

Leicester
City Council

Democratic and Civic
Support
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

14 November 2024

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2024 at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon, for the business hereunder mentioned.

Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

AUDIO STREAM OF MEETING

A live audio stream of the meeting can be heard on the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/@leicestercitycouncildemocr5339>

- 1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held below are available to view at the links below:

21 March 2024

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 21 March 2024, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

16 May 2024 – Annual Meeting

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 16 May 2024, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

5 September 2024

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 5 September 2024, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Copies are also available from Governance Services Support on (0116) 454 6350 or committees@leicester.gov.uk

4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

5. PETITIONS

- Presented by Members of the Public
Ms Alison Simpson, Residents Parking Scheme Ripon Street.
Mr Avtar Singh Desi, Poor Road Conditions in Barnes Close
- Presented by Councillors – None
- Petitions to be debated – None

6. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

7. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

- a) **GAMBLING POLICY 2025-28** **Pages 1-56**

8. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- a) **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24** **Pages 56-77**

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Council Motion: Opposing the Restriction of Universal Winter Fuel Payments.

Councillor Porter proposes that:

Leicester City Council acknowledges the uncaring announcement by the Labour government to end universal winter fuel payments by implementing income means-testing and tightening of the eligibility criteria. This decision,

viewed as harsh and unsympathetic by many, will likely lead to financial hardship for thousands of local pensioners, leaving many vulnerable to the cold this winter. Research indicates that restricting winter fuel payments could tragically result in up to 4,000 additional pensioner deaths.

The Council strongly condemns the Labour government's decision and calls for an immediate reversal, advocating for the reinstatement of winter fuel payments for all pensioners.

The Council resolves to:

- Joint Council Leadership Appeal:

Request that all council group leaders co-sign a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking for the new winter fuel payment policy to be suspended and thoroughly reviewed.

- Launch an Awareness Campaign for Pension Credit Uptake:

Initiate an urgent, targeted awareness campaign to make sure all eligible pensioners are aware of and have access to pension credit. This campaign will include information on council noticeboards, social media platforms, the local press and targeted letters to all eligible individuals.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Information for members of the public

Fire & Emergency Evacuation Procedure

- The Council Chamber Fire Exits are the two entrances either side of the top bench or under the balcony in the far-left corner of the room.
- In the event of an emergency alarm sounding make your way to Town Hall Square and assemble on the far side of the fountain.
- Anyone who is unable to evacuate using stairs should speak to any of the Town Hall staff at the beginning of the meeting who will offer advice on evacuation arrangements.
- From the public gallery, exit via the way you came in, or via the Chamber as directed by Town Hall staff.

Meeting Arrangements

- Please ensure that all mobile phones are either switched off or put on silent mode for the duration of the Council Meeting.
- Please do not take food into the Council Chamber.
- Tweeting in formal Council meetings is fine as long as it does not disrupt the meeting. Will all Members please ensure they use their microphones to assist in the clarity of the audio recording.

You have the right to attend, view, formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings & Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at <https://cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/>, or by contacting us using the details below.

Making meetings accessible to all

Braille/audio tape/translation - If you require this please contact the Democratic Support Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

Sharif Chowdhury, Senior Governance Officer on 0116 454 0538

Alternatively, email sharif.chowdhury@leicester.gov.uk or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151**

Gambling Policy 2025-2028

Decision to be taken by: Council

Decision to be taken on/Date of meeting: 21 November
2024

Lead director/officer: Sean Atterbury Director of
Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Deborah Bragg, Licensing Manager (Policy and Applications)
- Author contact details: deborah.bragg@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council is required to publish its statement of gambling policy at least four weeks before it takes effect.
- 1.2 The current statement of gambling policy expires on 31 January 2025.
- 1.3 Consultation has taken place with relevant stakeholders and approval for the new policy will be sought at full Council on 21 November 2024.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve the statement of gambling policy for 2025-2028.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 In accordance with the Gambling Act, consultation has taken place with:
 - The Chief Officer of Police;
 - Representatives of the gambling trade;
 - Representatives of people who may be affected by the Gambling Policy.
- 3.2 Holders of existing gambling permissions have also been contacted directly. The consultation has been available on the Council's website between 12th July 2024 and 18th August 2024.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

- 4.1 The Gambling Act 2005 came into effect in 2007. As Licensing Authority, Leicester City Council is required to publish its Gambling Policy for 2025-28 no later than 3 January 2025 (4 weeks before the new policy takes effect).
- 4.2 In exercising its functions under the 2005 Act, section 153 states that the licensing authority shall aim to permit the use of premises for gambling insofar as the authority thinks it:
 - a) in accordance with any relevant code of practice under s.24;
 - b) in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under s.2;
 - c) reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives (subject to a and b above);

d) in accordance with the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy (policy statement) (subject to a to c above).

4.3 The current policy (2022-25) has not caused any problems since it came into effect in February 2022 however slight amendments have been made to reflect address changes for the Licensing Authority and a new section has been included to include information from the Public Health Team and their findings in their recent 'Gambling Harms Needs Assessment'. Applicants are asked to take this into account when submitting their applications.

4.4 Our Public Health colleagues, although not a prescribed Responsible Authority have a role to play in the licensing of gambling premises. The Local Government Association (LGA) in conjunction with Public Health England published Tackling gambling related harm a whole council approach (local.gov.uk).

4.5 It encourages Public Health to be more proactive in the licensing process as problem gambling has been identified as a public health issue.

4.6 The Government White Paper High Stakes: Gambling Reform for the Digital Age (publishing.service.gov.uk) and recommendations contained within it, require changes to primary legislation in some cases but also changes to the guidance issued to Licensing Authorities by the Gambling Commission. Those changes have yet to be made and are likely to be made after the new policy takes effect.

4.7 Any changes to the policy that are required as a result of the guidance being updated will be made and the consultation/implementation process undertaken at that time.

4.8 In view of the minimal changes it was appropriate to carry out a light touch consultation, referencing the amendments and asking for comments on the proposed policy.

4.9 The Gambling Act 2005 states that the licensing authority must consult the following before determining its statement of gambling policy:

- The Chief Officer of Police;
- Representatives of the gambling trade;
- Representatives of people who may be affected by the Gambling Policy.

4.9 Consultation has taken place with the above parties and also with other relevant stakeholders such as councillors and charities/services for people adversely affected by gambling. The consultation was available on the Council's website between 12th July 2024 and 18th August 2024.

4.10 The consultation responses are attached at Appendix A.

4.11 A direct response to the consultation was received from Gosschalks Solicitors on behalf of the Betting and Gaming Council. This is attached at Appendix B to the report. In their submission, which is quite detailed about the work they do, they have specifically mentioned Section 6 of the new policy and stated as follows:-

'The new Section 6 in Part A should be removed or, at least, redrafted as the information contained therein is inaccurate and potentially therefore prejudicial to

any applicant. The section takes the accepted NHS Health Survey figure that problem gambling rates among adults is 0.4% and applies this to the entire population of Leicester.

The figure for Leicester's population is given as 368,600 but this is the entire (not adult) population. The council's own figures state that there are around 55,000 children attending primary or secondary school in Leicester and on top of that number, there are pre-school and nursery children and those over 16 but under 18 in employment. The extrapolated figures given therefore, cannot be correct and without any accurate figures with regard to the population of those under 18, all of the extrapolated figures should be removed'

- 4.12 The information contained with Section 6 has been taken directly from the Public Health Teams document 'Leicester City Gambling Harms Needs Assessment Executive Summary'. A link to the full document will be included within the final policy so that applicants can see the whole report and in particular the age profile of the City. It is recommended the comments be noted and when the Gambling Commission come forward with changes to their guidance to Local Authorities that this part is reviewed again.
- 4.13 The draft policy and consultation responses were considered by the Licensing and Public Safety Committee on 3 September 2024. The Committee proposed no other changes to the draft policy. The proposed policy is attached at Appendix C.
- 4.14 Licensing authorities have a duty to aim to permit gambling as set out in paragraph 4.2 above. In determining an application for a gambling licence it is not for a licensing authority to have a view on any impact gambling may have on individuals or communities.
- 4.15 Licensed gambling establishments must comply with the law and with relevant codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission, including age restrictions and the provision of signposting to organisations offering support.
- 4.16 Once approved by full Council the policy must be published at least 4 weeks before it takes effect on 1 February 2025.

