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# Noise & Pollution Control Team

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# Objectives

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- To provide an overview of the areas of work undertaken in dealing with Pollution Control
- Detail Statutory Functions
- Brief synopsis of each area of work
- Provide statistics
- Answer any questions

# Overview

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- Leicester City Council's (NPC) Team operate a monitoring service to deal with noise, odour, smoke etc. from residential and commercial premises
- In addition to the monitoring service, the NPC Team have a number of Statutory functions that are more proactive in nature
- 2 Team Managers job share, 8 FTE PCO/EHOs 2 Night Noise Support Officers (1 FTE)
- Officers are required to participate on the rota for the monitoring service as well as being the Lead contact for their individual area of work.

# Pollution Control

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- Contaminated Land
- Environmental Permitting
- Petroleum
- Smoke Control
- Enderby Quarry
- Swimming Pool Sampling
- Ensure compliance with Statutory responsibilities
- Provide single points of contact for each area of work
- Ensure annual inspections are undertaken

# Contaminated Land

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- The vast majority of contaminated land is dealt with under the planning regime.
- The Team dealt with 219 number of planning applications in 2019-20.
- Options included requesting conditions be attached to the planning application to ensure that any contaminated land is remediated prior to being brought back into use.
- This is to a standard related to the future proposed use. For example remediation usually has to be of a higher level for residential proposals as opposed to industrial/commercial ones.
- NPC also deal with requests for information in relation to past uses. This information is provided for a fee. The number of requests in 2019-20 was 36.

Tar pits at old gas works site in Leicester (now remediated). Now the site of the Morningside Arena.



# Environmental Permitting

- LCC have the Statutory responsibility under the Pollution Prevention Control Act (PPC) 1999.
- These industries are split into categories, mostly by size but also by pollutant:
  - Part A1 = Integrated Pollution Control (Emissions to air, land, water) – Environment Agency responsibility
  - Part A2 = Integrated Pollution Control (Emissions to air, land, water) – LA responsibility
  - Part B = emissions to air only – LA responsibility
- Requires certain industries to apply for a permit to operate
- Permit requires each industry to comply with emissions limits for various pollutants.
- There are currently 58 permitted processes within the City.
- LA required to inspect the processes based on a risk based approach. Larger processes (for example foundries) get up to 3 visits per year, smaller industries (for example dry cleaners) may only need to be inspected every 3 years.
- DEFRA requirement to report on all processes and inspections annually. LCC comply fully with all permitting and inspection targets.



# Abatement system at Crematorium





# Petroleum

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- LCC are the competent Authority for the enforcement of the storage of petroleum products in the City.
- This was a duty transferred from the County Council during Unitary Status in 1997.
- LCC have as designated Petroleum Officer (PO) as a single point of contact.
- All Petrol Filling Stations are required to apply for a storage certificate for petroleum (this used to be a licence). There are currently 29 sites that have petroleum storage certificates in the City.
- The Authority inspects all the filling stations and storage facilities based on a risk based approach. High risk processes will get an inspection at least every 6 months, lower risk processes will get inspected every 2 years.
- NPC also deal with domestic storage of petroleum, and also act as contact point for emergency services for issues relating to storage.

# Shell site having new farm of tanks installed



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# Smoke Control

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Following the smogs of the 1950' the Clean Air Act was enacted in 1956 to allow LA's to declare all or part of their districts as Smoke Control Areas (SCA's).

The aim was to reduce the levels of the visible smoke pollution from the burning of solid fuel that was blighting many urban areas at the time.

Leicester City Council declared areas of the City from 1958 to 1975, by which time the whole of the City was covered by 38 separate SCA's.

Due to the increasing number of wood burning appliances within the City it was decided to undertake some work to raise awareness of the SCA's and also make it easier for the people to understand.

This was consolidated into a single SCA that covers the whole City in 2018.

