

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 9th DECEMBER 2013

REPORT ON: THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 508-2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Committee on the EU Environmental Noise Directive, provide an update on how Dundee City Council is working with the Scottish Government to meet compliance with this directive, and to seek Committee's approval for the Council's proposed response to the current associated Scottish Government consultation exercise.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the content of this report, approves the attached response and remits the Director of Environment to submit this to the Scottish Government accordingly.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 In 2002, the EU published the European Parliament and Council Directive for Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise 2002/49/EC (Environmental Noise Directive). The three main objectives of this Directive are for Member States:

- To determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping;
- To make information available on environmental noise to the public; and
- To establish Action Plans based on mapping results, to reduce noise levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.

4.2 The Environmental Noise Directive was implemented in Scotland via the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Directive relates to noise sources arising from road, rail, air transportation, and ports and industry. The regulations advise that the Scottish Government is the 'Competent Authority' responsible for producing noise maps and action plans for noise sources other than airports and the Airport Operators are the Competent Authorities for noise from airports. The Scottish Government has however produced the noise maps and action plan on behalf of the Dundee Airport. Competent Authorities are required to review the noise maps and action plans every 5 years.

4.3 For the purposes of noise mapping, areas are divided into agglomerations and the Scottish Regulations define an agglomeration as "an urbanised area having a population in excess of 100,000 people and a population density equal to or greater than 500 people per km²". Scotland has 4 population based agglomerations. The Dundee Agglomeration includes most of the Dundee City Council area plus Monifieth, Ballumbie and Invergowrie. A map of the agglomeration is shown in

Appendix 2 of this report. A two kilometre 'buffer area' extends around the agglomeration and any noise sources within this buffer area are included in the noise modelling.

- 4.4 Noise Mapping Round One was completed in 2009 for agglomerations with populations above 250,000. The Dundee Agglomeration Noise Mapping exercise was completed as part of the current Round Two exercise (for agglomerations with populations above 100,000). Round Two also includes:
- Major Roads (outwith agglomerations) having over 3,000,000 vehicle passages per year;
 - Railways (outwith agglomerations) with over 30,000 train passages per year; and
 - Airports with over 50,000 air traffic movements per year and smaller airports within agglomerations.
- 4.5 The noise maps themselves are produced using computer software and are a model of the average outdoor noise levels on an average day – they are predictions based on data input including road and rail traffic figures, heavy goods vehicles percentages, road surfaces, topography but not actual measured noise levels. They are strategic maps (simulations) and cannot be used to determine the actual noise level for any specific property.
- 4.6 The noise maps and resulting six draft Noise Action Plans can be viewed on the Scottish Noise Mapping website <http://www.scottishnoisemapping.org> and the Scottish Government is now consulting on these documents. They consist of the Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow Agglomeration Noise Action Plans, the Transportation Noise Action Plan, and the Dundee Airport Noise Action Plan. Separate Noise Action Plans for Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow Airports are available on the respective airport websites. The draft Noise Action Plans describe how the Scottish Government aim to meet the requirements of the Directive. In addition, the action plans are intended to contribute to the Scottish Governments strategic objectives by helping people ascertain and improve their health and improve quality of life.
- 4.7 A Scottish Environmental Noise Steering Group was formed as part of the mapping process with representations from the Scottish Government, their specialist noise consultants (AECOM), local authorities, SEPA, Transport Scotland and airport operators within the group. This group continues to meet on a regular basis to progress policy and technical issues and provide a forum on discussions on progression of the Noise Action Plans. A senior officer from the Environment Department attends these meetings as required. In addition, a specific working group to assist the Scottish Government in developing the Noise Action Plan for the Dundee Agglomeration was formed with officers from DCC City Development and Environment departments, Angus and Perth & Kinross Councils and the Scottish Government's specialist noise consultants.
- 4.8 The Dundee Agglomeration Draft Noise Action Plan details the Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMA) and also the Candidate Quiet Areas (CQA). CNMAs are areas identified, following the application of a prioritisation matrix, where people living within these areas are most likely to be annoyed by noise from either road or railway noise. The identification of the areas has been based on a scoring system which takes into account the modelled noise level at the location, building use, the number of people living at the location and the annoyance response to the particular noise source under consideration (either road or rail). CQAs are open space areas greater than 9 hectares in area of which more than 75% of the area is quiet. A list of the areas that are included in the Action Plan for Round Two of the noise mapping process are shown in Appendix 3.
- 4.9 The next stage of the process is to closely examine the modelling criteria of these areas to determine whether they should progress to having Noise Management Area (NMA) or Quiet Area (QA) status. An anticipated completion date for the assessments of the CNMAs and CQAs has been set as 20 April 2014. The working group for the Dundee Agglomeration along with Transport

