Appendix Two

Leicester City Council's Environmental Statement April 2005 - March 2006

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 8th 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 had a population of around 288,000 in 2005. 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 is made up of 10 Councillors and oversees the provision of Council services. Cabinet is made up of the following positions and portfolios:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader/Regeneration & Planning
- Resources and Corporate Issues
- Adult and Community Services
- Strategic Reviews and Efficiency
- Environment, Transport and Culture
- Key Initiatives
- Partnerships
- Housing
- Children and Young People

Other Councillors sit on Scrutiny Committees that scrutinise and advise on council and cabinet activities:

- Adult and Community Services,
- Children and Young People,
- Environment and Culture,
- Housing and Community Safety,
- Highways and Transportation,
- Economic Development and Planning,
- Health,
- Resources and Corporate Issues.

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 various depots, the main one being at Leycroft Road.

Leicester City Council employs approximately 18,500 staff (including manual workers, teachers, casual and temporary staff) within six different departments:

Chief Executive's Office
Resources,
Housing
Regeneration & Culture
Children and Young People's Services
Adult and Community Services

Leicester City Council and the Environment

For many years Leicester City Council has played an active role in encouraging and supporting measures that protect and enhance 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 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 forty nine 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 ninth Environmental Statement, covering the period April 2005-March 2006. It has been checked by an independent verifier to ensure that it complies with the EMAS standard.

Environmental Policy

Our Environmental Policy is presented below and was agreed by elected councillors on the 15th 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 2005/06

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 (reflects BVP1199 *less than 15% of relevant land and highways in the city centre to have combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level by 2006/7*)	**+ve**	**Already achieved**	During 2005/6 only 11% of streets in the city centre failed the inspection. The new target has therefore been achieved. The previous EMAS target was also achieved two years ahead of schedule
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*)	**+ve**	**On track**	3.48 hectares of land was acquired at Victoria Road East that will be used for publicly accessible green space, taking the total to 906.9 ha.
4.3	Reduce car travel at schools with travel plans *(25% reduction in car travel by 2011)*	**-ve**	**On track**	During 2005/06, 37.5% of journeys to school at schools with travel plans were made by car. This was slightly higher than the 2004/05 figure of 35.9%. The target for 2010/11 is 31% so despite the slight increase we are still on track. This indicator is likely to be redefined by Department for Transport during the Central Leics Local Transport Plan 2006-11 period, and this will form the basis for an amended EMAS target.
9.1	Ensure key aspects of natural environment on council-owned land are sustainably managed *(develop management plans for parks, open spaces, riverside trees and woodland by 2005/6) A new target is to be developed to implement and monitor the management plans (see appendix 4)*	**+ve**	**Not quite achieved Further target to be set**	Good progress was made with management plans for parks and trees and woodland during 2005/06 . With the exception of eight management plans, which relate to newly adopted or developing sites, the target of having management plans to cover all of the City Council's managed open space has been met. The overall management plan for the Riverside was put on hold pending changes to the way the Riverside is being managed. However, implementation of wetland and woodland management plans including volunteer involvement has continued as part of the programme.
6.1	Increase recycling of household waste *((40% of household waste collected in 2005/06 to be recycled or composted) Proposed to extend this target period by a further year.*	**+ve**	**Not achieved this year, proposed extension**	In 2005/06 the recycling rate doubled from 13.59% (in 2004/5) to 27.14%. Whilst this met the Government's recycling rate for local authorities, it fell short of the EMAS target. This is attributed to the Bursom waste management facility remaining below capacity during the reporting period. It

				is recommended to extend the target period by a further year to allow the facility to operate at full capacity.
11.1 **new**	To create a sustainable built environment within the city *All planning applications for major developments, to apply the City of Leicester Local Plan Policy BE16 with respect to the generation of on- site renewable energy. (100% compliance in 2007/8)"*	**New**	**New**	The base year for this target would be 2006/7, which is the first complete financial year after the policy was adopted in December 2005. This is an interim target, as it relates only to renewable energy. Council Cabinet will receive a further paper on sustainable construction, by March 2007, which identifies a broader target for sustainable construction
13.1 **new**	Improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents (*increase residents taking 5 or more environmental actions from the 10 listed in the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey, from 25% in 2005, to 30% in 2007)*	**Data unavailable until 2007**	**New**	The baseline for this target is the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey which established that 25% of respondents were taking 5 or more environmental actions from the 10 listed. The aim is to increase this to 30% by the next survey in 2007.
4.1	Improve air quality within the city *(To achieve national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide by 2005)* Proposed amended target*: To achieve the 4 key point targets set in the Local Transport Plan for air quality*	**Not conclusive**	**Not conclusive**	Road traffic is one of the major contributors to poor air quality in Leicester. For this reason, it is proposed to adopt air quality targets, which are integrated into the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-11. However, it should be noted that the proposed amended target is less rigorous than that suggested to cabinet in April 2006. Based on modelling projections of the air quality impacts of the measures in the Local Transport Plan, the proposed new targets fall short of the air quality Limit Value for 2010 (the target proposed previously, in April 2006).
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).*	**Data unavailable**	**Not known**	There was no loss of, or severe damage to, SINCs in 2005/6. However, because of other priorities, the information on the condition of SINCs in 2005/6 has not been collected.
1.3	Reduce the fuel used by staff vehicles at work (not commuting) ***(1.3a:*** *Reduce the fuel used by fleet vehicles (5% reduction of the fuel used in 2000/01 by 2005/06).* ***1.3b:*** *15% reduction in the number of miles travelled by staff in private vehicles by 2005/06 (baseline 1999/2000).*	**1.3b -ve** **1.3a not yet known**	**1.3b Not achieved** **1.3a Not achieved**	In April 2006, it was proposed to improve the target by reporting in future on a) liters of fuel used by the fleet and b) miles claimed by staff. In 2005/6 private staff mileage increased by 7.8%, although there is still an overall reduction of 7.9% since 1999/00. This is insufficient to meet the 15% reduction target. Fleet fuel use during 05/06 increased to 2.6% above the 02/03 base year. Over the previous 3 years there is no overall trend.
4.2	Reduce morning rush hour car trips to the city centre *(return to*	**-ve**	**Not conclusive**	Data for 2005/06 records an increase in trips of 1.8% above the 2000/01

	2000/01 levels by 2006/07 and a 1% decrease by 2010/11)			levels. There is no overall trend over the period. This indicator is no longer included in the Central Leics Local Transport Plan 2006-11. An amended EMAS target will be proposed.
1.1	Reduce the council's total building energy consumption *(to 50% of the 1990 level by 2025/26)*	**-ve**	**Not on track**	Energy consumption in council buildings in 2005/06 continued to rise slightly from the previous reporting period, which now represents an increase of 2.6% from the base year 1990. The reasons for the increase are: 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 Combined Heat and Power plant at St Matthews remained out of action in 2005/6.
1.2	Increase the council's use of renewable energy *(from 0% in 1997 (Mar) to 20% of energy requirement in 2020/21)*	**-ve**	**Not on track**	In 05/06 22.3% of electricity used in council buildings was renewable, which represents only 3.7% of total energy consumption.
7.1	Reduce potable water used in council buildings *(5% reduction of 2000 levels by 2005/06)*	**-ve**	**Not achieved**	Data for 2005/06 is showing an increase of 31.8%. This is unexpected and requires further investigation. For the previous two years we have recorded a decrease in consumption of 22.6% and this was attributed to the Intelligent metering programme, which was rolled out further in 2005/6.

