

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
DATE	18 March 2015
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Environmental Noise Action Plan Update
REPORT NUMBER	CHI 15-094
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes/ No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- a. Advise the committee on the proposed Noise Management Areas and Quiet Areas in the Aberdeen Agglomeration.
- b. Update the committee on the Status of the Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. Approves the 14 Noise Management Areas and 3 Quiet Areas in relation to round two of the noise mapping process.
- b. Instruct relevant officers within the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Service to implement the Noise Action Plan and report annually on progress during the period 2015-2018.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Scottish Government has currently not made any financial provisions available to local authorities to undertake the new duties.

Implementation of the Noise Action Plan may have significant financial implications that cannot be specified at this time. Progress on the Action Plan is subject to availability of resources in the context of council policies and through the development management process. Future reports containing detailed project costs will be referred to the relevant Committees as they become available.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications associated with this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

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 in the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The objectives of the Directive are to:

- Determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping
- Make information available on environmental noise to the public
- Establish Action Plans based on the mapping results, to reduce levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.

Details of the legislation and the assessment process are available on the Scottish Government website at www.scottishnoisemapping.org

The Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan was submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2014 and is available to view at http://www.scottishnoisemapping.org/public/action-planning_END_2.aspx

The Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan identified Candidate Noise Management Areas (cNMAs) and Candidate Quiet Areas (cQAs).

Strategic noise maps were created by acoustic consultants on behalf of the Scottish Government using noise prediction modelling software. The maps are based on an assessment of noise exposure in a given area to identify areas of loud noise and combine these with areas of high population density to identify cNMAs. cQAs are identified by areas of low noise on the strategic maps and combining this with minimum area covered.

In the second round of noise mapping the strategic maps identified 22 cNMAs and 6 cQAs. (Aberdeen was not involved in the first round as the inclusion criteria did not apply). A map of cNMAs and cQAs is produced in Appendix 1.

The candidate areas have been assessed by officers in the Environmental Health section to verify the modelled data. Following this assessment the following areas in Tables 1 and 2 have been

recommended for progression to Noise Management Areas or Quiet Areas.

Table 1: Noise Management Areas

Proposed NMA Location	cNMA Reference
Auchmill Road at Newton Terrace	1
North Anderson Drive at Clifton Road	2
Great Northern Road near Smithfield Lane	3
King Street at Don Street	4
North Anderson Drive at Mastrick Road	5
North Anderson Drive at Laburnum Walk	7
King Street at Mealmarket Street – excluding Little John Street and Mealmarket Street	8
King Street at St Clair Street	9
Union Street at Dee Street	10
Rennies Wynd, Wapping Street, Carmelite Street, Trinity Street, Guild Street	11
Market Street, Union Street, Neitherkirkgate	13
Palmerston Road, Market Street	17
Victoria Road at Walker Road	18
A90 at Holburn Street	19

Table 2: Quiet Areas

Proposed Quiet Area	cQA Reference
Seaton Park	3
HazelHead Park	5 & 6

The cNMAs that are not listed for progression to NMAs were discounted as the fieldwork and review of the strategic noise maps did not fully reflect information gathered from the site visits.

The King Street at Mealmarket Street, cNMA 8, does not include Little John Street or Mealmarket Street in the NMA, as the fieldwork and review of the strategic noise maps did not reflect information gathered from the site visits.

The cQAs listed for progression to QAs are areas where environmental noise quality is good and require protection against an increase in noise.

If Committee support the NMAs and QAs being submitted to the Scottish Government the noise mitigation plan 2013 to 2018 detailed in the Noise Action Plan will require implementation with respect to the NMAs. Any future decisions or actions that could impact on environmental noise will need to take into consideration the preservation of QAs.

There are two rail candidate noise management areas in Aberdeen. Nationally, rail cNMAs within agglomerations will not progress to NMAs in this round due to the validity of input data relating to rolling stock in the strategic noise maps. Strategies at a national level are being implemented to reduce rail noise.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – This report is linked to the improvement in health and the environment for the people in Aberdeen and a reduction in health inequalities. In terms of ‘Aberdeen the Smarter City’ the report relates to the commitment to promote sustainable living and a sense of well being by reducing exposure to environmental noise.

Public – The report is likely to be of interest to the public due to the health effects of transportation noise. An Equality and Human Rights Impact assessment is not required for this report as these matters have been addressed nationally by the Scottish Government. Any future proposals made in relation to actions to improve environmental noise may require specific impact assessment in relation to Equality and Human Rights.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

In declaring any noise management areas care will be required in both defining the area and making it clear to the public the extent of the obligations and proposed actions.

The Environmental Noise Directive has no defined targets. With regard to NMAs and QAs in Aberdeen, the Council will be responsible for managing and reducing environmental noise where appropriate to do so. Actions will need to be discharged within recognised budgetary constraints, on a prioritised basis and will be required to be integrated where possible into planned maintenance and incorporation into future plans and strategies.

Noise Management Areas and Quiet Areas are detailed in the proposed Local Development Plan and proposed Supplementary Guidance.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Enterprise, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee report, Environmental Noise Mapping and Action Planning, EPI 13/196, 12 November 2013.

Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan
(http://www.scottishnoisemapping.org/public/action-planning_END_2.aspx)

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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