travel Plan a new 80 place secure cycle shelter has been installed and improved crossing facilities and links to the National Cycle Route have been developed.

Prior to the opening of the cycle shelter every time a student cycled to College they received a raffle ticket that entitled them to win one of two new bikes.

Before cycling levels were averaging about 12 a day, during the promotion this went up to approx 65 and has since leveled off to about 30 – 40 students arriving by bike.

Montrose Primary School also showed increases in cycling levels after their new cycle shelter was opened by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mary Draycott.

Avenue Infant and Junior Schools have embraced work to encourage walking by having an awareness day with a display out side the school and they have developed a walking bus.

## **5. Waste**

The amount of waste produced is growing year on year with steady rises seen in both household and trade waste. In the UK we have a tradition of landfilling waste, holes in the ground are filled with waste and left to decompose. The green waste decomposes releasing methane gas, a greenhouse gas associated with climate change and other waste such as plastics and metals remain buried slowly breaking down and releasing toxic substances such as lead and mercury.

Landfill sites are becoming full, land is becoming scarce and it is not easy nor desirable to find new landfill sites. It is therefore important that we reduce the amount of waste being landfilled. The way to do this is to:

- Reduce the amount of waste produced; use materials wisely
- Reuse 'waste' for other purposes; construction waste can be crushed and reused as hardcore
- Recycle waste material: glass can be recycled into new glass products

### **5. The Council's Waste**

#### **5.1 Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill: 40% to be recycled by 2005/6**

##### **Progress Towards Target**

The council recognises the contribution it makes to the waste problem and has set a target to reduce the amount of its waste that goes to landfill. A corporate waste contract is now in place, with the aim that all waste from council buildings will be collected by one waste contractor. Once all buildings are on this contract we can measure the amount of waste being produced and how much is being recycled or composted.

An office paper recycling scheme has been introduced into the council's main offices with all offices now separating out their paper waste for recycling.

##### **Future Action**

It is proposed to amend the wording of this target to 40% of waste to be recycled or composted by 2005/6.

Office paper recycling will be rolled out to all council buildings and monitoring procedures will be developed to measure the amount of waste being collected and the amount of waste being recycled.

Once the Bursom waste processing plant is fully operational it is anticipated the residual council waste will be processed through the plant, this will substantially increase the diversion of council waste from landfill.

A corporate contract for the recycling of ink jet and laser printer cartridges will be investigated.

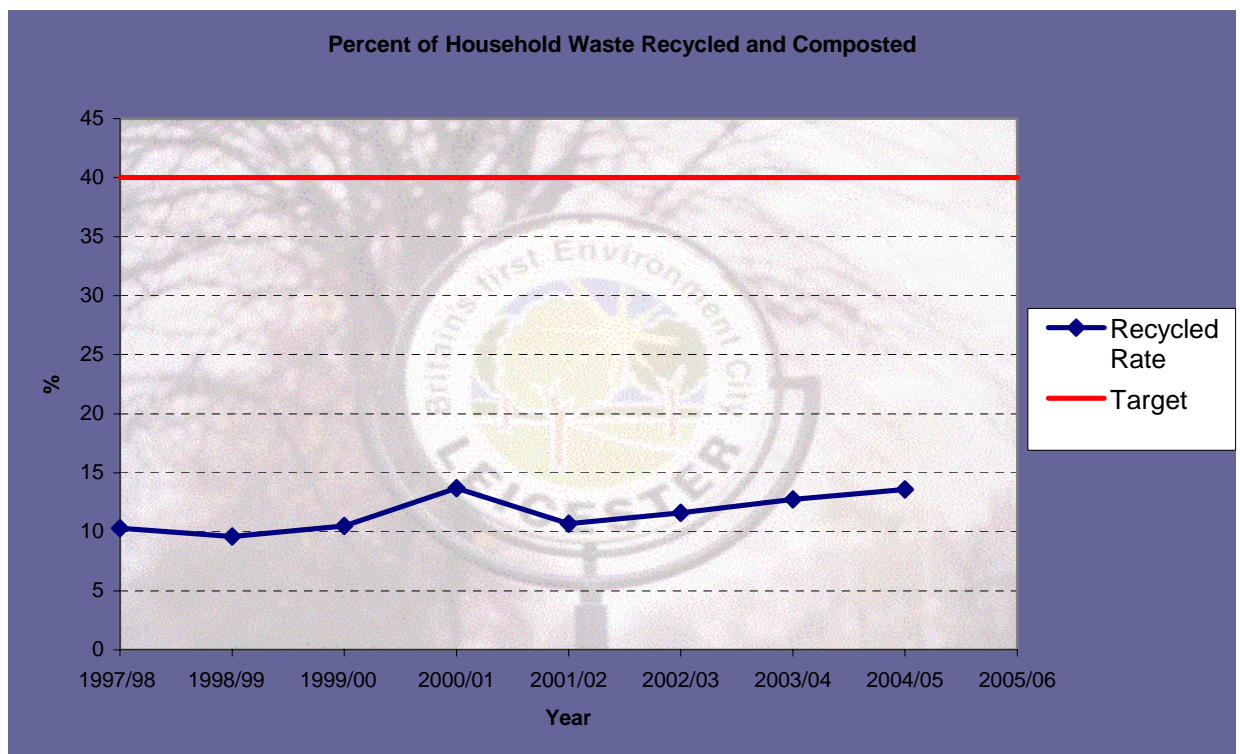
## 6. Waste from Leicester (including household, construction and other trade waste).