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

Target no.	Environmental Improvement Objective (with associated target in brackets where developed)	Progress with development of data collection monitoring system and/or target
2.1	Reduce the energy consumption of homes within the city i.e. increase SAP rating of houses	Target development is ongoing. Records have increased by about 1,000, but this is still not a representative picture of the city as a whole.
3.1	Reduce vehicle emissions from fleet and lease cars	Target development is ongoing. Investigations are underway, in partnership with the vehicle fleet manager, to establish the best technology available to reduce vehicle emissions.
5.1	Reduce the amount of council waste going to landfill *(40% of City Council waste to be recycled by 2005) Appendix 4 proposes amendment to target wording to restrict the target scope to council office waste.*	This target has expired without being able to find a viable data collection method. The costs involved in operating a separate vehicle specifically for council buildings was not commercially viable and therefore council waste is collected alongside trade waste in the same vehicle.
6.2	Reduce the amount of construction waste going to landfill	A planning application is being developed for a different site at Sunningdale Road for a construction and demolition waste recycling facility.The new site will avoid the concerns of local residents to the previous site and reduce haulage distances. The target will be

		developed once the facility is operational.
8.1	Reduce consumption of paper *(5% reduction in the quantity of paper purchased in 2000, by 2003)*	It is currently not possible to obtain reliable data on paper use.
8.2	Increase the use of recycled paper *(98% of the paper purchased in 2003 to be 100% recycled post consumer waste)*	It is currently not possible to obtain reliable data on paper use.
9.3 delete	Develop measurable indicators of ecological quality and complete the first monitoring programme by 2010/11	Proposed for deletion. Due to restrictions in resources, this target has never progressed. There is some duplication with target 9.2.

1. 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.

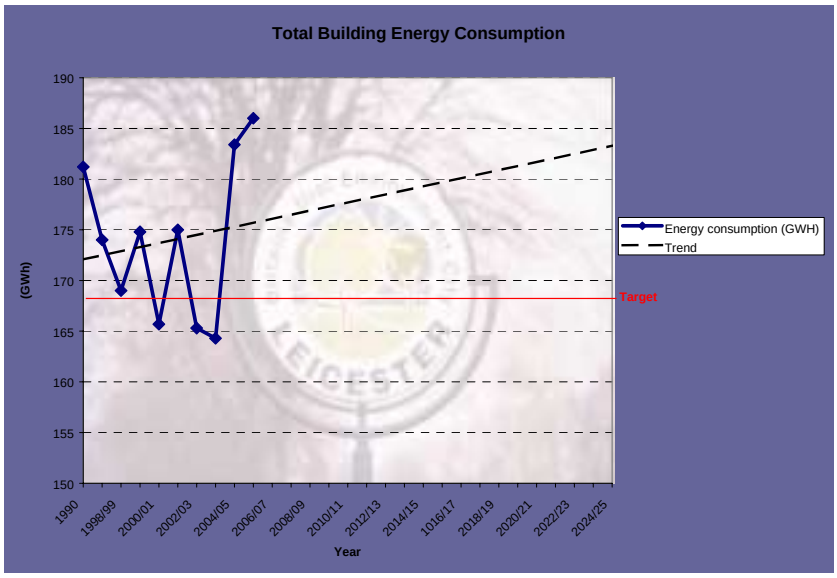
Leicester has adopted a climate change strategy that aims to raise awareness of climate change in Leicester and outline some of the responses needed to address this major issue.

More information about the Climate Change Strategy can be found at:
www.leicester.gov.uk/climatechange

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 22.6% reduction required by 2005/2006. During 2005/6 there was a further increase in the amount of energy used by council buildings, which represents an increase of 2.6% from the base. 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 Depot and the Depot on Rutland Street. Consequently, a further exercise now needs to be carried out to "normalise" the data to take into account changes in total floor area. Another reason for the increase is attributed to the combined heat and power plant at St Matthews continuing to be out of action. This

meant that the council had to buy in electricity to compensate for the lost 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)** provides a fund that will help pay for energy efficiency projects in the council. By providing a loan to projects that will save money on energy costs, the loan can be repaid making the fund self-sustaining. The project then benefits from any further savings.

During 2005/06 the loan scheme funded several projects including, for example, the variable speed drives for driving swimming pool pumps Braunstone Leisure Centre (see case study).

Target Amendments

No changes are proposed to the corporate target.

A new target (target 1.4) is proposed specifically for schools which aligns with the corporate one - Reduce school total building energy consumption (*by an average of 1.43% per annum between 2006/7 and 2025/6).*

Future Actions

The LAEF will continue during 2006/7 leading to further efficiency savings. This will continue to be complemented by the completion of intelligent metering. 25 building managers will be chosen to participate in a 2-year programme to train staff on the effective use and understanding of data supplied by Intelligent Metering (kown as "Intelligent Metering Europe"). We will continue to add buildings into the DISPLAY project.

Schools will be supplied with monthly data on gas, electricity and water use, and EMAS Officers will help school pupils make use of the data. Schools have already been implementing light monitors and putting-up general awareness posters about the importance of saving energy.

Case Study – The Installation of Variable Speed Drives for Water Pumps at Braunstone Leisure Centre Swimming Pool

Braunstone Leisure Centre is a new £10 million state-of-the-art leisure centre that opened its doors to the public on Monday, 6th December 2004. Over 16,000 people visited the new centre in its first two weeks.

An energy survey of the motors that drive pumps and fans within the Leisure Centres was carried in June 2005. These drives would normally run flat out for at least 15 hours a day, 7 days a week consuming increasingly expensive electricity. The use of

variable speed drives to control the pool water circulation pumps were looked at and implemented on the 3rd of August 2005. This energy efficiency measure would allow the Leisure Centre to slow down or speed up the motors according to demand, rather than running at full power.

The benefits of fitting Variable Speed Drive controls to electric motors have been well established for many years. It is also well known that many installed motors are actually oversized for the job that they perform.

This means that a fairly modest decrease in motor speed will produce a relatively large reduction in energy consumption, under what is known as the "Cube Law." In other words, reducing the speed of an electric pump motor by just 20% can provide energy savings in the order of 50%.

There has been no measurable deterioration of the quality of the pool water, even though the flow rate has been slightly lowered.

Significant environmental savings are also expected in the form of lower atmospheric emissions from burning fossil fuels to produce electricity.

In addition, VSD controls give other benefits in terms of reducing the mechanical load on the motor, which extends its useful lifetime and cuts the amount of maintenance required.

This project involved the installation of 5 Variable Speed Drives on all the main pool and training pool circulation pumps.

The total cost of implementing this energy saving measure was £20,063 (Funded through the Council's LAEF Scheme) and the savings achieved in the first year amount to (240,000 kWh) £18,000, the payback period is just over one year.

Case Study - Helena Roberts House Boiler Replacement

Helena Roberts House is one of 15 sheltered housing schemes across the city, enabling people to live as independently as possible, whilst also receiving help and support if they need it.

Helena Roberts House is located in the Charnwood/Spinney Hill area of Leicester. Facilities include 10 single bedroom flats and 25 studio flats.

Leicester City Council's Housing Department used a Portable Plant (Green Boiler Go) that would allow them to replace the boilers without any inconvenience / disruption to the heating or domestic hot water provision. This new mobile boiler room, features:

- Condensing Boilers – Hovel Gas
- Variable Speed Drive Pumps
- Weather Compensated Optimisation fully Energy Management System
- Monitoring linked to the Intelligent Metering Systems
- Comprehensive Insulation of pipe work and associated valves and controls

- Pre treatment of water for heating system
- Hot water storage and generation utilising plate heat exchanges

Major boiler replacement programmes have always been a barrier as work would be restricted to holiday periods. Condensing boilers in general tend to be more difficult and therefore can take longer for the contractors to install compared to other boilers types, which are normally faster and simpler to install (Boiler replacement within time limits - short holidays).

The old obsolete gas-fired boilers were replaced with modern Hovel gas-fired condensing boilers. This type of boiler achieves typical fuel efficiencies of up to 95%, which means that 95p of every £1 spent on fuel is producing useful heat for the building while only 5p escapes as waste heat in flue gases. In addition, the harmful atmospheric emissions from condensing boilers are far lower than those produced by conventional boilers.

Condensing boilers do cost more to buy and install than conventional models because they are manufactured to higher specifications. However, by funding this extra costs (£6,750) from the Council's LAEF Scheme the project can easily recover its investment within five years in the form of lower heating bills.

