

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 26 August 2014

Environmental Noise Action Plan Update

Item number	7.12
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards:	All Wards

Executive summary

The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006 implement the European Noise Directive 2002/49/EC, and describe a two stage process to manage environmental noise. The first stage, being the production of strategic noise maps and the second, being the production and implementation of Action Plans. This process is repeated every five years (rounds).

The Edinburgh Noise Action Plan was published and consulted upon by the Scottish Government in 2008. The area covered by the Action Plan comprises the following local authorities; City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian. The purpose of the Action Plan is to reduce the number of people exposed to high levels of environmental noise. A report was presented to the previous Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee, in 2008, which supported the Draft Noise Action Plan.

In Edinburgh, three proposed Noise Management Areas and 10 proposed Quiet Areas have been identified by the Edinburgh Working Group, following the round 1 noise mapping process. Committee is asked to support these recommended areas so that the Scottish Government and Scottish Ministers can be informed. Round 2 fieldwork is being undertaken currently and will be reported to Committee once complete.

Links

Coalition pledges CP48

Council outcomes CO22

Single Outcome Agreement SO2

Environmental Noise Action Plan Update

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Transport and Environment Committee:

- 1.1 Approves the three Noise Management Areas and 10 Quiet Areas recommended by the Edinburgh Working Group in relation to round one of the noise mapping process; and
- 1.2 Notes that the second round of noise mapping has begun, and an update will be provided to Committee once this work is complete at the end of August 2014.

Background

- 2.1 Noise Action Planning is a Scottish Government led initiative and was developed to support the adoption of EC Directive 2002/49/EC. The Scottish Government transposed this Directive into legislation, the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- 2.2 The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006 describe a two stage process to manage environmental noise. The first stage is to produce strategic Noise Maps, developed by consultants on behalf of the Scottish Government, and the second to produce and implement Noise Action Plans. The Action Plans aim to reduce noise levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is high.
- 2.3 The first Noise Action Plan was submitted to the previous Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 29 July 2008.
- 2.4 To produce the Noise Action Plan, the Scottish Government set up the Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group. Underneath this, a Working Group specifically for the Edinburgh Noise Action Plan area (comprising City of Edinburgh Local Authority area and boundary areas of Midlothian and East Lothian Local Authorities) has also been established. This Working Group consists of acoustic consultants employed by the Scottish Government, officers from the Council's Noise Team, Planning Service and Transport Service.
- 2.5 The Edinburgh Working Group produced a Noise Action Plan which identified Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs) and Candidate Quiet Areas (CQAs).

- 2.6 The methodology for the identification of CNMAs is based upon identifying areas of loud noise levels on the Strategic Noise Maps and, through fieldwork, combining these with areas of high population density then making an adjustment for the annoyance attributable to the noise source and level. The methodology for the identification of CQAs is developed from guidance given by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is based upon the identification of areas of low noise on the Strategic Maps and combining this with a minimum area covered.
- 2.7 Following this fieldwork and assessment, the Council designates the Noise Management Areas (NMAs) and Quiet Areas (QAs).
- 2.8 The Scottish Government is required to update the noise maps every five years, and Local Authorities have been requested to participate in this process. Members of the Noise Team, Planning and Transport within Services for Communities are currently involved in updating the noise maps for round 2. Whilst round 1 looked at roads with more than six million vehicle passages per year and agglomerations with a population of more than 250,000; round two looks at roads with more than three million vehicle passages per year and agglomerations with a population of more than 100,000. The process will be the same as round 1, with officers from the Council Noise Team carrying out fieldwork to confirm information provided in the Strategic Noise Maps.

Main report

Stage 1 – Strategic Noise Mapping

- 3.1 Strategic Noise Maps are based on assessment of noise exposure in a given area, due to different noise sources, or for overall predictions for such an area. The maps were created by acoustic consultants on behalf of the Scottish Government using specialised noise prediction modelling software. The data required for the calculation of noise levels have been determined by consultation with various organisations including Transport Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Network Rail, British Airports Authority and Local Authorities.
- 3.2 In the first round of noise mapping, the Strategic Noise Maps identified 19 CNMAs and 22 CQAs within the Edinburgh Noise Action Plan Area.

Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs)

- 3.3 Since the previous report to Committee in 2008, the methodology for the identification of CNMAs has been agreed by the Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group. Strategic noise maps are produced by consultants on behalf of the Scottish Government and use modelled data to identify areas of loud noise levels and combine these with areas of high population density. An adjustment is then made for the annoyance attributable to the noise source and level.