### 6.1 Increase recycling of household waste (40% of household waste to be recycled by 2005/6)

#### Progress Towards Target

In 2003/4 we reported a recycling rate of 14.72%, this was in fact a recycling and composting rate. The recycling alone rate was 12.75%. In 2004/2005 the Council recycled 13.59% of household waste, an improvement on the previous year. The combined recycling and composting rate was 17.97%. It is proposed to amend the current target to 40% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005/6.

During 2004/5 a fire at the Bursom waste processing plant meant the plant was not operating for a period and this reduced the anticipated level of recycling and composting. The green box scheme which separates glass paper and plastics at the kerbside has been extended to flats where large wheelie bins are provided for the collection of recyclables.



#### Future Action

Once the Bursom waste processing plant is fully operational following the fire it is anticipated the recycling and composting rate will increase substantially during 2005/6.

Work will continue to increase participation in the kerbside collection of recyclables and to improve collection and separation of materials at the two civic amenity sites.

## **6.2 Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill**

It is estimated that about 17% of all waste produced in the UK is from construction and demolition work.

Leicester has a 10 year regeneration plan to rejuvenate and develop areas of the city, to provide, office space, retail space, commercial and industrial sites and housing. ([www.leicesterregeneration.co.uk](http://www.leicesterregeneration.co.uk)). There are also plans to refurbish and build 20 health centres over the next 20 years and a 'Building Schools for the Future' programme to replace and refurbish schools in the city over the next ?? years.

With such level of construction activity planned it is important to reuse and recycle as much of the waste generated as part of these schemes as possible. This will not only reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill sites it will also present a cost saving to developers.

### **Progress Towards Target**

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

A key action to reduce the amount of construction related waste going to landfill is to develop a construction and demolition waste recycling facility, where waste can be sorted, processed and made available for re-use. During 2004/5 potential sites were investigated, land is limited in the city and local opposition to the siting of a site has proved problematic.

### **Future Action**

The Council in partnership with Environ will continue to look for a suitable site for a construction and demolition waste recycling site. Work will also continue to work, where possible, with developers to minimise the amount of waste being sent to landfill.