This project was further enhanced with improved insulation in the plant room. A considerable amount of heat is wasted within boiler houses and plant-rooms from valves, unions and flanges that are uninsulated. A typical valve can lose the same amount of heat as one-meter length of uninsulated pipe work, but these units are often left exposed because of their awkward shape.

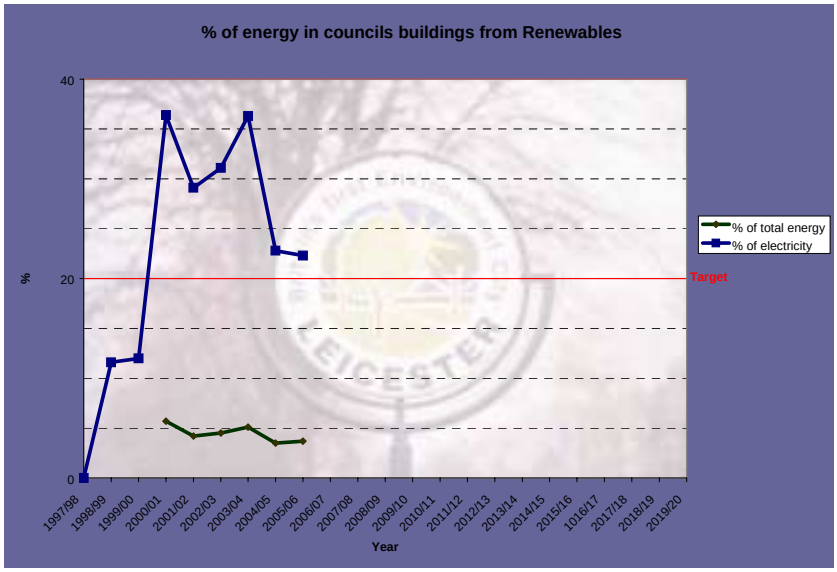
However, it is possible to fit customised jackets and covers to reduce such losses and ensure that heat is delivered into the building, where it is required at a cost of £627. This method of insulation produces an excellent return on investment, typically less than two years, in the form of lower heating bills.

The difference between the prediction and the actual gas usage shows that usage had been reduced by over 18%, representing a saving of over 70,000 kWh and 13 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the last 12 months.

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 2005/06, 22.3% of electricity used in all council buildings came from renewable sources and this represents 3.7% 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 2005/6.

The renewal of the energy contract has been delayed until 2007/8. This will provide an opportunity to increase the proportion of energy procured from renewable resources.

In schools, Eyres Monsell installed a wind turbine in January 2005**,** contributing about a quarter of the schools electricity needs per year from a renewable source.

Target Amendments

No changes are proposed to the corporate target.

A new target (target 1.5) is proposed specifically for schools - Increase school use of renewable energy *(to 20% of energy requirements in 2020/2021)*

Future Actions

The council will complete an inventory of its existing renewable energy generation installations and incorporate their output into target 1.2. In addition, further sites for generating renewable electricity will be investigated. This will include the option of changing electricity generated through combined heat and power to a renewable source such as biodiesel.

A feasibility study will be conducted with all EMAS schools to see which schools are interested in developing a renewable energy project and what technology is most suitable for their site. EMAS schools will be encouraged to transfer to renewable energy supply contracts.

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

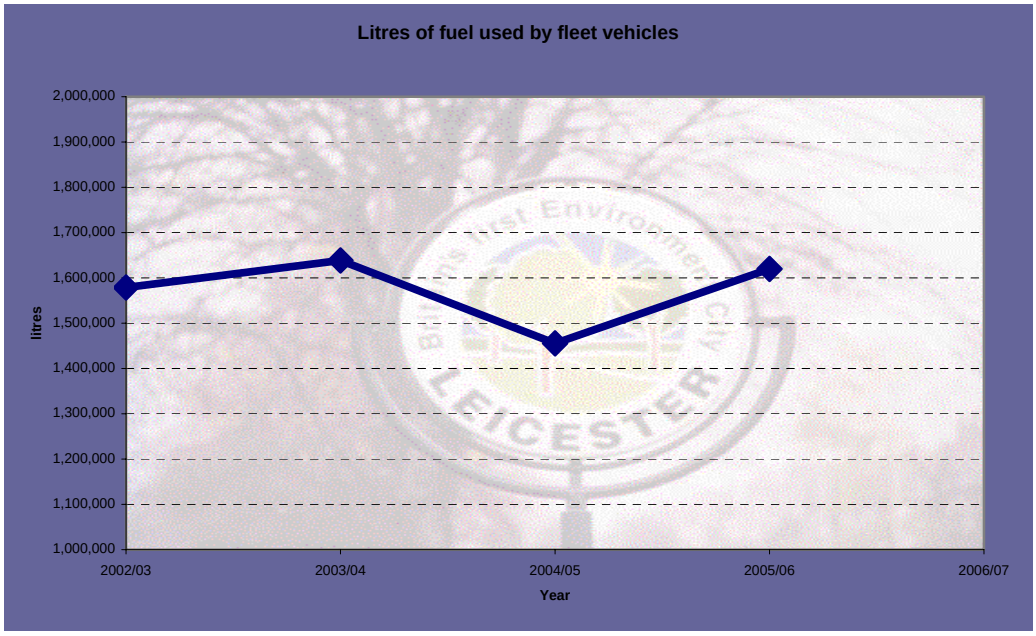
Leicester City Council operates a fleet of over 800 vehicles. Reducing the fuel used by the vehicle fleet will help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Progress Towards Target

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 then 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 now 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.

Year	Fuel use (litres)	Change from baseline data
2002/03	1,578,680	
2003/04	1,638,597	3.7% increase
2004/05	1,455,621	7.8% decrease
2005/06	1,619,878	2.6% increase



Target Amendments

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.

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

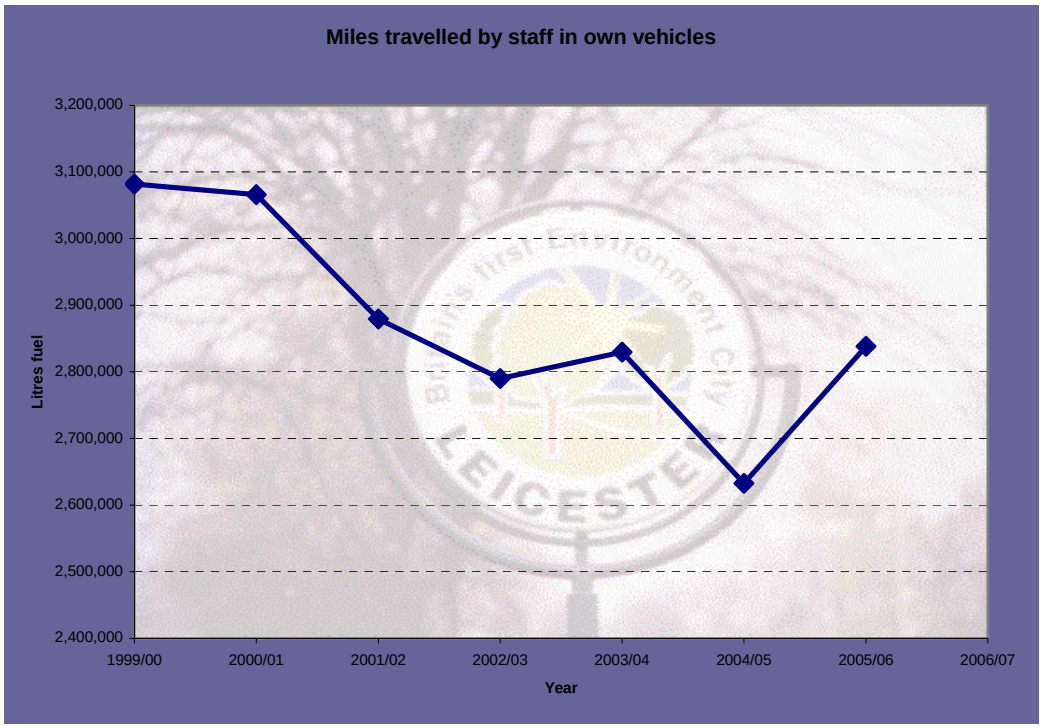
need to meet Euro IV standards, this standard requires engines to be less polluting and these vehicles will gradually be introduced to the vehicle fleet.
Work will be undertaken to collect data about the number of miles travelled which together with the amount of fuel used will allow us to monitor the miles per litre of fuel the fleet vehicles are obtaining.