Scotland will complete these assessments using the methodology contained in the appropriate Technical Guidance documents. Declaration of an area as a NMA or QA will result in these areas being prioritised for any proposed actions to either reduce the level of the noise or reduce the number of persons exposed to noise in NMAs or protect against an increase in noise in QAs.

- 4.10 The Dundee Agglomeration Draft Noise Action Plan includes proposed actions for NMAs and QAs for the period of 2013 to 2018. It advises however that “remedial actions will be subject to a cost benefit analysis and consideration will also be given to who would be responsible for any proposed actions and whether or not they are affordable or desirable.”
- 4.11 The Scottish Government have invited responses to their consultation by 16 December 2013. The proposed response to the single consultation question is contained in Appendix 1.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services and Director of City Development have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Ken Laing
Director of Environment

Kenny Kerr
Head of Environmental Protection

19th November 2013

Appendix 1

Consultation respondent information form



Dundee Agglomeration

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Dundee City Council – Environment Department

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr **Please tick as appropriate**

Surname

Laing

Forename

Ken

2. Postal Address

Environment Department		
Dundee City Council		
353 Clepington Road		
Dundee		
Postcode DD3 8PL	Phone 01382 434729	Email ken.laing@dundeecity.gov.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / **Group/Organisation**

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?
Please tick as appropriate
 Yes **No**