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

Premises licence fees are set based on the type of premises, with a prescribed maximum fee for each type. Licensing authorities are able to set licence fees so as to ensure full cost recovery, subject to these caps. Over the life of the policy being proposed in this report, fees will be subject to periodic review to ensure that all costs are being recovered.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance, Ext 37 4004

Dated: 1 November 2024

5.2 Legal implications

Licensing authorities are required to pursue the licensing objectives detailed in section 1 of the Gambling Act 2005, namely the objectives of – (a) preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime, (b) ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and (c) protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Section 349 of the Act provides:

(1) A licensing authority shall before each successive period of three years –
(a) prepare a statement of the principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Act during that period, and
(b) publish the statement.

(2) A licensing authority shall –
(a) review their statement under this section from time to time,
(b) if they think it necessary in the light of a review, revise the statement, and
(c) publish any revision before giving it effect.

(3) In preparing a statement or revision under this section a licensing authority shall consult–

(a) either–
(i) in England and Wales, the chief officer of police for the authority's area, or
(ii) in Scotland, the chief constable of the police force maintained for the police area comprising that area,

(b) one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area, and
(c) one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under this Act.

Signed: John Moss, Solicitor - 373010

Dated: 01/11/24

5.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

If the proposed policy is agreed this could have an impact on people from across a range of protected characteristics, with one of the objectives of the policy being to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. Equality considerations need to be embedded throughout the policy and the Equality Impact

Assessment has been updated in line with the revised Gambling Policy. A copy of the EIA is attached at Appendix D.

Signed: Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175

Dated: 6 November 2024

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications associated with this report.

Signed: Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

Dated: 7th November 2024

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

6. Background information and other papers:

None

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A – Consultation Responses

Appendix B – Response from Gosschalks Solicitors on behalf of Betting and Gaming Council

Appendix C - Revised draft statement of gambling policy following consultation

Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessment

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

Appendix A

Status of responder	Organisation Name	Section 2 Introduction	Section 5 Interested Parties	Section 6 Public Health and Gambling in Leicester – New Section	Section 7 Title Change	Section 8 Title Change/Address Update	Section 9 Title Change	Section 10 Title Change	Comments
A resident of Leicester									No problems with any of the amends
A resident of Leicester									
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Leicestershire District Lodge	No comment	No comment	No comment	No comment	No comment	No comment	No comment	NONE
An organisation	Christ the King Church								On the face of it these amendments are just catching up with reality
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Leicestershire Caravan Club Centre								
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	ST PAULS PCC	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Not Answered	Nottingham Imperial Order of Oddfellows Club and Institute								No
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Leicester Hospitals Charity -Lottery	Changes agreed	Changes agreed	In agreement with	Changes agreed	Changes agreed	Changes agreed	Changes agreed	
A business operating in Leicester	BRAUNSTONE VICTORIA WMC								
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Preloved@45 CIC	Ok	Ok	Good to see changes made to recognise potential "harm that could be caused by gambling in certain people"	Ok	Ok	Ok	Ok	No thank you
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Weaver Leisure Ltd	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	Yes, what a waste of public money doing a survey like this, which achieves absolutely nothing other than wasting our valuable time and yours.

6

Appendix A

The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Montrose School PTA								
A resident of Leicester	Westcotes constitutional club								
An organisation	Wishes 4 Kids								
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Bamboozle Theatre Company	No comment	No comment	Good to have this in depth assessment to inform future risk assessing.	No comment	No comment	No comment	No comment	N/A
An organisation	Leicester Theatre Trust Ltd								
A business operating in Leicester	SPS Technologies Ltd	Reviewed section 2 - ok with update	Reviewed section 5 - ok with update	Reviewed section 6 - ok with update	Reviewed section 7 - ok with update	Reviewed section 8 - ok with update	Reviewed section 9 - ok with update	Reviewed section 10 - ok with update	
An organisation	Friends of Clarendon Park	None.	None.	None.	The third bullet of the last paragraph has 'Licensing Section' repeated.	None.	None.	None.	We do not have any comments on the proposed amendments to the statement of gambling policy.
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Together Against Cancer	That seems ok	ok	very appropriate	ok	ok	ok	ok	
Not Answered	St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church								No
The holder of an existing licence or permit under the Gambling Act 2005	Brookfield Electric Bowls Club								
An organisation	The Emma Shaw Foundation.	I agree with these changes.	I agree with this proposal.	Yes, definitely agree with this proposal.	I'm fine with this.	That's fine.	ok.	I understand.	I have no comments to make.
Not answered	North East Leicester District Scout Council	No comment	Ok	This seems sensible	Ok	Ok	Ok	Ok	No, all makes sense

By Email Only
Licensing Section
Leicester City Council

Please ask for: Richard Taylor
Direct Tel: 01482 590216
Email: rjt@gosschalks.co.uk
Our ref: RJT / ADS / 123267.00004
#GS5910482
Your ref:
Date: 12th August 2024

Dear Leicester City Council,

Re: Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles for Gambling

We act for the Betting and Gaming Council (BGC) and are instructed to respond on behalf of the BGC to your consultation on the review of your Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles.

The Betting and Gaming Council

The Betting and Gaming Council (BGC) was created in 2019 as the standards body for the UK's regulated betting and gaming industry. This includes betting shops, online betting and gaming businesses, bingo and casinos. Its mission is to champion industry standards in betting and gaming to ensure an enjoyable, fair and safe betting and gaming experience for all of its members' customers.

The BGC has four objectives. These are to:

1. create a culture of safer gambling throughout the betting and gaming sector, with a particular focus on young people and those who are vulnerable.
2. ensure future changes to the regulatory regime are considered, proportionate and balanced.
3. become respected as valuable, responsible, and engaged members of the communities in which its members operate.
4. safeguard and empower the customer as the key to a thriving UK betting and gaming industry.

BGC members support 110,000 jobs, generate £4.2 billion in taxes and contribute £7.1 billion to the economy in GVA (Gross Value Added), according to a report by EY in 2022.

Betting shops alone also support 42,000 jobs on the UK's hard-pressed high streets, contributing £800 million a year in tax to the Treasury and another £60m in business rates to local councils. Further, according to ESA Retail report 89% of betting shop customers go on to spend money in other high street establishments, further cementing the important role of betting shops in the local economy.

BGC members also support the UK's hospitality, tourism and leisure industry through our casinos – there are currently 116 across the UK. Overall, we are a major component of world leading British technology, where our members have founded tech powerhouses in many cities throughout the UK.

Betting is a hugely popular British leisure activity. Each month, around 22.5 million adults in the UK have a bet - whether it's buying a lottery ticket, having a game of bingo, visiting a casino, playing online or having a wager on football, horseracing and other sports - and the overwhelming majority do so perfectly safely and responsibly.

BGC members are proud to support UK sport, from the grassroots to the elite level. The industry contributes around £350 million to racing in levy, media, and sponsorship rights each year, £40 million to the EFL (English Football League), and £12.5 million to snooker, darts, and rugby league.

Before we comment on your draft policy document, it is important that the backdrop against which the comments are made is established.

Betting and Gaming in the UK

Any consideration of gambling licensing at the local level should also be considered within the broader context.

The raft of measures recently put in place by the industry (in terms of protecting players from gambling-related harm), the Gambling Commission, and the Government (a ban on credit cards, restrictions to VIP accounts, new age and identity verification measures, and voluntary restrictions on advertising) have contributed to problem gambling rates now being lower than they were at the passage of the 2005 Gambling Act (see further details on problem gambling rates below).

In addition, a range of further measures will be implemented imminently following the Government's White Paper, published in April 2023. These include: financial risk checks for those at risk of gambling harm, changes to the way operators market to their customers, changes to online game design which will remove certain features, the introduction of a mandatory levy for research, prevention and treatment (RPT) activities, an Ombudsman to adjudicate on customer redress and the introduction of mandatory stake limits on online slots, bringing the maximum stakes online in line with land based casinos.

It should also be noted that:

- The overall number of betting shops is in decline. Industry statistics set out that the number of betting shops (as of June 2024) is 5870. This is reducing yearly and has fallen by 29% since March 2019 – equating to 2408 betting shop closures in five years.
- Planning law changes introduced in April 2015 have increased the ability of licensing authorities to review applications for new premises, as all new betting shops must now apply for planning permission.
- In April 2019, a maximum stake of £2 was applied to the operation of fixed odds betting terminals.

- Successive prevalence surveys and health surveys show that problem gambling rates in the UK are stable.

Problem Gambling

A point often lost in the debate about the future of gambling regulation is that problem gambling rates in the UK are low by international comparison.

The most recent “Gold standard” NHS (National Health Service) Health Survey found that problem gambling rates among adults are 0.4 per cent – the rate was 0.5 per cent in 2018. In comparison to other European countries, problem gambling rates in the UK are low. The problem gambling rate is 2.4 per cent in Italy, 1.4 per cent in Norway, and 1.3 per cent in France.