1.3b To reduce the number of miles staff travel on council business in private cars (15% reduction of the 1999/00 level by 2005/06).

Some Leicester City Council staff use their own vehicles for carrying out council work. Encouraging staff to travel less miles on council business will help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Progress Towards Target

In 2005/6 private staff mileage increased by 7.8% to 2,838,185 miles, although there is still an overall reduction of 7.9% since 1999/00. This is insufficient to meet the 15% reduction target.



Target Amendments

A further target will be developed.

Future Action

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.

In March 2007 a liftshare scheme will be launched, it will be web based and users will be able to log on, enter the details of the journey they want to make and see whether any body else is making the same journey.

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.

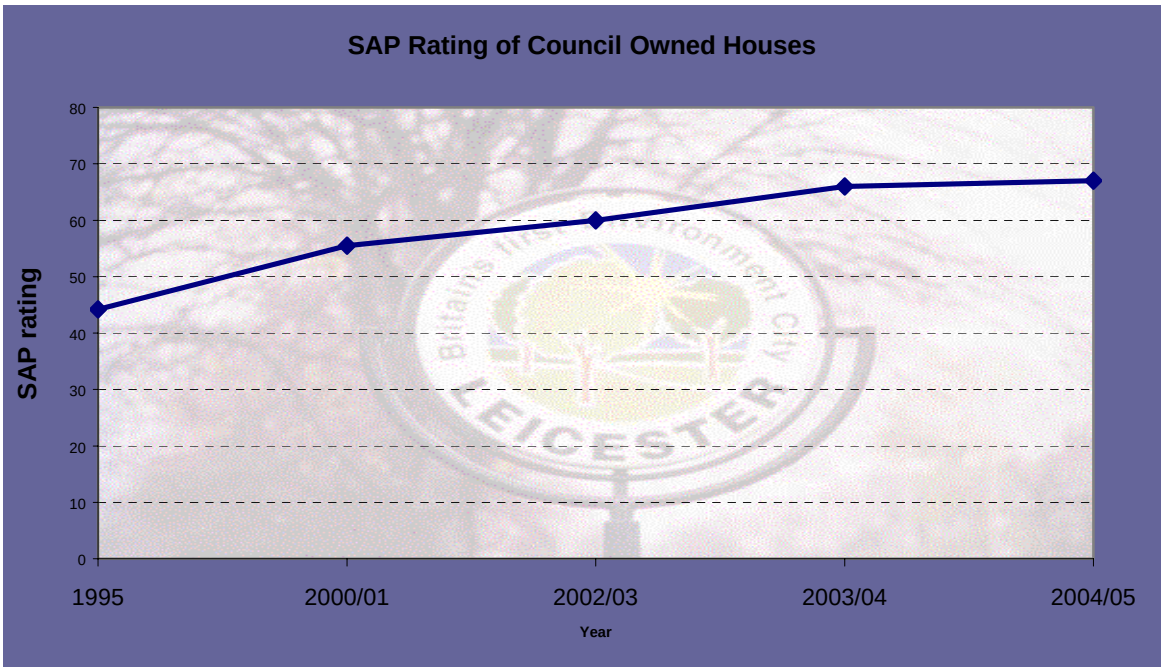
Improving energy efficiency in homes within the city helps residents by reducing their fuel bills but also helps to reduce their impact on the environment.

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. The target is to monitor an improvement in these ratings across the whole city. However, at present we do not have a complete picture of the situation for private owned houses.

Energy efficiency in private owned houses - We have spent the past two years improving the data set for private houses (some 1000 records were added to the data base. 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.

Energy efficiency in Council owned houses - Information is available on the energy efficiency of council owned houses and in 2005/06 the average SAP rating for council housing was 68.7, an increase of nearly 2 points from 2005/006.
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.



Target Amendments

No changes are proposed to the target.

Future Actions

Further work is needed to obtain data for private houses outside of areas of the city with active grant-schemes and projects.

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).

Target Amendments

Development of a new target is ongoing.

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

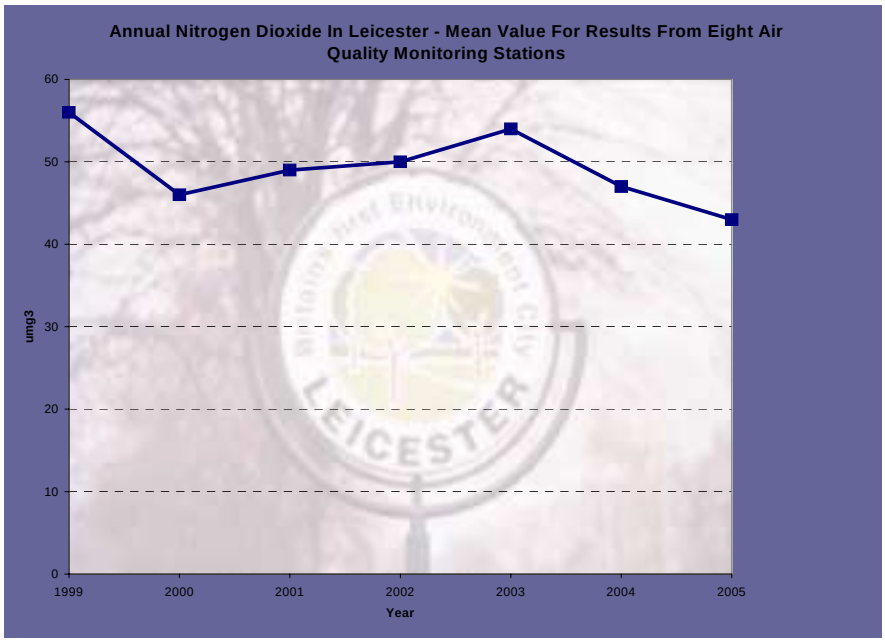
4.1 Improve air quality within the city by achieving national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide by the end of 2005

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.

The air quality assessment of Leicester undertaken a few years ago 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 now two national air quality limit values relating to nitrogen dioxide. The first relates to short term exposure where the one hour mean should not exceed 200 μgm^3 more than 18 times per year. The second objective relates to long term exposure, where the annual mean should not exceed 40 μgm^3. The target date for these two limit values is 2010.

Progress Towards Target



In general, it is difficult to demonstrate robust trends in air quality because of annual variations in weather and at the moment no overall conclusion can be drawn about nitrogen dioxide levels over the last few years (see graph above).

The challenging national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (in target 4.1) were not met by 2005. This was common to all major cities in the Country. New targets have been set in connection with the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (CLTP) 2006 – 2011 (http://www.leicester.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=836), where it is predicted that there will be a failure in the City to meet the 2010 limit values.