## 7. The Council's Use of Water

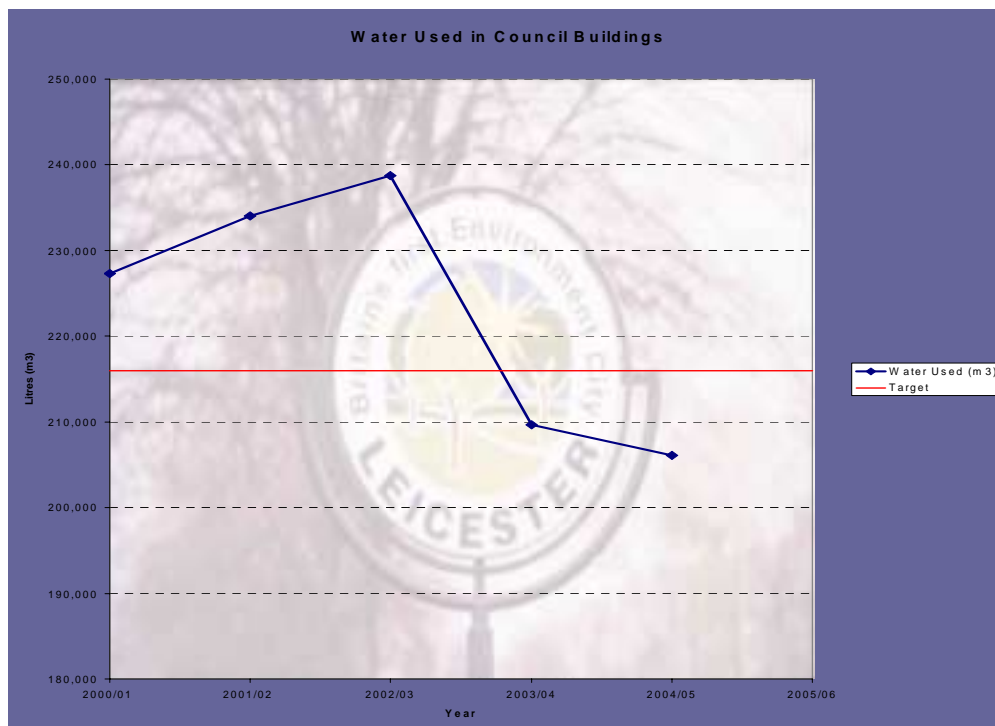
### 7.1 Reduce potable water use in council buildings (5% reduction of 2000/01 levels by 2005/06)

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. From 2000/01 to 2002/03 water usage increased, representing a move away from the target. However since 2002/03 the council's consumption of water has fallen significantly and during 2004-5 a further 1.7% decrease was achieved. Despite the increase in water demand caused by the Braunstone Leisure Centre opening in 2004-5, efficiency savings achieved in a number of locations including 16 New Walk, Attenborough House and the Indoor Market

more than offset the increase. Unless there is a significant increase in water usage next year the 2005/06 target will be met.

A number of initiatives have now been established that will enable progress towards this target. Intelligent metering is now installed in over 200 council buildings providing water management officers with accurate and up to date information about water consumption, helping 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 intelligent metering programme is ongoing and will increase over the next year with a target to get all council buildings covered by 2005/06.

#### **Case Study - Grey water use - The Green Academy, Rushey Mead School**

When a new teaching and resource block, the Green Academy, was built at Rushey Mead school it was built to high environmental standards. Included in the design were two 5000 litre underground tanks, or Ecovats, a rainwater storage system. Rainwater from the roof of the building is collected in the underground tanks. It is then filtered centrifugally underground, before being pumped up into a holding tank in the roof of the building. A UV filter sterilises the water before it reaches the holding tank. The water is then used for flushing the 25 toilets and urinals in use in the building. One 5000 litre tank's supply of water equates to around 800 flushes of the toilets, a substantial saving on water costs for the school.

## **8. The Council's Use of Paper**

### **8.1 Reduce consumption of paper (5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000/01 by 2003/04)**

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 may affect forests, natural flora and fauna and water quality on a global scale. Virgin forests may be 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.

The council is committed to using paper made from 100% post consumer waste.

#### **Progress Towards Target**

Difficulties with the collection of accurate monitoring information in relation to out-sourced printing have continued despite a general awareness raising campaign.

#### **Future Action**

Leicester City Council's Environment Team will work with key council officers and external printers to improve data collection so that a new target can be set.

### **8.2 Increase the use of recycled paper (98% of the paper purchased in 2003/04 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste)**

Recycling paper diverts waste from landfill and helps to develop market demand for recycled products.