Both the Gambling Commission and the Government have acknowledged that problem gambling levels have not increased. However, one problem gambler is one too many, and we are working hard to improve standards further across the regulated betting and gaming industry.

In June 2020, the BGC’s largest members committed to increasing the amount they spend on RPT (Research, Prevention and Treatment) services from 0.1 per cent to 1 per cent in 2023. This was expected to raise £100 million but they have gone further and will have donated £110 million by 2024.

In the White Paper, the Government committed to introducing a statutory RPT (Research, Prevention and Treatment) levy, which would apply to all gambling licensees (excluding the national lottery). This levy is expected to raise £100m annually by 2026/2027.

The BGC also funds the £10 million Young People’s Gambling Harm Prevention Programme, delivered by leading charities YGAM and GamCare. As of March last year (2023), it has educated over 3 million children.

Advertising and Sponsorship

All betting advertising and sponsorship must comply with strict guidelines, and safer gambling messaging must be regularly and prominently displayed.

The Government has previously stated that there is “no causal link” between exposure to advertising and the development of problem gambling, as stated in a response by then Minister of State at DCMS in June 2021. The Gambling Review White Paper, in relation to advertising, restated that there was “little evidence” of a causal link with gambling harms or the development of gambling disorder.

The Seventh Industry Code for Socially Responsible Advertising, adopted by all BGC members, adds a number of further protections in particular for young people. New measures include ensuring that all social media ads must target consumers aged 25 and over unless the website proves they can be precisely targeted at over-18s. In addition to raising advertising standards for young people, this

code, which came into force on 1 December 2023, extended the previous commitment that 20% of TV and radio advertising is devoted to safer gambling messaging to digital media advertising.

Under the ‘whistle-to-whistle’ ban, ads cannot be shown from five minutes before a live sporting event until five minutes after it ends, before the 9 p.m. watershed. Research by Enders Analysis found that in its first 12 months in operation, the ban reduced the number of TV betting adverts seen by children by 97% at that time. Overall, the number of gambling adverts viewed by young people also fell by 70% over the entire duration of live sports programmes. At the same time, the ban also reduced the number of views of betting ads by 1.7 billion during its first five months in operation.

BGC members also continue to abide by the stringent measures established by advertising standards watchdogs. These measures are in stark contrast to the unsafe, unregulated black market online, which has none of the safer gambling measures offered by BGC members, including strict age-verification checks. Any withdrawal of advertising would simply level the playing field with illegal operators thus providing opportunities for those operators to peel off customers from the regulated markets.

Misleading/ambiguous premises signage

There are increasing numbers of premises (usually Adult Gaming Centres) which describe themselves on their shopfronts and external signage as casinos despite these premises not being permitted to operate as a casino.

Section 150 Gambling Act 2005 creates five separate classes of premises licences – the operation of a casino (a casino premises licence), the provision of facilities for the playing of bingo (a bingo premises licence) , making category B gaming machines available for use (an adult gaming centre premises licence), making category C gaming machines available for use (a family entertainment centre premises licence) and the provision of facilities for betting (a betting premises licence). Whilst casinos are permitted under a casino premises licence to provide bingo and betting facilities, the holder of an adult gaming centre premises licence may not offer casino facilities.

In order to avoid any ambiguity, the draft statement of principles should be clear that premises must not display signage which may suggest that the premises have a different premises licence to the one held.

Differentiation between Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 applications

When considering applications for premises licences, it is important to clearly distinguish between the regimes, processes, and procedures established by the Gambling Act 2005 and its regulations and those that are usually more familiar to licensing authorities—the regimes, processes, and procedures relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

Whilst Licensing Act 2003 applications require applicants to specify steps to be taken to promote the licensing objectives, which are then converted into premises licence conditions, there is no such

requirement in Gambling Act 2005 applications, where the LCCP provides a comprehensive package of conditions for all types of premises licence.

It should continue to be the case that additional conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 premises licence applications are only imposed in exceptional circumstances with clear reasons for doing so. There are already mandatory and default conditions attached to any premises licence which will ensure operation that is consistent with the licensing objectives. In most cases, these will not need to be supplemented by additional conditions.

The LCCP require that premises operate an age verification policy. The industry employs a policy called "Think 21". This policy is successful in preventing underage gambling. Independent test purchasing carried out by operators and submitted to the Gambling Commission shows that ID challenge rates are consistently around 85%. Following the publication of the Gambling Commission's response to their consultation on age verification on premises, all gambling venues will be moving to a "Think 25" policy from 30th August 2024.

Since Serve Legal began working with the gambling sector in 2009, the industry has now become the highest performing sector across all age verification testing. Across thousands of audits, there was an average pass rate of 91.4 per cent (2024 data). For casinos, there is a near perfect pass rate in the last period of 98%. When comparing Serve Legal audit data between members of the BGC and comparative age verification audit data in the Alcohol and Lottery sector we see how the gambling sector is performing between 10-15 per cent higher every year.

It should be noted that the Executive Summary of the Gambling White Paper stated that when parliamentary time allows, the Government will align the gambling licensing system with that for alcohol by introducing new powers to conduct cumulative impact assessments.

The BGC is concerned that the imposition of additional licensing conditions could become commonplace if there are no precise requirements regarding the need for evidence in the revised licensing policy statement. If additional licence conditions are more commonly applied, this would increase variation across licensing authorities and create uncertainty amongst operators regarding licensing requirements, overcomplicating the licensing process for operators and local authorities.

Working in partnership with local authorities

The BGC is fully committed to ensuring constructive working relationships between betting and gaming operators and licensing authorities and that problems can be dealt with in partnership. The exchange of clear information between councils and betting operators is a key part of this, and the opportunity to respond to this consultation is welcomed.

Considerations Specific to the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles

The new Section 6 in Part A should be removed or, at least, redrafted as the information contained therein is inaccurate and potentially therefore prejudicial to any applicant. The section takes the accepted NHS Health Survey figure that problem gambling rates among adults is 0.4% and applies this to the entire population of Leicester. The figure for Leicester's population is given as 368,600 but this is the entire (not adult) population. The council's own figures state that there are around

55,000 children attending primary or secondary school in Leicester and on top of that number, there are pre-school and nursery children and those over 16 but under 18 in employment. The extrapolated figures given therefore, cannot be correct and without any accurate figures with regard to the population of those under 18, all of the extrapolated figures should be removed.

Conclusion

On behalf of the BGC, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft statement of principles and hope these comments above are helpful. The BGC will work with you to ensure that its members' operation of its premises will operate in accordance with the licensing objectives.

Yours faithfully,



GOSSCHALKS LLP

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY



Leicester
City Council

Leicester City Council Statement of Gambling Policy

Item	Page
Part A	
1. The licensing objectives	2
2. Introduction	2
3. Declaration	4
4. Responsible Authorities	4
5. Interested parties	5
6. Public Health and Gambling in Leicester	5-7
7. Exchange of information	7
8. Enforcement	7-8
9. Other regulatory regimes	8
10. Licensing authority functions	8-9
Part B - Premises licences	
1. General Principles	10
2. Location	10
3. Duplication with other regulatory regimes	10
4. Local area risk assessments	10-11
5. Conditions	11-12
6. Door Supervision	12-13
7. Casinos	13
Part C – Permits	
1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres	14
2. Alcohol Licensed premises gaming machine permits	14-15
3. Prize Gaming Permits	15
4. Club Gaming & Club Machine Permits	15-16
5. Temporary Use Notices	16
6. Occasional Use Notices	16
7. Small Society Lotteries	16-17

PART A

1. The Licensing Objectives

In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act), the City Council must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in Section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

It should be noted that the Gambling Commission has stated: “The requirement in relation to children is explicitly to protect them from being harmed or exploited by gambling.” Guidance issued to licensing authorities by the Gambling Commission¹ refers to the National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms², and notes that experience suggests that close working between licensing authorities and public health colleagues can deliver important results in relation to the third objective of “protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling”.

The Act requires that the City Council should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives, and
- in accordance with the authority’s statement of licensing policy

2. Introduction

Leicester City Council is a unitary authority situated in the County of Leicestershire. The Council area has a population of 330,000 (2011 Census), covering 73.09 square kilometres (28.22 square miles).

¹ [Guidance to licensing authorities - Gambling Commission](#)

² [Reducing Gambling Harms - Gambling Commission](#)



The City Council is required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a statement of the principles that it proposes to apply when exercising its functions. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from “time to time” and any amended parts re-consulted upon. The statement must be then re-published.

Leicester City Council consulted upon this policy statement before finalising and publishing it. A list of the persons we consulted directly is provided below. It also enabled consultation via its website and sent out copies of the draft policy and questionnaire on request.