Target Amendments

It is proposed that the wording of the target is changed to reflect the wording of the new targets within the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan - To achieve the 4 key point targets set in the Local Transport Plan for air quality

The 4 Key Point Targets for Leicester (from the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011 – Annex 11)

RECEPTOR POINT	OS grid ref./ Fig. No.	Type of site	BASELINE (Average, measured annual mean NO_2 2003-5 ($\mu g.m^{-3}$))	LTP TARGET (Annual mean value for 2010)
Glenhills Way	457083-300156 Fig. 3.3	Roadside	65	55[1]
Abbey Lane	458574-306885 Fig. 3.5	Roadside	49	42
Melton Road	459528-306316 Fig 3.7	Roadside	55	47
St. Matthews Way	459221-305036 Fig. 3.8	Roadside	59	48[1]

[1]Value needs to be corrected for exposure

Future Actions

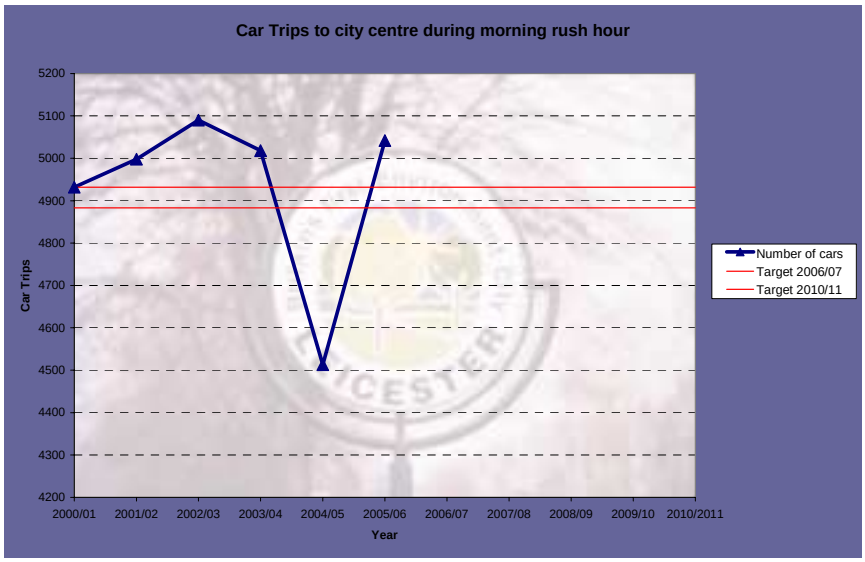
Because the key air quality issue in Leicester is nitrogen dioxide from traffic near the major road network, progress will be related to transport and traffic interventions. It was decided to integrate the City Council's Air Quality Action Plan into the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan for 2006 – 11. This puts forward a broad package of long-term measures that will need to be implemented.

The Air Quality Action Plan will also be integrated with the Climate Change Action Plan that is being produced by the City Council.

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 2000/01. This figure should be treated with caution as the survey was carried out on a day when snowfall reduced the number of vehicles entering the city centre. Data for 2005/06 records an increase in trips of 1.8% above the 2000/01 levels.

Target Amendments

This indicator is no longer included in the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan for 2006 – 11. An amended EMAS target will be proposed as a result.

Future Action

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

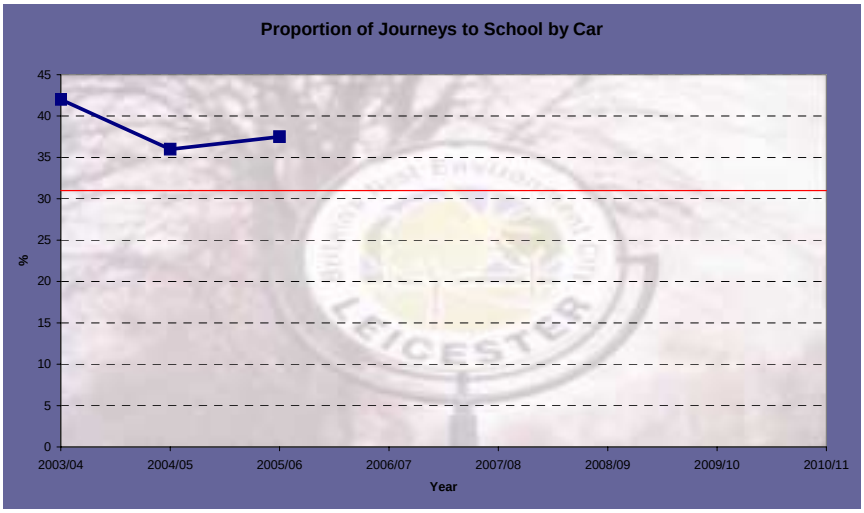
Cycling promotion is also planned with a bike to school week in April 2007 and a mass bike/walking event as part of the Sports festival in Summer 2007.

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



During 2005/06, 37.5% of journeys to school at schools with travel plans were made by car. This was slightly higher than the 2004/05 figure of 35.9%. The target for 2010/11 is 31% so despite the slight increase we are still on track.

In schools, the Air today - Bike tomorrow project provided free National Standard cycle training to Key Stage 2 pupils in 15 EMAS schools.

Target Amendments

This indicator is likely to be redefined by the Department for Transport during the Transport Plan period, and this will form the basis for an amended target.

Future Actions

During the Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (2006-11) period it is intended to roll out school travel plans to cover 100% of the school population.

Funding has been secured for a BikeIT officer to work with up to 10 schools a year to deliver the Schools and Cycle Skills Project. The aim is to deliver cycle training to 80% of Year 6 students to Level 2 of the national standard by 2011.

5. THE COUNCIL'S WASTE

The amount of waste produced is growing year on year, with steady rises seen in both household and commercial waste. In the UK we have a tradition of disposing of waste to landfill sites, holes in the ground are filled with waste that is left to decompose. The green waste decomposes releasing methane gas, a greenhouse gas associated with climate change and other wastes remain buried, slowly breaking down and in some cases producing toxic by-products. In addition, existing landfill sites are quickly filling up.

It is therefore important that we reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. The way to do this is to:

- Reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place; use materials wisely
- Reuse 'waste' for other purposes; architectural features can be salvaged for re-use when buildings are demolished
- Recycle waste material: glass can be recycled into new glass products or even as a substitute for sand

Increasingly this desire is being supported by legislation and financial incentives introduced by the government.

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

Progress Towards Target

During the summer of 2005, a pilot paper recycling scheme was expanded from two floors of New Walk Centre (the council's main administrative building) to the whole building. From august to the end of the financial year, 37 tonnes of paper were collected for recycling.

Plans to expand the scheme into other council buildings in the city centre during 05/06 were delayed because the council needed to re-establish a building cleaning service. This was because the contracted cleaning services company terminated the contract with the council.

In addition, staff have been instructed not to place glass in office waste bins, but to use glass recycling banks.

The collection of data on the amount of residual office waste going to landfill was complicated by the costs involved in operating a separate vehicle specifically for collecting residual waste from council buildings. This did not prove commercially viable. The council waste was collected alongside trade waste from private companies and the two could not be separated for monitoring purposes.

Target Amendments

The wording of the target will be revised to specifically address office waste as opposed to all council waste and the data collection mechanism revised.

A new target will be developed to reduce school waste going to landfill sites.

Future Action

Once the council has re-established the building cleaning service and it is running efficiently then the paper recycling scheme can be expanded into other council buildings. The paper recycling rate should then go up.

Once the Bursom waste processing plant is fully operational (October 2006) it is anticipated the residual office waste will be processed through the plant, this will further decrease the amount of council office waste going to landfill.

In addition, a Green Work Guide is planned for distribution to all staff that will provide advice on waste reduction, re-use, recycling and disposal.

EMAS schools will pursue recycling schemes for cardboard, plastic and cans in preparation for the new school waste target. The majority of EMAS schools already have a paper recycling scheme with a paper collection service provided by the waste management company Biffa.