#### **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 in out-sourced printed documents. In terms of in-house paper used, 95.36% of this was 100% recycled post-consumer waste.

#### **Future Action**

Leicester City Council's Environment Team will work with key council officers and external printers to improve data collection so that a new target can be set.

## **9. Quality of the Environment on City Council Owned Land**

Biodiversity is important in cities and in Leicester there are a number of important habitats; parks, woodland, cemeteries, allotments, gardens and green corridors such as the riverside and canal, the Great Central Way, a disused railway and roadside verges.

The council owns substantial amount of open space and recognises that they provide important natural habitats and are important for maintaining biodiversity in the city.

### **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 2005/06).**

#### **Progress Towards Target**

##### **1. Parks and Open Spaces**

A review of the number of parks management plans has resulted in a reduction from 84 to 66 this is for two main reasons:

- Sites have been brought together to form 'area' plans or in some cases geographic plans have been amalgamated to form larger 'area' plans. This allows cohesive management sites to be formed, which link similar and adjacent open spaces.
- Some sites identified at the initial scoping are no longer included, allotments are now being dealt with as part of the Allotment Strategy

By 2004/5 53 management plans were completed.

##### **Future Actions**

The final 13 parks and open space management plans are due to be completed during 2005/6.

##### **2. Trees and Woodland**

In 2004/5 surveys were completed in 25 schools, 3 parks, 1 cemetery, 1 museum and 68 highways.

Surveys are carried out by service area; Social Care and Health and Education sites are completed as are Highways surveys, the majority of outstanding surveys are in Parks and work will continue to complete these.

##### **Future Actions**

The programme of completing trees and woodland management plans will continue in 2005/6.

##### **3. Riverside**

A management plan for the Aylestone Meadows Local Nature reserve section of the river was completed in 2004/5, it covers approximately 30% of the length of the river within the city.

Improvements to access, open space, wildlife sites and grazing land were carried out through Riverside capital and revenue programmes and the 2005-2008 Capital Programme bid was developed.

The GreenLife Boat Project continues to sustain a high profile Riverside Clean-Up programme, financial contributions from developers were secured to enhance this programme

There is an on-going programme of volunteer activity and involvement in Riverside management and development.

## **Future Actions**

The management plan for Aylestone Meadows will be implemented and monitored. Implementation, monitoring and review of work programmes funded through the revenue and capital programmes will continue.

### **9.2 Ensure Prime ecological sites are retained (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).**

#### **Progress Towards Target**

Baseline data has now been collected on the overall amount of Council-owned land designated as a Site of Importance for nature Conservation. There are 30 SINCs in Leicester, covering 517 hectares. The Council owns 21 of these and part owns 3, covering a total of 351 hectares. Because of staff vacancies, the information collected on the condition of SINCs in 2005/5 has not been collated.

Goss Meadows (part of the Anstey Lane SINC) and The Orchards SINC were declared Local Nature reserves.

Several SINCs were improved: Environ carried out woodland management at Watermead, Stokeswood Park and highway Spinney; at Aylestone meadows some more wetlands were restored, and grassland was restored at Ethel Road by removal of woody vegetation. The Council improved access around Watermead.

One SINC, Gypsy Lane, suffered serious damage and permanent loss of 38.7% of its area as a result of the construction of the Victoria Road East Extension and Lewisher Road link. However, as a result of the construction of the road and the proposed redevelopment of adjacent land for employment use, the Council acquired a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Gypsy Lane, which was subsequently improved as part of the road building contract

#### **Future Action**

The Council will enter into a Service Level Agreement with Environ to manage 3 more SINCs and one other nature conservation site, bringing it to a total of 9.

Watermead will be declared as a Local Nature reserve and work will start on nature conservation Management Plans for Watermead and Aylestone Meadows SINC

**9.3 Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality (completion of first monitoring programme by 2010/11)**

**Progress Towards Target**

There has been lack of progress towards developing measurable indicators of ecological quality due to lack of an officer in post. Advertising for staff did not result in a suitable candidate being appointed and to progress this recruitment of a graduate trainee post is being considered.

