

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Service:</u>	Strategic Place Planning
<u>Date:</u>	17 September 2018
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Environmental Noise Action Plan Update
<u>Report Author:</u>	Nathan Thangaraj
<u>Contact Details:</u>	NThangaraj@aberdeencity.gov.uk 01224 523441

1 Purpose of The Report

- 1.1 This Service Update provides an annual update on the Status of the Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan for Round two between August 2017-2018 and information relating to the next round.

2 Background

- 2.1 Noise Action Planning is a Scottish Government led initiative and was developed to support the adoption of European Community (EC) Directive 2002/49/EC. The Scottish Government (SG) transposed this Directive in the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- 2.2 The objectives of the Directive are to:
- a) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping
 - b) make information available on environmental noise to the public
 - c) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results, to reduce levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.
- 2.3 Details of the legislation and the assessment process are available on the SG website at <https://noise.environment.gov.scot/>.
- 2.4 The Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan was submitted to the SG in March 2014 and is available to view at <https://noise.environment.gov.scot/action-planning-round-two.html>.
- 2.5 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. In the last round of noise mapping the strategic maps identified 22 cNMAs and 6 cQAs which led to Aberdeen City adopting 15 Noise Management Areas (NMAs) and 2 Quiet Areas (QAs). Annual updates on the Noise Action Plan can be found in the linked appendices at the end of this report.

- 2.6 Aberdeen Candidate Noise Management Areas are available to view at the following link [View maps](#)
- 2.7 Aberdeen Candidate Quiet Areas are available to view at the following link [View maps](#)

3 ACTIONS

No	Action	August 2017 to August 2018 Progress
1a	Develop and apply appropriate Appraisal and Test of Reasonableness tools through SENSG, including cost Benefit analysis, to rank effective NMAs interventions:	This project is being led by Transport Scotland. The appraisal tool is currently under development and no further information is available at this time.
1b	Where appropriate apply noise management interventions on a prioritised basis during existing maintenance and improvement programmes where reasonably practicable	<p>Aberdeen City Council's (ACC) preference is to continue to use Chipped Asphalt material for Road Surfacing due to the superior durability and high cost effectiveness. No further progress has been made in identifying more suitable, cost effective and quieter surface material.</p> <p>Haudagain Roundabout: The project involves the development of an improvement at Haudagain Roundabout, the junction between the A90 and A96 trunk roads in Aberdeen. The roundabout is currently operating over its capacity leading to significant queues and delays to traffic which causes higher traffic noise levels.</p> <p>The proposed scheme introduces a new Dual Carriageway Link Road between A96(T) Auchmill Road at Manor Drive and A90(T) North Anderson Drive at Manor Avenue that would better cater for the North Anderson Drive to Auchmill Road and Auchmill Road to North Anderson Drive movements through the junction. It is anticipated that this would lower the volume of traffic flow on the immediate approaches to Haudagain Roundabout as well as through the junction, thereby reducing the queuing and congestion currently experienced.</p> <p>Work has commenced to demolish houses in the Logie area adjacent to the roundabout and the main contract for the improvement works will start after the opening of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR).</p>

		<p><u>Trunk road:</u></p> <p>People around the north-east were asked for their opinion on how everyone will move around the city's roads, cycle routes and pavement networks before and after the AWPR opens. The overall conclusion from a wide range of views identified strong support for an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists particularly in the city centre. There was also strong support for improvements to public transport facilities that would lead to an increase in reliability and make public transport more attractive.</p> <p>The AWPR is anticipated to be fully opened by autumn 2018 and it is anticipated that the current Trunk Road network will be De-trunked by April 2019. Noise modelling outcome for these changes will form part of a future round of noise mapping (2023 onwards) which will be carried out by SG.</p>
1c	Engage with the Transportation Working Group to assess trunk road and rail NMAs within agglomerations.	SG have now completed the latest round of noise modelling (2018-2023) for Scotland and Environmental Health Officers are currently reviewing CNMAs for Rail and Road and CQAs to review. The next update report is likely to be a Committee report in 2019 which would contain a list of any new CNMAs and CQAs.
2a	Consider incorporating a commitment to mitigate environmental noise emissions into future corporate and/or annual service plans	There are no further updates to report for the 2017/18 period.
2b	Incorporate consideration of noise issues into future construction or maintenance contracts, franchise agreements and specifications.	There are no further updates to report for the 2017/18 period.
2c	Conduct before-and-after sample noise measurement, where possible, to (i) determine measured baseline at selected NMAs prior to mitigation construction and (ii) appraise noise mitigation approaches in terms of cost benefit and delivery of effective noise reduction.	In 2017/18 ACC did not have any Roads Projects within NMAs to report.