6. WASTE FROM LEICESTER (INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD, CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER TRADE WASTE)

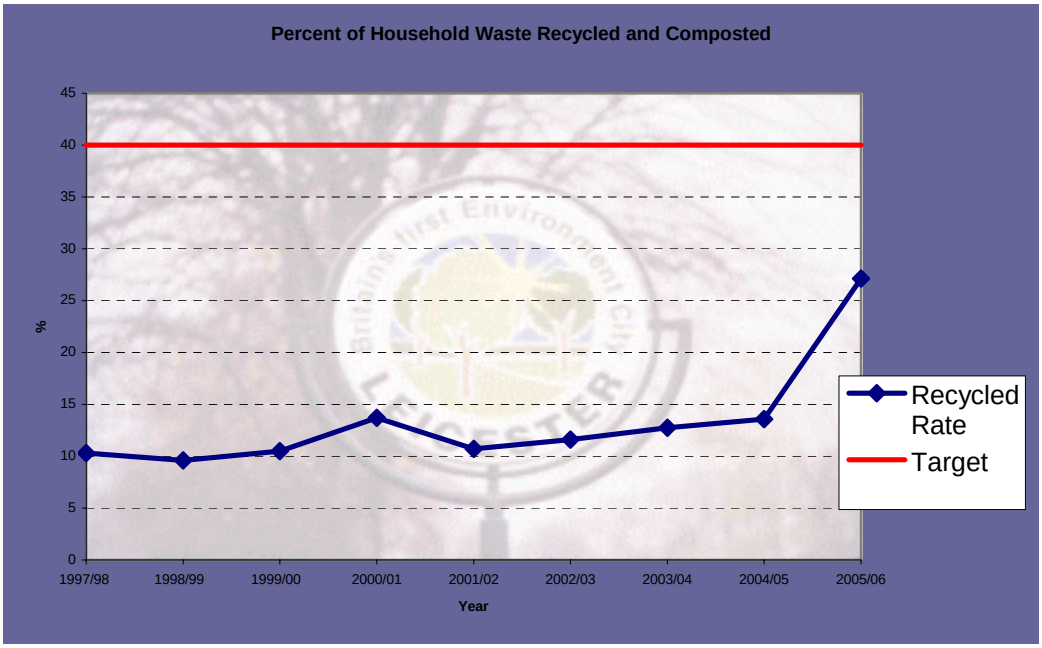
6.1 Increase recycling of household waste (40% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005/6)

Progress Towards Target

Although the 05/06 target of recycling or composting 40% of household waste in the City was not achieved, the recycling/composting rate did double from 13.59% in 04/05 to 27.14%. In addition, another 10.64% of the household waste was recovered for use as fuel.

During 2004/5, a fire at the Bursom waste processing plant meant that the plant was not operating for a period and this reduced the anticipated level of recycling and composting. During 05/06 the waste processing plant was operating, but only at 50% capacity. Full operation is expected from October 2006 and should ensure that the 40% target is met.

The green box scheme that separates glass, paper and plastics at the kerbside has been extended to flats and now covers 95% of residents.



Target Amendments

The target date will be extended from 2005/06 to 2006/07 to allow the Bursom waste processing plant to become fully operational.

Future Action

Full operation of the Bursom waste processing plant is expected in October 2006. In addition, 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 long-term 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). 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 old schools in the city.

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

Progress Towards Target

A target for reducing the amount of construction waste going to landfill still 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 a search for potential sites began. Initially, a city council owned site in Enderby was identified and a planning application submitted. However, due to the concerns of local residents about the proposed location and the distance from the City, preparatory work was carried out on a planning application for a second site at Sunningdale Road within the City boundary.

Target Amendments

Target development will continue when a construction and demolition waste recycling facility has been established.

In addition, a new target is proposed (Target 6.3) to reduce the amount of school construction waste going to landfill - Secondary schools within the BSF programme to exceed target 4 from the Continuous Improvement Plan

This is important for the new programme to re-model secondary schools known as Building Schools for the Future.

Future Action

The Council, in partnership with Groundwork (formerly Environ), will continue to progress a construction and demolition waste recycling site in the City at Sunningdale Road. Work will also continue with developers through the Leicester Better Buildings project to minimise the amount of waste being sent to landfill

7. THE COUNCIL'S USE OF WATER

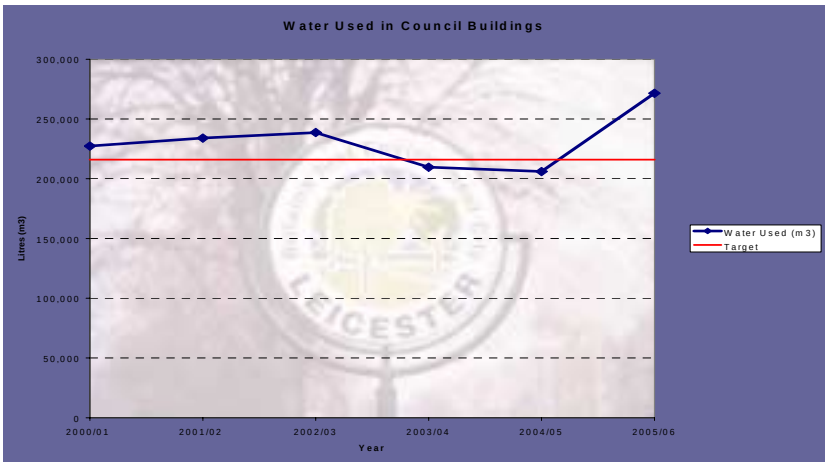
7.1 Reduce potable water use in council buildings (5% reduction of 2000/01 levels by 2005/06)

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. Progress towards the target has not been constant. Usage fell over the previous two statement periods which was attributed to the introduction of real-time monitoring of consumption through Intelligent metering. The apparent dramatic increase in consumption during 2005/06 requires further investigation.

Intelligent metering is now installed in over 280 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 (LAEF).

Target Amendments

A further water consumption target will be developed once the increase in water consumption has been fully investigated.

A new target is proposed (Target 6.3) for schools - Reduce potable water used in schools (for non-drinking purposes) (*By 5% of the 2006/7 level by 2011/12)*

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 2006/07.

Case Study - Display is a project developed in 2003 by Energie Cités for use by municipalities across Europe in anticipation of the European Public Building Directive (EPBD).

Free to use by members of Energie Cités, it provides a poster for use in municipal buildings that:

- Makes water, energy and climate issues comprehensible to non-specialists
- Encourages the population to take action
- Promotes the municipality's in-house initiatives
- Has been developed with and by the member cities
- Can be used everywhere in Europe

Leicester is a founder member and Vice President of Energie Cités, was one of the pilot cities in the Display project and is a Display Relay City, giving advice on implementation of the project to other UK municipalities. Currently Leicester has over 100 buildings actively using posters, ranging from Leisure Centres and schools to Central Local Administration Buildings (CLABS).

- The poster is produced using energy and water consumption data and is:-
- Entirely explained
- Uses in-house data
- Methodology validated by experts
- Can be verified step by step manually with the user's guide

The poster uses the same tried and tested format as is used for white goods. The success of that format can be gauged from the fact that before the introduction of white goods labelling, class "A" fridges made up less than 2% of the total sold, within 10 years that has risen to more than 45%.

Some examples of posters currently in use are shown.

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.

Work to reduce paper consumption in schools has started. The vast majority of EMAS schools have scrap paper drawers and signs throughout school to make pupils and staff aware of the importance of not wasting paper.

Target Amendments

Once data collection has been improved then a new target will be set.

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.

Target Amendments

Once data collection has been improved then a new target will be set.

A new target (target 8.3) is proposed specifically for schools - Increase the use of recycled paper in schools *(by 10% per year from 2006/7 level).*

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 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

Parks and Open Spaces - With the exception of eight management plans, which relate to newly adopted or developing sites, the target of having management plans to cover all of the City Council's managed parks and open space has been met.

Trees and Woodland - In 2005/06 surveys were completed for 4 parks, 72 highways, 3 schools, 10 public housing neighbourhoods. Surveys are carried out by service area. Social Care and Health and Education site surveys are completed, as are Highways surveys. The majority of outstanding surveys are those required for trees and woodland on parks and it is estimated these will be completed in 2010.

The Riverside - A Riverside capital programme for 2005/08 has been approved for improvements to access, landscape, wildlife sites and grazing land at Aylestone Meadows Local Nature Reserve. Continued implementation of wetland and woodland management plans, including volunteer involvement, has continued as part of the programme. The Riverside Clean-up programme and volunteer involvement in Riverside management through the Green Life boat project continues. The overall management plan for the Riverside has been put on hold pending changes to the way the Riverside is being managed.

Target Amendments

Now that the majority of the site-specific management plans have been developed the target will be further developed to consider the implementation and monitoring of the plans.

Future Actions

Parks and Open Spaces - To implement and monitor the management plan actions, review the management plan structure to make it more 'user friendly' and develop a new management plan timetable in line with the five-year life cycle of the management plans. Also, review the ecological content of the management plans, prioritising Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Sincs) and Biodiversity Enhancement Sites (BES's).