The Gambling Act requires that licensing authorities consult:

- the Chief Officer of Police;
- one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority’s area;
- one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

The City Council consulted the following:

- Leicestershire Police
- Existing providers of gambling facilities in Leicester:
- Leicester City Council’s Children’s Services Department
- Leicester City Council’s Public Health Department
- Other consultees:
 - Betting and Gaming Council
 - Lotteries Council

- BACTA
- Bingo Association
- British Horseracing
- Remote Gambling Association
- Advertising Association
- National Casino Forum
- Gamcare
- Salvation Army

Our consultation took place between xxxxx 2024 and xxxx 2024. The policy was approved at a meeting of the Full Council on xxxxxx 2024.

Should you have any comments about this policy statement please send them via e-mail or letter to the following contact:

Name: Licensing Team Manager (Policy and Applications)

Address: Licensing Section, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

E-mail: licensing@leicester.gov.uk

It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Declaration

In producing this licensing policy statement, the City Council declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the policy statement.

4. Responsible Authorities

The City Council has designated the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Board as the body it considers competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles applied by the City Council in making this designation are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group etc

The Responsible Bodies under the Gambling Act 2005 are:

- Leicester City Council Licensing and Public Safety Committee
- The Gambling Commission
- Leicestershire Police
- Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- Leicester City Council Development Control Team
- Leicester City Council Environmental Health
- Leicester City Council Planning Department
- Leicester City Council Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Board
- HM Customs and Excise

Their contact details are available via the Council's website at: www.leicester.gov.uk/licensing.

5. Interested parties

Interested parties can make representations about licence applications or apply for an existing licence to be reviewed. Interested parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as a person that -

- a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities,
- b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- c) represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b).

The licensing authority is required to state the principles it will apply in determining whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

- Each case will be decided upon its merits.
- The City Council will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making, and will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities (8.9-8.17)

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MP's. No specific evidence of being asked to represent an interested person will be required as long as the councillor / MP represents the ward likely to be affected. Other than these persons, the City Council will require written evidence that a person 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of those persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

If individuals wish to approach Councillors to ask them to represent their views then care should be taken that the Councillors are not part of the Licensing Sub-Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then please contact the Licensing Section:

- by telephone - (0116) 454 3030
- by email - licensing@leicester.gov.uk
- by post - Licensing Section, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

6. Public Health and Gambling in Leicester

The Public Health Team of Leicester City Council has recently conducted a 'Gambling Harms Needs Assessment', the full document can be found here (insert weblink), however a summary of the findings can be found below:

1. **Summary of literature:** It is estimated that around 54% of the general population take part in gambling at least once in a year (when not including the national lottery, this figure drops to 40%). Problem gambling (gambling to a degree that compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal or recreational pursuits) is estimated to be experienced by 0.4% of the population; At-risk gambling (gambling that leads to less severe negative

consequences) by 3.8%; and around 7% are negatively affected by someone else's gambling ('affected others'). If these estimates were accurate for Leicester's 368,600 population (1), this would suggest there to be around 1,500 experiencing problem gambling, 14,000 experiencing at-risk gambling, and 26,000 affected others. Problem gambling is associated with worsened mental health, alcohol and substance use and higher risk of suicide; people aged 20-49 who experience problem gambling are 19 times more likely than average to die by suicide.

2. **Local profile related to gambling:** Population demographics of Leicester have several characteristics associated with an increased risk of problem gambling, including having a larger-than-average proportion compared to England who are: aged between 16 and 34 years; living in a deprived area; or unemployed. Leicester also has a higher-than-average proportion of people of Asian or Asian British ethnicity. National survey data indicate that people of this ethnicity are generally less likely to gamble, but more likely to experience problem gambling than other ethnic groups. We do not know of reliable evidence investigating gambling behaviours within more specific ethnicity categories.
3. **Mapping:** Accessibility of Leicester gambling outlets is highest in the central shopping area and is high in many areas with high deprivation. Data from a YouGov survey performed on behalf of GambleAware suggests (with a low level of certainty due to small numbers of participants) that Leicester City is in the lowest quintile for prevalence of non-problem gambling, but in the highest quintile for problem and moderate-risk gambling. The survey results also predicted Leicester to be in the lowest quintile for demand and uptake of treatment and support by those experiencing problem gambling.
4. **Treatment and support services:** There are three services providing treatment for gambling harms in Leicester City: the NHS East Midlands Gambling Service (which launched in July 2023), which is based in Derby and accepts referrals from across the East Midlands; Gamblers Anonymous, which is a national organisation, with a local branch that holds meetings in Leicester; and GamCare East Midlands, which delivers structured treatment online.
5. **Stakeholders:** Given the risks associated with gambling harms, and the populations particularly vulnerable to these harms, the following stakeholders were identified: those working in suicide prevention, mental health, primary care, children and young people, substance misuse or homelessness services; the police and criminal justice system; alcohol harm reduction charities; those whose work involves licensing of gambling premises; those with previous or current experience of high risk or problem gambling, of who have been negatively affected by someone else's gambling.

Applicants and Operators are asked to take account of the above when applying for licences and completing their Local Area Risk Assessments.

7. Exchange of Information

Licensing authorities are required to include in their policy statement the principles to be applied by the authority with respect to the exchange of information with the Gambling Commission, and with those bodies listed in schedule 6 to the Act that

- have functions under the Act,
- are enforcement or regulatory bodies, or
- are sport governing bodies.

The principle that the City Council applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information. This includes the provision that the General Data Protection Regulation will not be contravened. The City Council will also have regard to any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to Local Authorities on this matter when it is published, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Act 2005.

Should any protocols be established regarding information exchange with other bodies then they will be made available.

Please contact the Licensing section for further information:

- by telephone - (0116) 454 3030
- by email - licensing@leicester.gov.uk
- by post - Licensing Section, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

8. Enforcement

Licensing authorities are required to state the principles they will apply when inspecting premises and taking criminal proceedings in respect of offences under the Act.

The City Council's principles are that it will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities and will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: intervening only when necessary and ensuring remedies are appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: being able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: ensuring rules and standards are joined up and implemented fairly;
- Avoiding duplication with other regulatory regimes as far as possible;
- Transparent: being open, and keeping requirements simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: focusing on the problem, and minimising side effects.

This licensing authority has adopted and implemented a risk-based inspection programme, based on;

- The licensing objectives
- Relevant codes of practice
- Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, in particular at Part 36

- The principles set out in this statement of licensing policy

This may include test purchasing activities to measure the compliance of licensed operators with aspects of the Gambling Act. When undertaking test purchasing activities, this licensing authority will undertake to liaise with the Gambling Commission and the operator to determine what other, if any, test purchasing schemes may already be in place. Irrespective of the actions of an operator on their overall estate, test purchasing may be deemed to be an appropriate course of action.

The main enforcement and compliance role for this licensing authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 is to ensure compliance with the premises licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission is the enforcement body for the operating and personal licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines are not dealt with by the licensing authority but should be notified to the Gambling Commission.

This licensing authority also keeps itself informed of developments as regards the work of the Office for Product Safety and Standards in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.

Bearing in mind the principle of transparency, this licensing authority's enforcement/compliance protocols/written agreements are available upon request to the Licensing department

- by telephone - (0116) 454 3030
- by email - licensing@leicester.gov.uk
- by post - Licensing Section, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

Our risk methodology is also available upon request.

9. Other regulatory regimes

Leicester City Council will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes, such as legislation covering employment, health and safety and fire safety.

10. Licensing Authority functions

Licensing Authorities are required to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing *Premises Licences*
- Issue *Provisional Statements*
- Regulate *members' clubs* and *miners' welfare institutes* which wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue *Club Machine Permits to Commercial Clubs*
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at *unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres*
- Receive notifications from alcohol on-licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) of the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Issue *Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits* for alcohol on-licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003), where more than two machines are

required

- Register *small society lotteries* below prescribed thresholds
- Issue *Prize Gaming Permits*
- Receive and Endorse *Temporary Use Notices*
- Receive *Occasional Use Notices*
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions
- Set and collect fees

Licensing authorities will not be involved in licensing remote gambling, including online gambling and the National Lottery. This will be the responsibility of the Gambling Commission via Operator Licences.

Final Policy for Publication

PART B PREMISES LICENCES

1. General principles

Premises licences are subject to the permissions, restrictions and conditions set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and Regulations. Licensing authorities are able to exclude certain of these conditions and also attach others, where they consider this is appropriate.

In exercising its functions under the 2005 Act, section 153 states that the licensing authority shall aim to permit the use of premises for gambling insofar as the authority thinks it:

- a) in accordance with any relevant code of practice under s.24
- b) in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under s.2
- c) reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives (subject to a and b above)
- d) in accordance with the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy (policy statement) (subject to a to c above).

