

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REPORT 2009/10 – PROTECTING AND IMPROVING SCOTLAND'S ENVIRONMENT

<b>Air Quality – National Recommendation</b>	<b>Air Quality – Council's Response</b>
<p>The Scottish Government should improve the coordination of policies on air quality and road transport at a national level.</p>	<p>The Council would welcome and support the government in improving coordination of policies on air quality and road transport.</p>
<p>In councils with poor air quality caused by pollution from road transport, air quality teams should work with transport and planning colleagues to identify and implement actions to reduce emissions from road transport.</p>	<p>Air quality testing is carried out regularly. Although Moray is not classed as an area of poor air quality there are areas where the pollution from road transport is higher than the rest of Moray e.g. western end of Elgin High Street and Fochabers High Street. It is expected that the higher levels at the High Street in Fochabers will reduce following completion of the A96(T) by-pass and for Elgin the air quality impacts of any new industrial, commercial or biomass developments or any traffic management schemes proposed for Elgin are fully considered before implementation. The Moray Council has located four additional monitoring points for NO<sub>2</sub> following the outcome of the 2009 Updating and Screening Assessment report.</p> <p>Air quality testing has also been done in relation to the RAF bases at Lossiemouth and Kinloss. Results confirmed that this was not a problem.</p> <p>All air testing mentioned above is documented and published on the Moray Council Web site under Environmental Service - Public Health – Air Quality (<a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1790.html">http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1790.html</a>)</p>
<p>Councils with Air Quality Management Areas should review their action plans, identify funding to implement actions to tackle poor air quality, and set timescales for when they expect to be able to revoke their Air Quality Management Areas.</p>	<p>Although Moray does not have an AQMA area (the furthest north AQMA area is Aberdeen City), as stated above regular testing is done.</p>
<b>Biodiversity – National Recommendation</b>	<b>Biodiversity – Council's Response</b>
<p>The Scottish Government should provide clearer guidance to public bodies on delivering biodiversity at a local level and meeting their statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>At present the policy on Land Use details how development is managed in relation to biodiversity. The Moray Council is a partner organisation of the North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Group (consisting of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray) which aims to produce, implement and monitor action plans for a range of important habitats and species throughout the North East of Scotland. The Plan is designed to fit into a national</p>

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	<p>and international programme designed to enhance biodiversity globally and aims to protect and enhance local and national priority species, habitats and areas. It is a detailed five year plan specifying the actions required to meet proposed objectives and targets. A steering group of representatives from a range of organisations oversees the project with the support of a range of local sub-groups. Examples of such projects are: a coast ranger; Findhorn Bay Nature Reserve; The Wards Wildlife Site in Elgin. There are also a number of urban schools programmes. (details on website - <a href="http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/publications/habactionplan.htm">http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/publications/habactionplan.htm</a> or <a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1861.html">http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1861.html</a>)</p>
<p>Scottish Natural Heritage should continue to improve the availability and accuracy of data, to better monitor progress against Scottish biodiversity indicators.</p>	<p>This would be welcome and supported by The Moray Council as they use this data to designate important sites for inclusion in policies. It also uses this data in the consideration of planning e.g. wind farm consultation.</p>

<b>Waste Management – National Recommendation</b>	<b>Waste Management – Council’s Response</b>
<p>The Scottish Government and individual councils should agree plans that together combine to meet European Union and Scottish targets for the amount of waste recycled and sent to landfill.</p>	<p>The Council has undertaken comprehensive assessments and consultations, formed a waste strategy, received funding from Scottish Government and implemented initiatives based on that strategy and funding. This has resulted in:  As at December 2009, the Council maintained its position recycling 45.15% against a target of 40% with 21,529 tonnes of biodegradable municipal solid waste land filled remaining below the maximum target level of 25,437.  The next target for recycling in 2013 is 50% and with the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill being reduced by one third from 2010 to 2013 it is unlikely that the Council will achieve these targets based on current trends despite confirmation that the Councils methodology is correct. A report has been written which details what needs to be done to meet the 2013 waste targets and will be presented to the Corporate Management Team in May.</p>