Trees and Woodland - The programme of completing trees and woodland management plans will continue in 2006/7.

The Riverside - Responsibility for the Riverside Rangers will be transferred to the Parks Section, a staffing review will be completed by early 2007 and a person will be appointed to take forward the management plans for the Riverside, including development of the Aylestone Meadows plan.

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

There was no loss of or severe damage to any Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) during 2005/6. However, because of other priorities, the information was not collected on the condition of SINCs. The other priorities included parts of the Watermead Park within the City being declared a Local Nature reserve and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the City, which has been produced in partnership with Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire (formerly Environ).

Improvement works to SINCs and Local Nature Reserves during 05/06 included:

- Improvements to habitats at the Tern Island and woodland at Watermead SINC and LNR
- Woodland management at Highway Spinney SINC and Knighton Spinney SINC/LNR
- Interpretation, signs and entrance improvements at Knighton Spinney SINC/LNR
- Fencing works at Goss Meadows SINC/LNR to improve grazing for nature conservation
- Access improvements to Rally Bank LNR, Humberstone Park

Target Amendments

In future, the target will be reviewed and possibly revised to consider land outside of SINCs**.**

Future Action

Future work includes the delivery of the 5 key actions set out within the BAP, in partnership with Groundwork, and the gathering of data on habitats and sites within the city, in the context of the region.

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

Progress Towards Target

Due to restrictions on resources, this target has never progressed.

Target Amendments

It is proposed that the existing target 9.3 is deleted and replaced with a completely new target to improve wildlife habitats in school grounds - *develop 3 new areas of functioning habitat by 2007/08*.

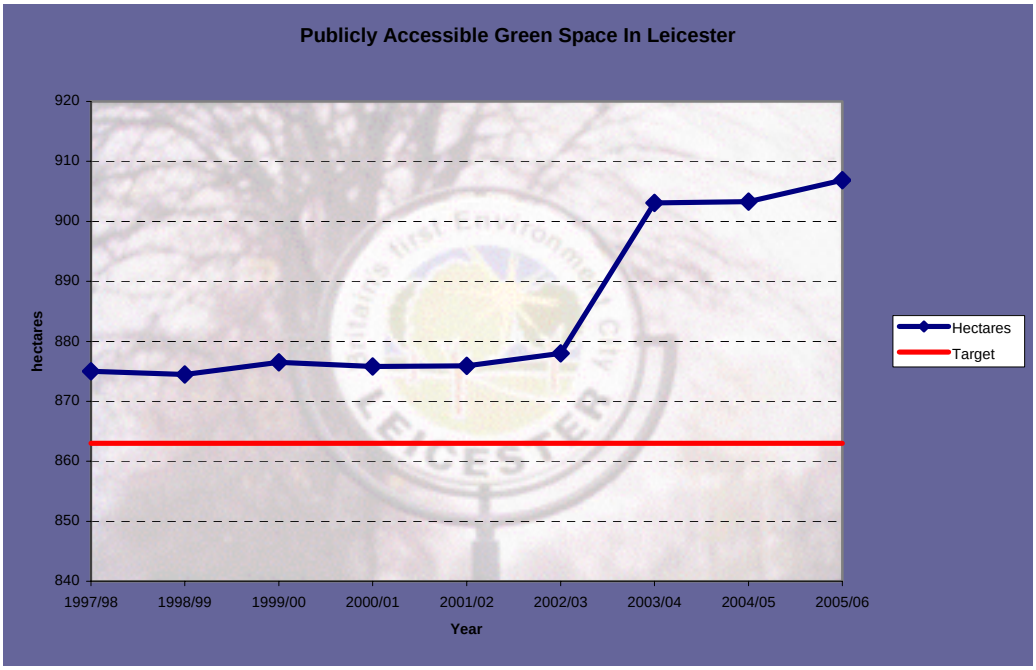
Many EMAS schools have already secured grants to develop their natural environment. Schools have involved their pupils with the development of willow domes and tunnels, tree planting, making and putting up nest boxes and hedgehog homes.

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 disposals of Council land during 05/06 that resulted in the loss of publicly accessible green space. In addition, there was one acquisition of land totaling 3.48 hectares at Victoria Road East that will be used for publicly accessible green space. This gives a total of 906.88 ha of publicly accessible green space in the city at the end of 05/06.

Target Amendments

There is no change proposed to the corporate target and a new target will be developed to retain a net area of open space in school grounds.

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

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 Master Plan 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, Building Schools for the Future, to update old buildings with sustainable learning environments.

11.1 To create a sustainable built environment within the city

Progress Towards Target

The Leicester Better Buildings Officer, has been working with developers to promote and help them implement the aspirations of the Leicester Better Buildings initiative (see www.leicesterbetterbuildings.org.uk). The officer also helped develop a new award for sustainable construction as part of the Leicester Procon series. The winner in 2005 was Braunstone Health Centre (see case study). A target was to be developed which reflected the number of buildings in Leicester that have followed the Leicester Better Buildings Guidance; however, this has proved difficult to quantify.

The City of Leicester Local Plan, adopted in January 2006 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. Replacing an earlier Supplementary Planning Guidance, an Energy Supplementary Planning Document was adopted in November 2005. It includes increasingly stringent requirements for the use of renewable energy sources, on site, as well as the need to address energy efficiency and consideration of combined Heat and Power. It is supplementary to the policies in the recently adopted Local Plan and also includes helpful advice and contact lists.

The Leicester Better Buildings project officer focused attention on supporting developers to apply this new policy for major planning applications. In addition, planners were given a training session on renewable energy as part of their development programme. An interim target is proposed for objective 11.1, which will monitor compliance with the new planning policy on renewable energy.

A tendering process took place to secure a partner for the Building Schools for the Future Programme. This is a 20 year programme which seeks to re-model and improve Leicester's secondary schools. Environmental criteria formed part of the selection process. The successful partner will be required to build new schools to excellent environmental standards (as defined by BREEAM the Building Research Establishment's national environmental building standard).

Target Amendments

A new interim target (target 11.1) has been set - All planning applications for major developments, to apply the City of Leicester Local Plan Policy BE16 with respect to the generation of on- site renewable energy *(100% compliance in 2007/8).*

In addition, a new target (target 11.2) has been set specifically for schools - To create sustainable school buildings *(from 2007/8, all new or refurbished schools to exceed* "very good" standards, as defined by BREEAM (*to achieve an overall score of 65%).*

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. However further funding for this post will need to be secured. A target with a broader focus will be developed.

Case Study - The Leicestershire Procon Sustainable Building of the Year Award for 2005

The Leicestershire Procon Sustainable Building of the Year Award for 2005 was a unanimous decision by the five judges in selecting the Braunstone Health and Social Care Centre. Their decision was based particularly upon the strong environmental and social outcomes. The deeply embedded social sustainability was the final determining factor.

- The building has been built on a brown field site.
- The one stop center integrates health and social care professionals, thereby improving patient care - an important social sustainability issue.
- The Centre has been designed with the needs and aspirations of patient users very much in mind.
- There is a significant contribution from the Centre towards the regeneration of Braunstone.
- The fact that poor health is a major barrier to entering employment for a quarter of Braunstone residents is addressed in the development.
- Harnessing of solar gain is a key energy conservation design feature.
- All rooms are naturally ventilated and there is a computer-controlled system to introduce cool air for summer periods that is future proofed in terms of climate warming effects.
- The building uses timber from sustainable resources.
- Rainwater collected from the roof area is recycled.

Case Study – Energy Supplementary Planning Document

The City Council adopted 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_2 emission reductions and renewable energy generation.