2. Location

The demand for gambling premises cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises, but matters concerning the licensing objectives can be considered. The City Council will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as preventing crime and disorder.

3. Local Area Profiles

The City Council will maintain a local area profile. The area profile will be held on the City Council's website [Information to accompany the gambling policy \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://leicester.gov.uk) and will be updated from time to time.

The Gambling Commission's licence conditions and codes of practice require operators of existing and new gambling premises to consider local risks to the licensing objectives that may be posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises. This includes a requirement to have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks. In carrying out this obligation, operators must take account of relevant matters identified in the licensing authority's statement of policy.

The City Council expects existing and new operators to take into account the profile when determining what steps they need to take to mitigate risk and to promote the licensing objectives. This is in addition to reference to this statement of policy, and particularly to part B.

4. Local risk assessments

The Gambling Commission has introduced social responsibility code provisions that require operators of premises-based businesses to conduct local risk assessments³, and an ordinary code provision that says licensees should share their risk assessments with licensing authorities in certain circumstances⁴.

³ [LCCP Condition - Gambling Commission](#)

⁴ [LCCP Condition - Gambling Commission](#)

Paragraph 6.42 of the Gambling Commission guidance says “Social responsibility (SR) code [10.1.1](#) requires licensees to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks. In undertaking their risk assessments, they must take into account relevant matters identified in the licensing authority’s policy statement.”

Paragraph 6.46 of the guidance says “Where a licensing authority’s policy statement sets out its approach to regulation with clear reference to local risks, it will facilitate operators being able to better understand the local environment and therefore proactively mitigate risks to the licensing objectives. In some circumstances, it might be appropriate to offer the licensee the opportunity to volunteer specific conditions that could be attached to the premises licence.”

The licensing authority is of the view that gambling operators should take account of the general area in which their premises are situated. The local area profile includes details of the location of educational establishments, community facilities and places of worship as well as the locations of other licensed gambling premises. This information is relevant to the licensing objectives, particularly the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The policies and procedures to mitigate risks should be dealt with in the risk assessment rather than by way of licence conditions as the risk assessment is a dynamic document and (in accordance with Social Responsibility Code Provision 10.1.2) must be reviewed if there is a significant change in local circumstances. As risks change or new risks are identified, the policies, procedures, and mitigation measures to address those identified risks may be changed very quickly, whereas licence conditions may only be changed via formal application to the licensing authority.

5. Conditions

The ‘aim to permit’ framework provides wide scope for licensing authorities to impose conditions on a premises licence, reject, review or revoke premises licences where there is an inherent conflict with the relevant codes of practice, relevant guidance issued by the Commission, the licensing objectives or the licensing authorities own policy statement.

The mandatory and default conditions that attach to all premises licences are intended to be sufficient to ensure operation that is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. Additional conditions will only be considered where there is clear evidence of a risk to the licensing objectives in the circumstances of a particular case that is not adequately addressed by the applicant’s local area risk assessment.

Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises;

- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- reasonable in all other respects.

Decisions about individual conditions will be made on a case-by-case basis. The City Council will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives. However, appropriate measures / licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Door supervisors
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- Self-barring schemes
- Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.
- Locating gaming machines in direct line of sight from a staffed counter to promote the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- Measures / training for staff on how to deal with suspected truant school children on the premises.

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and merely gives examples of measures.

The City Council will also consider specific measures that may be required for buildings, which are subject to multiple premises licences. Such measures may include the supervision of entrances; segregation of gambling from non-gambling areas frequented by children; and the supervision of gaming machines in gambling premises that admit children, in order to pursue the licensing objectives. These matters are in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

It is noted that there are conditions that the licensing authority cannot attach to premises licences, which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated) and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winnings or prizes

6. Door Supervisors

The City Council believes that adequate door supervision has an important role to play in promoting the licensing objectives, and will consider whether there is a need for door supervision on a case-by-case basis. Door supervision may provide benefits in terms of preventing children from entering adult only areas and preventing crime and disorder. In assessing the need for door supervision, the City Council will take into account the location of the premises, the likely clientele and the history of the premises.

The Gambling Act 2005 has amended the Private Security Industry Act 2001 so that in-house door supervisors at casinos or bingo premises are exempt from the requirement to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. However, the City Council considers that registration with the SIA brings benefits in terms of training and establishing that the door supervisor is a suitable person. This is in recognition of the nature of the work in terms of searching individuals, dealing with potentially aggressive persons, etc. It will therefore consider whether, in individual cases, it should apply a condition that door supervisors should be registered with the SIA. This decision will be influenced by the manner in which door supervision is undertaken and the likely clientele.

7. Casinos

No Casinos resolution

The City Council has not passed a 'no casino' resolution, but is aware that it has the power to do so. If it were to do so in the future, this policy statement will be updated with details. Any such decision would be made by the Full Council, and would not affect existing casinos licensed before the coming into force of the Gambling Act 2005.

Responsibility in Gambling

The City Council supports responsibility in gambling and envisages that any proposal for a new casino will embrace this aim.

PART C

Permits

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres

Where a premises is not licensed, but the applicant wishes to provide gaming machines, they may apply to the licensing authority for an Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permit.

It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit.

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may prepare a *statement of principles* that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit and in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

Statement of Principles

The principles that Leicester City Council has adopted requires the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however, they may include

- DBS checks for staff
- a policy on the suitability of staff, taking into account convictions for violence, dishonesty, sexual offences, certain motoring offences.
- appropriate measures / training for staff as regards suspected truant school children on the premises
- training for staff to ensure a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.
- measures / training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises
- children causing perceived problems on / around the premises.

In addition to the above, the City Council will also expect that:

- applicants demonstrate a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed FECs; and
- the applicant has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act).

2. Alcohol Licensed premises gaming machine permits

There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises to automatically have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the licensing authority. The licensing authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued

by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with)

- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises

If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, an application for a permit is needed. The City Council will decide each application on a case-by-case basis but will make its decision based on the licensing objectives and any other matters it considers relevant, which may include:

- the location and size of the premises
- expected clientele
- how the applicant intends to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling
- the measures proposed by the applicant to ensure that anyone under 18 does not have access to the adult only gaming machines, which could include:
 - adult machines being in sight of the bar
 - arrangements for supervision by staff
 - notices and signage
- provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

3. Prize Gaming Permits

It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit.

The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may prepare a *statement of principles* that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit and in preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

The principles that Leicester City Council has adopted require the applicant to show that:

- the applicant should set out the types of gaming that he or she is intending to offer
- the applicant should be able to demonstrate that:
 - they understand the limits to stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations; and
 - the gaming offered is within the law
- the applicant has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act).

4. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

Members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes (but not commercial clubs) may apply for a club gaming permit. Members' clubs, miners' welfare institutes and commercial clubs may apply for a club machine permit. The club gaming permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set out in forthcoming regulations. A Club Gaming machine permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B, C or D).

A licensing authority may only refuse to grant a club gaming or machine permit under certain circumstances specified in the Act. In deciding whether to grant a permit, the licensing authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and the licensing objectives. A licensing authority may not attach conditions to a permit.

5. Temporary Use Notices

Temporary Use Notices allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling. Premises that might be suitable for a Temporary Use Notice, according to the Gambling Commission, would include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues.

The licensing authority can only grant a Temporary Use Notice to a person or company holding a relevant operating licence, i.e. a non-remote casino operating licence.

The Secretary of State has the power to determine what form of gambling can be authorised by Temporary Use Notices, and at the time of writing this Statement the relevant regulations (SI no 3157: The Gambling Act 2005 (Temporary Use Notices) Regulations 2007) state that Temporary Use Notices can only be used to permit the provision of facilities or equal chance gaming, where the gaming is intended to produce a single winner, which in practice means poker tournaments.

There are a number of statutory limits as regards Temporary Use Notices. The meaning of "premises" in Part 8 of the Act is discussed in Part 7 of the Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities. As with "premises", the definition of "a set of premises" will be a question of fact in the particular circumstances of each notice that is given. In the Act "premises" is defined as including "any place". In considering whether a place falls within the definition of "a set of premises", the licensing authority needs to look at, amongst other things, the ownership/occupation and control of the premises.

This licensing authority expects to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises, as recommended in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities

6. Occasional Use Notices

The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. This licensing authority will though consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice. This licensing authority will also ensure that no more than 8 OUNs are issued in one calendar year in respect of any venue.