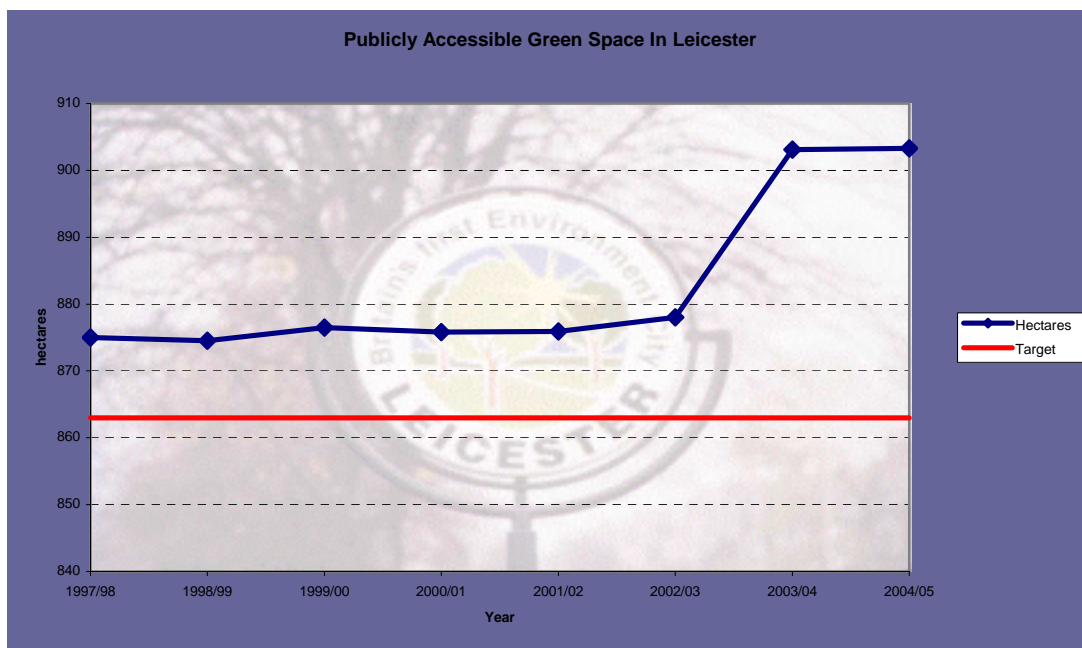
## 10. The Use of the Council's Own Land

**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 2020/21 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 were no council disposals of publicly owned green space during 2004/03 and a further 0.26 hectares were acquired (Riverside Walk, Aylestone and St.Davids Road, Kirby Frith), taking the total amount to 903.3 hectares. This therefore still exceeds the target.

### Future Action

In the future it is proposed that additional publicly accessible green space will be achieved as a result of land released under the city-wide Allotment Strategy and the completion of further residential developments.

## **11. The Quality of Leicester's Built Environment**

### **11.1 To create a sustainable built environment within the city**

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 learning environments.

#### **Progress Towards Target**

A target for this objective is still being developed. Leicester City Council, in partnership with other organisations, launched its own sustainable buildings web-based design guide, 'Leicester Better Buildings' in November 2004 (see [www.leicesterbetterbuildings.org.uk](http://www.leicesterbetterbuildings.org.uk)). A Project Manager was employed in October 2004 to work with developers and building professionals to promote and help them implement the aspirations of the initiative.

The emerging Replacement City of Leicester Local Plan also includes a range of policies that will require new developments to achieve sustainable design. The document includes policies relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, water efficiency, construction waste and transport issues. The Plan was subject to a Public Inquiry during early 2004 and the Inspectors Report was published in November 2004. The Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance is being updated to reflect the more stringent requirements of the proposed Local Plan.

#### **Future Action**

The Leicester Better Buildings project manager will continue to work with the development industry and building professionals to improve standards across the city.

It is proposed that the Replacement Local Plan policies will be adopted by early 2006 and that the revised Supplementary Planning Document on Energy will be adopted in late 2005.