At the City level it will help implement the City's Climate Change 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

12.1 Less than 15% of relevant land and highways in the city centre to have combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level by 2006/07

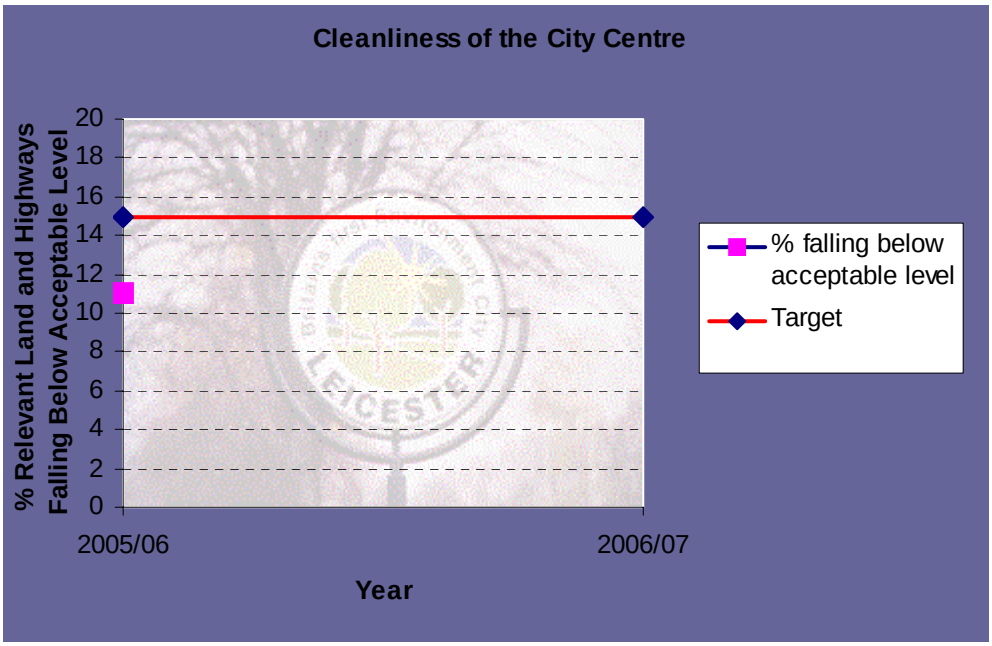
The focus of this target is on reducing litter within the city centre. Litter is an important quality of life issue that is a consistent concern for members of the public in Leicester.

Progress Towards Target

The original 75% Cleansing Index target was achieved in 2002/3, two years ahead of schedule and was replaced last year with the new target above.

In 2005/06, only 11% of relevant land and highways in the city centre had combined deposits of litter and detritus that fell below an acceptable level. This means that the new target of 15% has been achieved in the first year.

	Cleansing Index %
2001/02	69
2002/03	75
2003/04	85.6
2004/05	83
Introduction of new target above	
2005/06	11



Target Amendments

This target has already been achieved and will be reviewed in 2006/07.

13. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING IN LEICESTER

13.1 To improve awareness of environmental issues amongst Leicester residents

Ensuring people are aware of 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

In the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey, respondents were asked:

"Which of the following do you do? And which of the following do you not currently do but intend to do in the next 12 months?

- Insulate your home
- Sign up to a green energy contract
- Switching off lights and electrical appliances when not in use
- Recycle your waste
- Make your garden greener (eg. plant trees)
- Walk, cycle or use public transport instead of the car
- Start composting
- Travel by aeroplane less
- Buy locally made goods
- Save water"

Twenty five % of the respondents stated that they had taken five or more of the ten actions.

Target Amendments

A new target has been established - To increase the percentage of residents taking five or more actions to protect the environment from a list of ten actions included in the 2005 Leicester Residents Survey *(from 25% in 2005 to 30% in 2007).*

The indicator assumes that people are more likely to take action if their level of awareness is higher or their level of awareness will increase if they take action as a result of some other influence on behaviour (eg. the introduction of a recycling scheme).

The value of this indicator will inevitably also be influenced by activities not undertaken as part of EMAS in Leicester, both local and national (eg. new legislation, government policy, media coverage of environmental issues etc).

The next residents survey is planned for 2007 and progress towards the target can be established after the survey results are made available.

A new target (target 13.2) has been set specifically for schools - To raise levels of environmental awareness and action, within schools *(Annual increase in numbers of Leicester schools participating in EMAS from 2003/4 – 2010/11).*

In addition, another target will be developed to increase environmental education within schools around the number of school lessons which incorporate environmental issues.

Future Action

Awareness raising campaigns will be designed specifically to increase environmental awareness and promote the ten actions listed above.

The City Council will continue to work in partnership with Groundwork (formerly Environ) on the EMAS in schools initiative.

Case Study – The Annual Leicester Environment Partnership Event and the "Green Life Awards"

In March 2005 and again in March 2006 the cross-sector Leicester Environment Partnership organised an event to widen participation in the Partnership and celebrate the excellent environmental work happening in the City.

Approximately 100 guests, representing over 30 city organisations, joined the Leicester Environment Partnership at Leicester Museum to hear well known keynote speakers, such as the TV presenter Penney Poyzer, and celebrate awards in the following categories:

Best business
Best School
Best Community Group
Most Outstanding Individual

Best Education Project
Best Green Spaces Project
Best Nature Project
Best Transport Project
Best Waste Project
Best Natural Resources Project
Best Pollution/Litter Project

The event culminates with the announcement of the overall "Green Life Award" winner. In 2006 this was won by the Environ (now Groundwork) "Bikes 4 All" project.

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 six 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 Environment and Culture 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

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

Compliance with legislation and City Council policies

Many of the significant effects relate to the large amount of legislation that we have duties to enforce, for example, we must control pollution in the City and assess planning applications. We must also act within the law. So, for example, when highway work is carried out, we have a duty to control noise and pollution and dispose of waste correctly, just like everyone else. This is reflected in the Register of Environmental Legislation.

In addition, the Register of Corporate Environmental Policies and International Commitments reflects the higher standards we have adopted through our own internal policies. Periodically we review and update our registers to check that we are up to date with any changes.

Leicester City Council did not knowingly breach any environmental legislation during this Statement period. However, the during 2005/06 financial year, the Environment Agency contacted Leicester City Council regarding the following issues:

- A pollution incident at Rollerston School involving vandalism to an oil tank. A grill was immediately fitted over the bund to prevent unauthorised access to the oil tank. The tank has since remained empty over the summer, as the heating season had ended. The oil-fired heating system was scheduled to be replaced with a gas-fired system over the summer holidays.
- The storage of waste at housing depots. The immediate concern was around the management of asbestos. A new procedure for the disposal of asbestos waste has been introduced at housing depots.

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

We have set 21 corporate targets for improvement following a comprehensive review of the EMAS system (see Table 1). The progress we have achieved against these targets is declared in the statement. Targets are being developed specifically for EMAS schools which will be reported in the next statement.

An action programme to achieve targets is monitored by officers of the Sustainable City Officers Group every six months and annually by Councillors. Schools will monitor their own progress through individual action programmes.

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

An EMAS Helpdesk telephone number and e-mail address continues to be available to receive and respond to any staff enquiries about EMAS.

Contractors and suppliers

We use a vast range of private contractors to deliver services. These range in size from international companies 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 monitored. Regularly, 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 specific concerns and an annual review is presented to elected members at Cabinet.

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 and EMAS schools.
- 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) which contains information about environmental initiatives within the city and also information about the City Council's EMAS system.
- The EMAS in schools website (www.emasinschools.org.uk) contains further information about the EMAS in schools project.
- Information on sustainable construction is available on the Leicester Better Buildings website (www.leicesterbetterbuildings.org.uk)
- The Environment 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 or the City Council website at www.leicester.gov.uk

General enquiries, & Feedback

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

Contact details

EMAS Helpline
Environment Team
Regeneration & Culture Department
Leicester City Council
New Walk Centre A13
Leicester LE1 6ZG
Tel: 0116 252 6779
Fax: 0116 255 9053
E-mail: emas@leicester.gov.uk

EMAS Validation

This environmental statement complies with the requirements of the EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme Regulation (EC) No. 761/2001, Annex III and was validated by Paul Smith on behalf of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd. Accreditation Number UK-V-005

Signed:_____ **Date:**
_____

The next statement will be submitted to the UK competent body by May 2008. It will cover the period April 2006 to March 2007.