7. Small Society Lotteries

This licensing authority will adopt a risk-based approach towards its enforcement responsibilities for small society lotteries. This authority considers that the following list, although not exclusive, could affect the risk status of the operator:

- submission of late returns (returns must be submitted no later than three months after the date on which the lottery draw was held)
- submission of incomplete or incorrect returns

- breaches of the limits for small society lotteries

Non-commercial gaming is permitted if it takes place at a non-commercial event, either as an incidental or principal activity at the event. Events are non-commercial if no part of the proceeds is for private profit or gain. The proceeds of such events may benefit one or more individuals if the activity is organised:

- by, or on behalf of, a charity or for charitable purposes
- to enable participation in, or support of, sporting, athletic or cultural activities.

Charities and community groups should contact this licensing authority to seek further advice:

- by telephone - (0116) 454 3030
- by email - licensing@leicester.gov.uk
- by post - Licensing Section, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Tool:

Title of proposal	Gambling policy 2022-24
Name of division/service	Neighbourhood and Environmental Services
Name of lead officer completing this assessment	Deborah Bragg
Date EIA assessment completed	
Decision maker	e.g. City Mayor/Assistant Mayor/Director
Date decision taken	

EIA sign off on completion:	Signature	Date
Lead officer		
Equalities officer		
Divisional director		

Please ensure the following:

- a) That the document is **understandable to a reader who has not read any other documents** and explains (on its own) how the Public Sector Equality Duty is met. This does not need to be lengthy but must be complete and based in evidence.
- b) That available support information and data is identified and where it can be found. Also be clear about highlighting gaps in existing data or evidence that you hold, and how you have sought to address these knowledge gaps.

- c) That the equality impacts are capable of aggregation with those of other EIAs to identify the cumulative impact of all service changes made by the council on different groups of people.
- d) That the equality impact assessment is started at an early stage in the decision-making process, so that it can be used to inform the consultation, engagement and the decision. It should not be a tick-box exercise. Equality impact assessment is an iterative process that should be revisited throughout the decision-making process. It can be used to assess several different options.
- e) Decision makers must be aware of their duty to pay 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty (see below) and 'due regard' must be paid before and at the time a decision is taken. Please see the Brown Principles on the equality intranet pages, for information on how to undertake a lawful decision-making process, from an equalities perspective. Please append the draft EIA and the final EIA to papers for decision makers (including leadership team meetings, lead member briefings, scrutiny meetings and executive meetings) and draw out the key points for their consideration. The Equalities Team provide equalities comments on reports.

1. Setting the context

Describe the proposal, the reasons it is being made, and the intended change or outcome. Will the needs of those who are currently using the service continue to be met?

The Gambling Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") took effect in 2007. Responsibility for issuing premises licences and carrying out some enforcement falls to the local authority ("the Licensing Authority"). It is a requirement of the 2005 Act that the Licensing Authority has a published Gambling Policy, which must have been subject to public consultation. Much of the content is prescribed or restricted by the Act.

External agencies involved in the process prescribed by the 2005 Act are excluded from this Assessment. These include the Police and existing providers of gambling facilities in Leicester. However, the Gambling Policy has links with Child Protection and the Council's Children's Services Department was consulted on the policy.

The Licensing Objectives are set out in the 2005 Act as:

- ✧ Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime
- ✧ Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

- ◇ Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

The Act requires that the City Council should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives, and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

2. Equality implications/obligations

Which aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) are likely be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes.

a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- How does the proposal/service ensure that there is no barrier or disproportionate impact for anyone with a particular protected characteristic?
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

The Gambling Act 2005 concerns the regulation of operators, individuals and premises that offer gambling services. Operators and individuals are licensed by the Gambling Commission and premises are licensed by the relevant local authority (ie, the licensing authority). The 2005 Act and supporting regulations and codes of practice govern how gambling must be provided, and also set out certain mandatory and default conditions to be applied to specific licence types. The licensing authority has discretion to impose additional conditions on premises licences if necessary following receipt of representations based on the licensing objectives. However, the gambling policy confirms that licensing authorities should not duplicate other legislation. It is not appropriate to add conditions that deal with matters covered by the Equality Act 2010, as individual operators are subject to the 2010 Act and can thus be held accountable directly.

b. Advance equality of opportunity between different groups

- How does the proposal/service ensure that its intended outcomes promote equality of opportunity for people?
- Identify inequalities faced by those with specific protected characteristic(s).

- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

As section a. above, the gambling policy deals with the regulatory process for gambling premises. This function is carried out in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and there can be no duplication of other legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. Businesses and individuals offering gambling services are responsible for ensuring compliance with the 2010 Act.

c. Foster good relations between different groups

- Does the service contribute to good relations or to broader community cohesion objectives?
- How does it achieve this aim?
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

Gambling carried out in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 is a lawful enterprise and the licensing authority has a duty to aim to permit gambling as set out in section 1 above. As the licensing authority Leicester City Council cannot have a view on any impact gambling may have on individuals or communities, and therefore is unable to take account of particular sensitivities such as religious or cultural beliefs.

However, as a local authority with have engaged with the Public Health Team to include reference to their recent Gambling Harms Needs Assessment' within our Policy:-

1. **Summary of literature:** It is estimated that around 54% of the general population take part in gambling at least once in a year (when not including the national lottery, this figure drops to 40%). Problem gambling (gambling to a degree that compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal or recreational pursuits) is estimated to be experienced by 0.4% of the population; At-risk gambling (gambling that leads to less severe negative consequences) by 3.8%; and around 7% are negatively affected by someone else's gambling ('affected others'). If these estimates were accurate for Leicester's 368,600 population (1), this would suggest there to be around 1,500 experiencing problem gambling, 14,000 experiencing at-risk gambling, and 26,000 affected others. Problem gambling is associated with worsened mental health, alcohol and substance use and higher risk of suicide; people aged 20-49 who experience problem gambling are 19 times more likely than average to die by suicide.
2. **Local profile related to gambling:** Population demographics of Leicester have several characteristics associated with an increased risk of problem gambling, including having a larger-than-average proportion compared to England who are: aged between 16 and 34 years; living in a deprived area; or unemployed. Leicester also has a higher-than-average proportion of people of Asian or Asian British ethnicity. National survey data indicate that people of this ethnicity are

generally less likely to gamble, but more likely to experience problem gambling than other ethnic groups. We do not know of reliable evidence investigating gambling behaviours within more specific ethnicity categories.

3. **Mapping:** Accessibility of Leicester gambling outlets is highest in the central shopping area and is high in many areas with high deprivation. Data from a YouGov survey performed on behalf of GambleAware suggests (with a low level of certainty due to small numbers of participants) that Leicester City is in the lowest quintile for prevalence of non-problem gambling, but in the highest quintile for problem and moderate-risk gambling. The survey results also predicted Leicester to be in the lowest quintile for demand and uptake of treatment and support by those experiencing problem gambling.
4. **Treatment and support services:** There are three services providing treatment for gambling harms in Leicester City: the NHS East Midlands Gambling Service (which launched in July 2023), which is based in Derby and accepts referrals from across the East Midlands; Gamblers Anonymous, which is a national organisation, with a local branch that holds meetings in Leicester; and GamCare East Midlands, which delivers structured treatment online.
5. **Stakeholders:** Given the risks associated with gambling harms, and the populations particularly vulnerable to these harms, the following stakeholders were identified: those working in suicide prevention, mental health, primary care, children and young people, substance misuse or homelessness services; the police and criminal justice system; alcohol harm reduction charities; those whose work involves licensing of gambling premises; those with previous or current experience of high risk or problem gambling, of who have been negatively affected by someone else's gambling.

Applicants and Operators are asked to take account of the above when applying for licences and completing their Local Area Risk Assessments.

Licensed gambling establishments must comply with the law and with relevant codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission, including age restrictions and the provision of signposting to organisations offering support.

3. Who is affected?

Outline who could be affected, and how they could be affected by the proposal/service change. Include people who currently use the service and those who could benefit from, but do not currently access the service.

The policy is designed to meet the Licensing Objectives as set out above. The public as a whole will be affected both directly and indirectly. The policy is an update of previous versions with only minor changes and therefore light touch consultation has been carried out.

4. Information used to inform the equality impact assessment

- What **data, research, or trend analysis** have you used?
- Describe how you have got your information and what it tells you
- Are there any gaps or limitations in the information you currently hold, and how you have sought to address this? E.g. proxy data, national trends, equality monitoring etc.

The Gambling Act 2005 came into effect in 2007 and the council introduced its first gambling policy at that time. The policy has been reviewed regularly since then but has remained essentially the same. Operational experience has not revealed any problems or concerns with the policy, which appears to remain fit for purpose. Slight amendments have been made to reflect address changes for the Licensing Authority and a new section has been included to include information from the Public Health Team and their findings in their recent 'Gambling Harms Needs Assessment'. Applicants are asked to take this into account when submitting their applications.