#### **Case Study – Energy Supplementary Planning Document**

The City Council will soon adopt a new Energy Supplementary Planning Document. It supports the revised planning policies relating to energy in the proposed City of Leicester Local Plan. It will be used in the consideration of planning applications to guide and inform the incorporation of best practice in relation to energy efficiency, renewable technologies and Combined Heat and Power into new development. This is essential to meet the national and regional targets for CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions and renewable energy generation.

At the City level it will help implement the City's Climate Change Strategy and Environment Strategy and achieve the renewable energy targets sought by the East Midlands Regional Assembly through the recently adopted Regional Spatial Strategy. It will also complement the aims of the Leicester Better Building initiative.

Leicester is the first Local Authority in the UK to incorporate not only a 10% on site generated renewable energy target, for new major developments, but a target that will increase annually by a further one percent, until we reach or exceed the 2020 target of 20%.



## 12. Street Cleanliness in Leicester

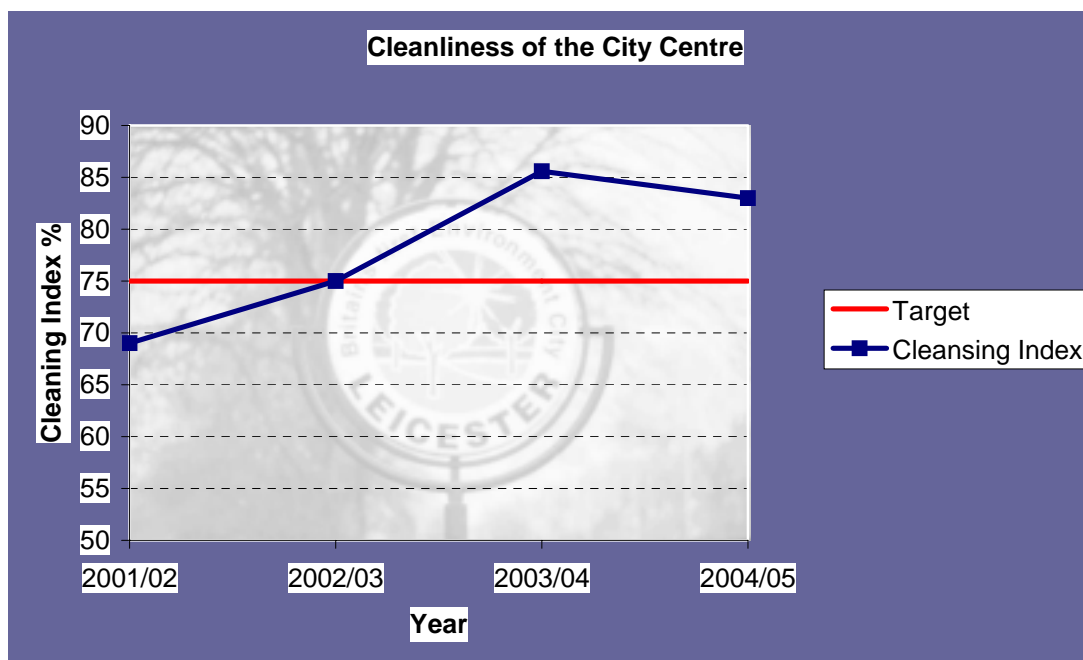
To improve the cleanliness of the city centre (Cleansing Index – PSA measure – in the city centre to be 75% or above by 2004/5).

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

The 75% Cleansing Index target was achieved in 2002/3, two years ahead of schedule and subsequent years have all met the target.

|         | Cleansing Index % |
|---------|-------------------|
| 2001/02 | 69                |
| 2002/03 | 75                |
| 2003/04 | 85.6              |
| 2004/05 | 83                |



### Future Actions

This target was established as part of Leicester's PSA target for street cleanliness.

Now, a Best Value performance indicator –BV199 has been introduced, the national benchmark is for less than 25% of streets to fail. It is proposed that a new target be developed to mirror the BVPI target: that Leicester's street will fail less than 15% of inspections by 2006/7.