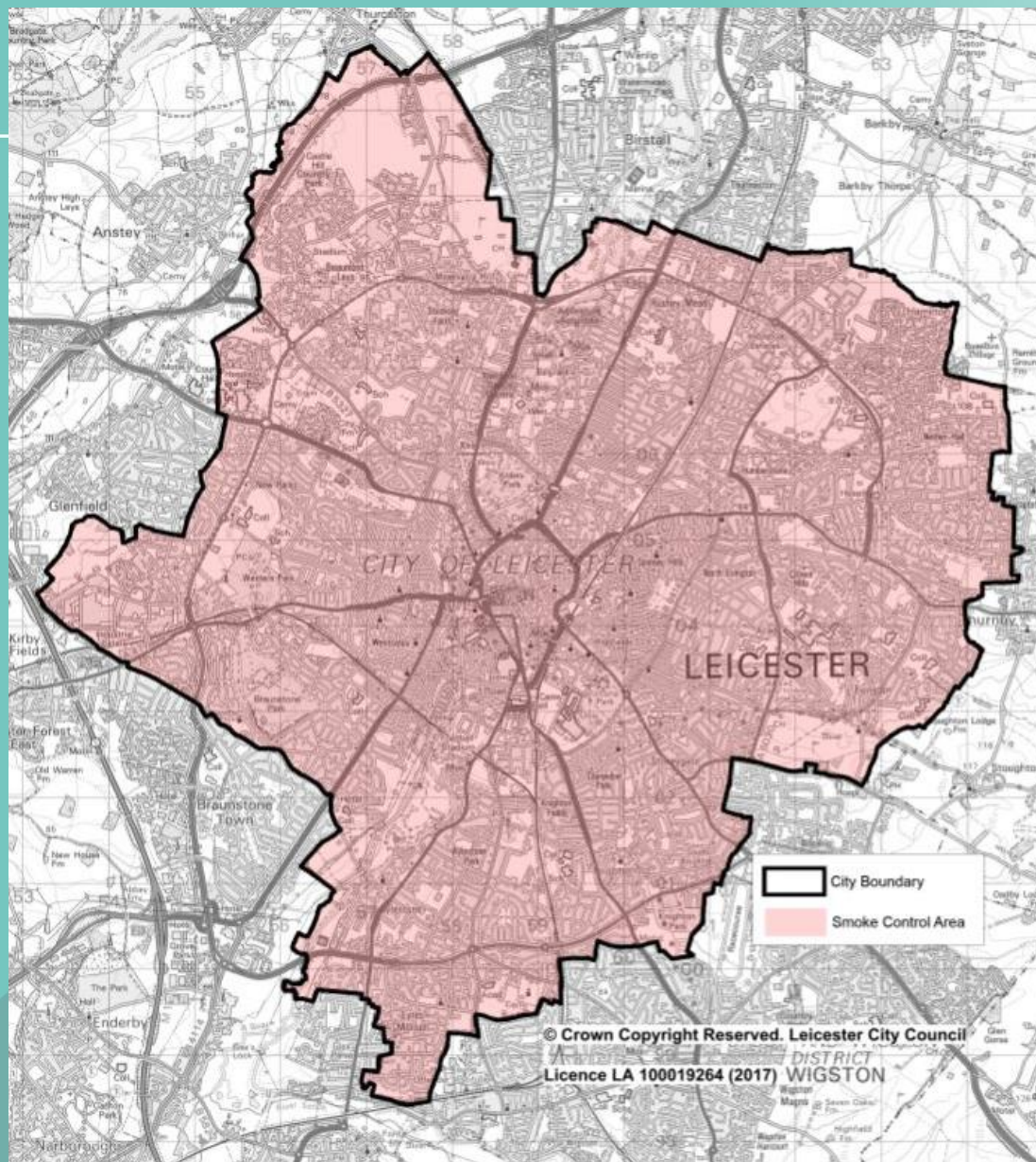
Under the SCA it is a requirement to either:

Burn solid fuel in an 'exempt appliance' (DEFRA approved)

Or use smokeless fuel (DEFRA approved)



# Leicester City Council Smoke Control Order 2018



# Enderby Quarry and swimming pool sampling

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- NPC manage an old landfill site at Enderby on behalf of property services. This was an old quarry that was used as a tip for LCC waste.
- The site is still gassing and a gas monitoring system is in place to check levels at the site.
- Officers visit regularly to ensure monitoring system is working properly and access is clear for sample points.
- NPC also undertake swimming pool sampling on behalf of the leisure centres on a monthly basis. This service has also been extended to include to special schools with pools recently due to lockdown.



# Data comparison

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- Total number of Permitted processes in the City = 58
- Total number of Petroleum storage certificates in the City = 29
- Total number of contaminated land planning applications assessed in 2019-20 = 219
- Total number of bonfire/odour complaints 2019/20 = 345.
- Numbers are fairly consistent 2015/16 – 2019/20 = 345 to 376 complaints per year.
- Number of bonfire/odour complaints April-June 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> lockdown)= 301
- Publicity following increase – don't burn advice. Public requested to store waste until capacity at waste sites back to normal.
- Action taken = warning letters and abatement notices.
- Commercial bonfires are responsibility of Environment Agency. NPC will pass observations for EA action.

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# Any Questions?