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes **No**

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes

No

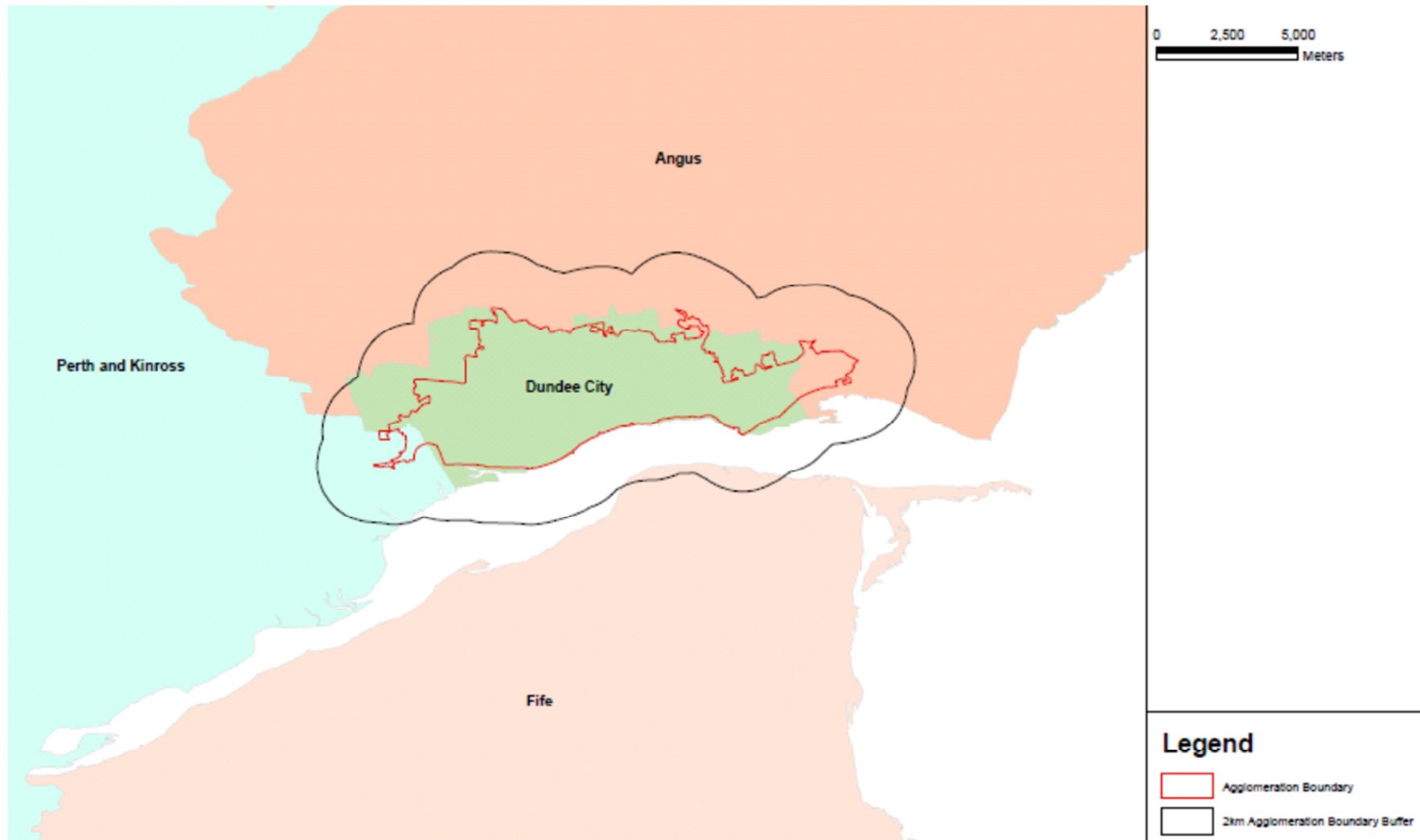
CONSULTATION QUESTION

Do you agree with the draft Action Plan and (if no) do you have any suggestions for improvements?

We agree with the content of the Dundee Agglomeration Noise Action Plan and advise that we will continue to work with the Scottish Government and other key partners as necessary.

Appendix 2

Map of Dundee Agglomeration



Appendix 3

Tables of Candidate Noise Management Areas and Candidate Quiet Areas

1. Candidate Noise Management Areas

Dundee Road CNMAs			
CNMA ID	Map Number	Address	Local Authority
1	1	Coupar Angus Road, South Road, Aimer Square, Lochee, Dundee	Dundee City
2	1	Lochee Road At Dudhope Terrace, Lower Pleasance, Coldside, Dundee	Dundee City
3	2	Princes Street, Albert Street, Forfar Road, Maryfield, Dundee	Dundee City
4	3	Hawkhill At Session Street, West End, Dundee	Dundee City
5	3	A929, A991 At Meadowside, Ladywell Avenue, Maryfield, Dundee	Dundee City
6	3	Seagate, East Marketgait, Maryfield, Dundee	Dundee City
7	3	South Marketgait At Trades Lane, Maryfield, Dundee	Dundee City
8	3	King Street, Princes Street, Maryfield, Dundee	Dundee City
9	4	Broughty Ferry Road At Carolina Court, East End, Dundee	Dundee City
10	5	Maule Street, Maule Street At Union Street, Monifeith And Sidlaw, Broughty Ferry	Angus

Dundee Rail CNMA			
CNMA ID	Map Number	Address	Local Authority
1	1	Near St Vincent Street, Queen Street	Dundee City
2	1	Near Queen Street, Church Street	Dundee City

2. Candidate Quiet Areas

ID	Map Number	Location	Source File
1	1	South Road Park	Parks and Gardens
2	1	Lochee Park	Parks and Gardens
3	1	The Law Hill	Parks and Gardens
4	1	Balgay Hill	Parks and Gardens
6	1	Baxter Park	Parks and Gardens