The Gambling Commission are in the process of updating their 'Guidance issued to Local Authorities' as a result of the recommendations made as part of their submission to the Government and the publication of the white paper 'High Stakes: Gambling reform for the Digital Age' - [High Stakes: Gambling Reform for the Digital Age \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674447/high-stakes-gambling-reform-for-the-digital-age.pdf)

The Gambling Commission Bulletin issued to Local Authorities in December 2023 stated ‘Given the ongoing consultations regarding the Gambling Act it is very unlikely that we will be able to amend the Guidance to Licensing Authorities document in sufficient time for you to incorporate changes within your own Statement.

Whilst it is a matter for local determination, we suggest that the Statement is refreshed in line with the requirements of the Act so as to be enforceable from January 2025. Thereafter we will publish a revised GLA which you can include in a refreshed Statement. You are permitted to revise your Statement within the 3-year timescale.’

5. Consultation

What **consultation** have you undertaken about the proposal with people who use the service or people affected, people who may potentially use the service and other stakeholders? What did they say about:

- What is important to them regarding the current service?
- How does (or could) the service meet their needs? How will they be affected by the proposal? What potential impacts did they identify because of their protected characteristic(s)?
- Did they identify any potential barriers they may face in accessing services/other opportunities that meet their needs?

The Gambling Act requires that licensing authorities consult:

- the Chief Officer of Police;
- one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority’s area;
- one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

Consultation was online via the Consultation Hub and was brought to the attention of particular stakeholders by email. It was also publicised via media channels (press release, social media). Consultees included:

- ✓ Residents / users of gambling premises
- ✓ Existing providers of gambling facilities

- ✓ Specific external bodies as per Gambling Commission advice
- ✓ Existing holders of premises licences / club premises certificates under the Licensing Act 2003
- ✓ Leicestershire Police
- ✓ Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- ✓ HM Customs and Excise
- ✓ Gambling Commission
- ✓ Leicester City Council
 - Development Control
 - Environmental Health
 - Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Board
 - Homelessness Prevention
 - Housing
 - Public Health
 - Regulatory Services
 - Councillors
 - Licensing and Public Safety Committee – *meeting 15 November 2021*
- ✓ Other consultees:
 - Advertising Association
 - Lotteries Council
 - British Amusement Catering Trade Association
 - Remote Gambling Association
 - Bingo Association
 - British Horseracing Authority
 - Gamblers Anonymous
 - National Casino Forum
 - GambleAware
 - GAMCARE
 - GREaT Foundation
 - Salvation Army
 - Leicester Council of Faiths
 - Greyhound Board of Great Britain
 - Citizens Advice Bureau Leicester
 - Betting and Gaming Council

To be completed after consultation has taken place.....

6. Potential Equality Impact

Based on your understanding of the service area, any specific evidence you may have on people who use the service and those who could potentially use the service and the findings of any consultation you have undertaken, use the table below to explain which individuals or community groups are likely to be affected by the proposal because of their protected characteristic(s). Describe what the impact is likely to be, how significant that impact is for individual or group well-being, and what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts. This could include indirect impacts, as well as direct impacts.

Looking at potential impacts from a different perspective, this section also asks you to consider whether any other particular groups, especially vulnerable groups, are likely to be affected by the proposal. List the relevant groups that may be affected, along with the likely impact, potential risks and mitigating actions that would reduce or remove any negative impacts. These groups do not have to be defined by their protected characteristic(s).

43

Protected characteristics

Impact of proposal:

Describe the likely impact of the proposal on people because of their protected characteristic and how they may be affected. Why is this protected characteristic relevant to the proposal? How does the protected characteristic determine/shape the potential impact of the proposal? This may also include **positive impacts** which support the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Risk of disproportionate negative impact:

How likely is it that people with this protected characteristic will be disproportionately negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?

Mitigating actions:

For disproportionate negative impacts on protected characteristic/s, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove the impact? You may also wish to include actions which support the positive aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance

equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. All actions identified here should also be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA.

a. Age

Indicate which age group/s is/ are most affected, either specify general age group - children, young people working age people or older people or specific age bands

What is the impact of the proposal on age?

One of the licensing objectives is protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on age?

Children may be harmed by gambling, either by participating or indirectly through connections with a family member that has a gambling problem.

What are the mitigating actions?

Gambling providers must ensure that children do not gamble and there are various measures they are able to put into place to prevent this (due diligence), including age restrictions on entry to premises (eg, casinos, betting shops), supervision of gambling services where children are permitted to enter (eg, gaming machines in alcohol licensed premises), and test purchasing.

Gambling providers also have responsibilities under codes of practice for their particular sector in relation to vulnerable adults, which may include adults with a gambling problem. The gambling behaviour of these individuals may impact on children via family relationships. Gambling providers should aim to identify problems gamblers and offer advice and support, including steps such as voluntary limits, self-exclusion, and signposting for additional help.

It should be noted that the licensing authority has no control over online gambling, which presents particular risks due to the remote nature of the activity (ie, no human oversight of individuals' behaviour or demeanour, or a physical assessment of their age).

Paragraph 6.42 of the Gambling Commission guidance says "Social responsibility (SR) code [10.1.1](#) requires licensees to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and have

policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks. In undertaking their risk assessments, they must take into account relevant matters identified in the licensing authority’s policy statement.”

Paragraph 6.46 of the guidance says “Where a licensing authority’s policy statement sets out its approach to regulation with clear reference to local risks, it will facilitate operators being able to better understand the local environment and therefore proactively mitigate risks to the licensing objectives. In some circumstances, it might be appropriate to offer the licensee the opportunity to volunteer specific conditions that could be attached to the premises licence.”

The policy refers to a Local Area Profile that is available on the council’s website. This profile shows the locations of existing gambling premises, schools and other local facilities that operators should take account of in their own risk assessments. Identifying the presence of vulnerable people nearby (eg, a school) should enable the operator to highlight specific mitigations that they may need to put in place.

b. Disability

If specific impairments are affected by the proposal, specify which these are. Our standard categories are on our equality monitoring form – physical impairment, sensory impairment, mental health condition, learning disability, long standing illness or health condition.

What is the impact of the proposal on disability?

None identified

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on disability?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

c. Gender reassignment

Indicate whether the proposal has potential impact on trans men or trans women, and if so, which group is affected.

What is the impact of the proposal on gender reassignment?

None identified

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on gender reassignment?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

d. Marriage and civil partnership

What is the impact of the proposal on marriage and civil partnership?

None identified

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on marriage and civil partnership?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

e. Pregnancy and maternity

What is the impact of the proposal on pregnancy and maternity?

None identified

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on pregnancy and maternity?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

f. Race

Given the city's racial diversity it is useful that we collect information on which racial groups are affected by the proposal. Our equalities monitoring form follows ONS general census categories and uses broad categories in the first instance with the opportunity to identify more specific racial groups such as Gypsies/Travellers. Use the most relevant classification for the proposal.

What is the impact of the proposal on race?

Colleagues in Public Health note that there is an inequality in terms of the detrimental effects of problem gambling. E.g. people from a BAME background are less likely to gamble overall but are more likely to classify as a problematic gambling. There is also a difference in terms of take up of treatment and support services with people from a BAME background.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on race?

As above

What are the mitigating actions?

It is not possible for the licensing authority or gambling providers to mitigate in relation to race, because preventing access to gambling services on the grounds of race would in itself be discriminatory. However, there is work that could be done by outside agencies in relation to targeted advice and support in the communities identified.

g. Religion or belief

If specific religious or faith groups are affected by the proposal, our equalities monitoring form sets out categories reflective of the city’s population. Given the diversity of the city there is always scope to include any group that is not listed.

What is the impact of the proposal on religion or belief?

Certain faiths might find gambling to be inappropriate. However, gambling is a lawful activity and the licensing authority has a duty to aim to permit gambling as set out above. The authority cannot take account of religious or moral objections when determining applications. The draft policy included proposals for locations that generally are and are not suitable for licensed premises to be located and unsuitable location is near to places of worship. Respondents to the consultation pointed out that this is not appropriate given the legislation and as a result this was removed from the policy before it was approved. It was replaced by additional text in the policy about local risk assessments

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on religion or belief?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

48

h. Sex

Indicate whether this has potential impact on either males or females

What is the impact of the proposal on sex?

None identified

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on sex?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

i. Sexual orientation

What is the impact of the proposal on sexual orientation?

None identified

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on sexual orientation?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

7. Summary of protected characteristics

a. Summarise why the protected characteristics you have commented on, are relevant to the proposal?