3.4 The strategic noise maps identified 19 CNMAs in Edinburgh associated with road traffic noise (See map at Appendix 1). They are identified as:

Granton	Tollcross 1
Abbey Hill	Tollcross 2
Leith 1	Bridges
Leith 2	Southside
Leith 3	Old Town 1
Docks	Old Town 2
Roseburn	Broughton
Gorgie	Calton 1
Slateford	Calton 2
Grassmarket	

3.5 Subsequently, these candidate areas have been assessed by the Edinburgh Working Group. The scrutiny included field visits to each of the locations to assess the validity of data (noise levels, traffic counts, building positions etc.) used in the calculation that identified the candidate areas.

3.6 From this assessment, three of these candidate areas have been recommended for progression to full NMAs. The Edinburgh Action Plan aims to reduce noise levels in these areas where possible and to take them into consideration in future planning, transport and any other related decisions, such as those set out on paragraph 3.12 below. They are listed below (see also map at Appendix 1):

Tollcross 2;
Westport; and
Old Town 2.

3.7 The other CNMAs were discounted as the fieldwork identified that the modelled data provided in the Strategic Noise Maps did not reflect the measured data from the site visits. They will not be reconsidered in further rounds, unless future Strategic Noise Mapping modelling indicates this is necessary.

Candidate Quiet Areas (CQAs)

3.8 The methodology for the identification of the CQAs is developed from guidance given by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is based upon the identification of predicted areas of low noise on the Strategic Noise Maps, produced by acoustic consultants on behalf of the Scottish Government.

3.9 The CQAs identified in the Plan have been subject to further scrutiny and tested against guidance produced by the Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group (SENSG).

3.10 There were 22 CQAs identified in the area covered (Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian), 16 of which are within the City of Edinburgh. These have also been assessed by Council's Noise Team as part of the Edinburgh Working Group.

3.11 Ten CQAs within the City of Edinburgh Council boundary have been recommended for progression to full QAs by the Edinburgh Working Group, as they meet the technical guidance as set out by DEFRA. The main parameters were that the areas were a minimum of 9 hectares and at least 75% of the area is subject to noise levels not exceeding 55dB L_{DAY}. The ten CQAs are at the following locations (see also Appendix 2):

QA2	Inverleith Park	QA16	Colinton Dell
QA3	Royal Botanic Gardens	QA17	Easter Craiglockhart
QA4	Lochend Park	QA18	Colinton Mains Park
QA5	Holyrood Park	QA20	Ancient woodlands Mortonhall
QA15	Hailes Park	QA21	Hermitage of Braid

3.12 If Committee support these 10 CQA's being submitted to the Scottish Government, any future actions or decision making which could impact on environmental noise, will need to take into consideration that these are QAs and this needs to be preserved. The Edinburgh Noise Action Plans Objectives (Agreed by the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 29 July 2008) are:

- a. On a prioritised basis, by 2018 we aim to reduce the exposure to environmental noise in NMAs;
- b. By 2018, we will incorporate environmental noise management within all stages of the planning process including transportation planning, design, construction and maintenance activities as appropriate;
- c. By 2018, we will endeavour to demonstrate a practical contribution to noise reduction via existing and future proposals and policies; and
- d. By 2018, we will promote channels of communication to stakeholders that encourage a learning environment.

Round 2 – Updated Strategic Noise Mapping

3.13 As the Scottish Government requires the strategic noise mapping to be updated every five years, the second round of noise mapping has already started and further CNMAs and CQAs will be considered, and will be assessed as per the guidance. A report will be provided to Committee on the outcome of round 2 when this fieldwork is complete, and proposals put forward by the Edinburgh

Working Group. These areas are in addition to the NMAs and the QAs identified as part of round 1.

- 3.14 The fieldwork for round 2 will be completed by the end of August 2014. Subsequently, a full and detailed report will be presented to this Committee explaining the process and outcomes of the fieldwork.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Noise, Planning and Transport Services in Services for Communities have a more joined up approach and environmental noise is given greater consideration in relation to future planning and transport policy.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The report does not have any financial implications. However, once developed and if agreed, individual actions may result in costs that would have to be contained within existing budgets.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The impacts of this report have been considered in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties. Relevant Council sustainable development policies have also been taken into account.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 This report proposes no change to current policies or procedures and as such a full impact assessment is not required. The contents have no relevance to the public sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 This report presents the opportunity to control or reduce noise in the city which would have a positive environmental impact.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Scottish Government carried out a public consultation in 2008 on the draft Edinburgh Action Plan. Internal consultation has taken place with Transport and Planning services. In addition, the Scottish Government carried out a similar public consultation exercise in relation to round 2 of the process.

Background reading / external references

[Item 10 - Environmental Noise Action Plans - Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 28 July 2008.](#)

Round 1 Noise Strategic Mapping - <http://www.scottishnoisemapping.org/public/action-planning.aspx>.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P48 – Use green flag and other strategies to preserve our green space
Council outcomes:	CO22 – Moving efficiently - Edinburgh has a transport system that improves connectivity and is green, healthy and accessible
Single Outcome Agreement:	SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Edinburgh CNMAs Appendix 2 – Edinburgh CQAs