## 13. Education and Awareness Raising in Leicester

### 13.1 To improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents

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 that is less harmful to the environment.

#### Progress Towards Target

A target for this objective is to be developed. It is proposed that a question will be included in the 2005 MORI Leicester Residents Survey to provide a baseline figure upon which a target can be developed.

The Leicester Environment Strategy was launched in the summer of 2004 and received favourable media coverage (the Strategy can be found at: [www.environmentcity.org.uk](http://www.environmentcity.org.uk)). A key objective of the Strategy is to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents. Leicester Environment Partnership, of which the City Council is an active member, prepared the document.

The City Council continued to work in partnership with Environ on the EMAS in schools initiative. The initiative gathered momentum this year with 15 new schools being accredited with EMAS in March 2005, bringing the total to 34 schools.

#### Future Action

A target based on this objective will be developed during 2004/05 using the findings of the Leicester Residents Survey that is scheduled to take place during the summer of 2005.

It is also proposed to continue working with Environ on the EMAS in schools initiative. It is anticipated that Environ will work with a further 16 schools during 2005/6. The schools will be subject to a verification visit in March 2006.

Other awareness raising initiatives will be pursued including funding opportunities such as the government's Climate Change Communications Fund.

#### Case Study – Keep Leicester Cool Campaign

Leicester City Council and Environ joined forces to launch a media campaign, focusing upon how individuals can do their bit to reduce the city's contribution to global warming.

The 'Keep Leicester Cool' campaign focussed upon reaching the city's Asian community through partnerships with the media including MATV and Sabras Radio. The real challenge was to raise awareness about how individuals can do their bit to reduce global warming through simple, practical actions that will decrease their carbon dioxide emissions.

The campaign focussed on six important issues relating to climate change over a period of three years. These included flooding, home energy, local produce, renewable energy, gardening and transport. Alongside these themes, a 'Top Ten' of practical steps people can take to help prevent further global warming has been promoted through a leaflet available in four community languages.

## **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 Regeneration & Culture 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 five 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 the Regeneration & Culture 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.

If you require further information about the way the significant effects were determined, copies of the original environmental review (1997) and the recent review can be obtained from the EMAS Helpline (see further information section for contact details).

A complete list of all environmental effects identified by the council is presented in Tables 1, 2 and 5. Table 1 contains a list of all effects which have an associated target, Table 2 presents effects where we are currently

developing targets, and Table 5 displays significant effects for which there are no environmental improvement targets.

**Table 5 – List of Environmental Effects which Do Not Currently have Environmental Improvement Targets**

| <b>Significant Effect with no Associated Improvement Target</b> |
|---|
| 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. Leicester City Council did not knowingly breach any environmental legislation during this Statement period.

In addition, the Register of Corporate Environmental Policies and International Commitments reflects the higher standards we have adopted through our own internal policies. 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**

An action programme to achieve targets is monitored by officers of the Sustainable City Officers Group every six 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.

During 2004/5 a training programme was delivered to address specific environmental issues for valuers within property services.

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 through to local plumbers called out to fix a leaking tap. Verification during 2002/03 highlighted the need for the council to ensure it can demonstrate improvement in its landlord-tenant contractor relationships and management lines. We are committed to ensure that, when these contractors work for us, they adopt similar environmental standards to our own. Through EMAS, contractors are required 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 business 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. A guide to environmentally friendly purchasing is available to help companies and individuals make better informed procurement decisions.

## **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 to 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 ([www.environmentcity.org.uk](http://www.environmentcity.org.uk)) which contains 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 comment on 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](http://www.environmentcity.org.uk) or the City Council website at [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

### **General enquiries, & Feedback**

We encourage you to give us feedback on ways we can improve our environmental performance or to request further information, either by returning the attached feedback form, or by contacting us directly:-

### **Contact details**

EMAS Helpline  
Regeneration & Culture Department  
Leicester City Council  
New Walk Centre A13  
Leicester  
LE1 6ZG  
Tel: 0116 252 6779  
Fax: 0116 255 6385  
E-mail: [emas@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:emas@leicester.gov.uk)