2d	Consideration to be given to post evaluation of completed mitigation measures specified within planning conditions where appropriate	<p>The most recent Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016-2020 adopted in 2017 contained updates to incorporate a Noise Policy. Policy T5/Noise (Supplementary Guidance) highlights the significance of Aberdeen City Council having a Noise Policy and how developments will impacts on the NMAs.</p> <p>https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/supplementary-guidance2017/supporting_documents/5.3.PolicySG.Noise.pdf</p> <p>To date there have been 68 planning applications that have been conditioned to use Policy T5 to mitigate Noise impact within Aberdeen City. However, it is not possible to evaluate how many have applied the Noise mitigation measures.</p>
3a	Transport and travel policies and proposals to both take into account and facilitate noise management	<p>ACC adopted its most recent Local Development Plan (2016-2020) on 20 January 2017. The vision is for Aberdeen in 2035 to be a sustainable city at the heart of a vibrant and inclusive city region.</p> <p>This contains 56 policies related to new developments in Aberdeen, one of which Policy T5, relates to Noise. The Plan states that “The planning system has a role to play in ensuring that new development does not result in increasing numbers of people exposed to adverse noise impacts”. This is further developed in the Noise Specific Supplementary Guidance for the LDP which is to be read in conjunction with Policy T5.</p> <p>ACC is in the process of revising the current LDP which has currently reached the Pre-main issues report stage. It is anticipated that the new LDP will be adopted in 2022.</p> <p>The current Local Development Plan can be found here https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/aberdeen-cms/files/LDP_WS_20170328.pdf and the Noise Supplementary Guidance here https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/aberdeen-cms/files/5.3.PolicySG.Noise_.pdf</p>
3b	Consider promoting Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to better manage road flows	<p>ACC has recently upgraded its Urban Traffic Control (UTC) Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique (SCOOT)system license to the most recent version, SCOOT MMX. The additional facilities include the ability to improve operation during low flow. This new facility,</p>

		to reduce cycle time during quiet periods and introduce sub-regions, will introduce greater flexibility in managing network efficiency under low flow conditions, improving network performance and reducing waiting times at red signals. This will assist in reducing noise levels at key NMA locations across the city.
3c	Consider promoting uptake of low noise tyres where appropriate through SENSG	ACC did not carry out campaigns/promotion this year.
3d	Support for an update to Noise Insulation Scotland Regulations (NISR) legislation	No update available at this stage.
4a	Provide guidance, information and progress updates on the Aberdeen Noise Action Plan actions to the Scottish Noise Mapping Website	Environmental Health Officers submitted a draft Aberdeen Agglomeration Noise Action Plan for the current round to the SG in June 2018 and this will be put out to Public Consultation prior to submission to the European Commission by end of 2018.
4b	Conduct review of noise complaints on road network over the last 5 years in order to better understand their nature	In the last five years from August 2013 to August 2018 only five complaints were received in relation to the Noise within the NMAs. The complaints were mainly in relation to the noise levels from buses due to braking and engine noise. These complaints have been forwarded to the bus companies for their attention.
4c	Incorporate noise maps into appropriate local authority traffic models where feasible	There has been no opportunity to include an NMAs layer to Aberdeen City or wider regional traffic models over the last 12 months.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The SG are currently progressing the next round of Noise Mapping and Aberdeen City Councils Environmental Health Officers are currently reviewing any additional cNMAs and cQAs that are emerging through this process. This review is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2018.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix A – Noise Action Plan Update Report 18th March 2015 – CHI Committee
<http://councilcommittees.acc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=503&MId=3454&Ver=4>
- 5.2 Appendix B – Noise Action Plan Update Report 15th March 2016 – CHI Committee
<http://councilcommittees.acc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=503&MId=3815&Ver=4>
- 5.3 Appendix C – Noise Action Plan Update Report August 2017 – CHI Committee
<https://committees.aberdeency.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD1773&ID=1773&RPID=24906534>