Age – one of the licensing objectives is the prevention of harm to children or vulnerable adults

Race – information about the relative risks to people from BAME communities

Religion or belief – the comment above notes that the authority can NOT take account of moral concerns, including the proximity of places of worship, when determining applications. However, local risk assessments should take account of the vicinity and take appropriate steps to mitigate potential harms.

b. Summarise why the protected characteristics you have not commented on, are not relevant to the proposal?

Disability; Gender reassignment; Marriage and civil partnership; Pregnancy and maternity; Sex; Sexual orientation

None of these protected characteristics are obviously impacted by the content of the council's gambling policy

8. Other groups

Other groups

Impact of proposal:

Describe the likely impact of the proposal on children in poverty or any other people who we may consider to be vulnerable, for example people who misuse substances, ex armed forces, people living in poverty, care experienced young people, carers. List any vulnerable groups likely to be affected. Will their needs continue to be met? What issues will affect their take up of services/other opportunities that meet their needs/address inequalities they face?

Risk of disproportionate negative impact:

How likely is it that this group of people will be negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?

Mitigating actions:

For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact for this vulnerable group of people? These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA. You may also wish to use this section to identify opportunities for positive impacts.

a. Children in poverty

What is the impact of the proposal on children in poverty?

See above regarding age. It could be argued that children living in poverty are vulnerable to both gambling and gambling harms due to responsible adults who may be problem gamblers

What is the risk of negative impact on children in poverty?

See above regarding age and below regarding other vulnerable groups

What are the mitigating actions?

See above regarding age and below regarding other vulnerable groups

b. Other vulnerable groups

What is the impact of the proposal on other vulnerable groups?

One of the licensing objectives is the protection of children or vulnerable adults from harm caused by gambling. Problem gamblers are vulnerable adults, and as such require support and advice. Gambling operators are required to provide such advice and support, ranging from displaying information about where to get help, self-exclusion from premises, setting maximum limits and noticing when individual customers may have a problem. The licensing policy must reflect the authority's legal obligation to aim to permit gambling as set out above. However, as a local authority it is proposed that a document be prepared to sit alongside the policy and including signposting to information and advice for people with gambling problems and also for their family / friends.

What is the risk of negative impact on other vulnerable groups?

Vulnerable adults and their families and friends may be harmed by gambling, either by participating or indirectly through connections with a family member that has a gambling problem.

What are the mitigating actions?

Gambling providers have responsibilities under codes of practice for their particular sector in relation to vulnerable adults, which may include adults with a gambling problem. Gambling providers should aim to identify problems gamblers and offer advice and support, including steps such as voluntary limits, self-exclusion, and signposting for additional help.

It should be noted that the licensing authority has no control over online gambling, which presents particular risks due to the remote nature of the activity (ie, no human oversight of individuals' behaviour or demeanour, or a physical assessment of their age).

Paragraph 6.42 of the Gambling Commission guidance says "Social responsibility (SR) code [10.1.1](#) requires licensees to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks. In undertaking their risk assessments, they must take into account relevant matters identified in the licensing authority's policy statement."

Paragraph 6.46 of the guidance says "Where a licensing authority's policy statement sets out its approach to regulation with clear reference to local risks, it will facilitate operators being able to better understand the local environment and therefore proactively mitigate risks to the licensing objectives. In some circumstances, it might be appropriate to offer the licensee the opportunity to volunteer specific conditions that could be attached to the premises licence."

The policy refers to a Local Area Profile that is available on the council's website. This profile shows the locations of existing gambling premises, schools and other local facilities that operators should take account of in their own risk assessments. Identifying the presence of vulnerable people nearby (eg, a school) should enable the operator to highlight specific mitigations that they may need to put in place

c. Other (describe)

What is the impact of the proposal on any other groups?

None identified

What is the risk of negative impact on any other groups?

None identified

What are the mitigating actions?

None identified

9. Other sources of potential negative impacts

Are there any other potential negative impacts external to the service that could further disadvantage service users over the next three years that should be considered? For example, these could include:

- other proposed changes to council services that would affect the same group of service users;
- Government policies or proposed changes to current provision by public agencies (such as new benefit arrangements) that would negatively affect residents;
- external economic impacts such as an economic downturn.

Economic downturn, the impact of the recent coronavirus pandemic and the impact of Brexit could all make people worse off. This could lead to people gambling more than they can afford in an attempt to recoup their losses and/or to replace income lost through other sources (ie, job loss).

10. Human rights implications

Are there any human rights implications which need to be considered and addressed (please see the list at the end of the template), if so please outline the implications and how they will be addressed below:

In considering applications, and taking enforcement action under the Act, licensing authorities should bear in mind that they are subject to the Human Rights Act 1998 (opens in new tab) and in particular:

- Article 1, Protocol 1 – peaceful enjoyment of possessions.
- Article 6 – right to a fair hearing
- Article 8 – respect for private and family life.
- Article 10 – right to freedom of expression.

11. Monitoring impact

You will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics and human rights after the decision has been implemented. Describe the systems which are set up to:

- monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups
- monitor barriers for different groups
- enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities
- ensure that the EIA action plan (below) is delivered.

If you want to undertake equality monitoring, please refer to our [equality monitoring guidance and templates](#).

This EIA is for the gambling policy. The licensing authority has certain duties under the Gambling Act 2005 and therefore is limited in its response. For example, it cannot refuse or limit gambling licences based on an overall concern, although it can take action where an individual premises is operating in a way that does not promote the licensing objectives.

Monitoring of the number of licences issued, refused and revoked will give an indicator of the opportunities to gamble within the city and hence the overall impact on the residents of Leicester.

12. EIA action plan

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from this assessment (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Outcome	Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date

Human rights articles:

Part 1: The convention rights and freedoms

Article 2: Right to Life

Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way

Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/forced labour

Article 5: Right to liberty and security

Article 6: Right to a fair trial

Article 7: No punishment without law

Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life

Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 10: Right to freedom of expression

Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association

Article 12: Right to marry

Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against

Part 2: First protocol

Article 1: Protection of property/peaceful enjoyment

Article 2: Right to education

Article 3: Right to free elections

Leicester City Council
Scrutiny
Annual Report
2023-2024

Foreword

I am delighted to have had the privilege once again to serve as Chair of the Overview Select Committee during 2023-24 and am very pleased to present a report that sets out the extensive range of work by our scrutiny committees and commissions.

This year allowed scrutiny to examine proposed decisions, policy development and performance monitoring across all commission areas in greater detail. Members also had more opportunities to undertake deeper reviews into issues and services of public interest through informal scrutiny.



I have been impressed with the volume and quality of scrutiny undertaken, and particularly the number of recommendations to the Council's Executive. I am once again thankful for the involvement and contributions of the City Mayor and his team, along with officers from across the organisation in supporting and equipping our scrutiny function. I am also particularly thankful for the level of engagement from our health sector partners, and I remain committed to engaging with decision-makers beyond the local authority. In addition, I was pleased to ensure continued involvement of young people representatives who regularly participated in several of our scrutiny bodies.

At Leicester, we take great pride in our scrutiny, and we aim to examine those issues that are central to the lives of the people in our city. We have this year continued to scrutinise key strategic priorities of the City Council, and have investigated many matters in detail, by setting up informal scrutiny work to allow a broader range of evidence to be gained by commissions. Examples of this include focussed work on the implementation of 20mph streets in the city, examining ward community funding and taking a deeper look at our adult social care contract for domiciliary care before it went out to tender.

I am confident that scrutiny will continue to develop throughout 2024/25 and as all local authorities continue to face growing pressures and challenges, including here in Leicester, it is essential that Members are equipped to examine the implications of the circumstances that we face and to help to influence decision-making to ensure our residents continue to receive support and services and to enhance our fantastic city.

Councillor Ted Cassidy MBE – Chair of the Overview Select Committee

Contents

SECTION

Introduction	3
Overview Select Committee	6
Adult Social Care	8
Children, Young People and Education	10
Culture and Neighbourhood Services	12
Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency	14
Housing	16
Public Health & Health Integration	18
Contacting scrutiny	20

Glossary

The following abbreviations are used to describe each scrutiny body:

ASC: Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

CYPE: Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission

CNS: Culture and Neighbourhood Services

EDTCE: Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission

HSC: Housing Scrutiny Commission

HWB: Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

JHSC: Joint Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Health Scrutiny Committee

PHHI: Public Health and Health Integration Scrutiny Commission

OSC: Overview Select Committee

Introduction

What is Scrutiny?

The Centre for Public Scrutiny defines scrutiny as “the activity by one elected or appointed organisation or office examining and monitoring all or part of the activity of a public sector body with the aim of improving the quality of public services. A public sector body is one that carries out public functions or spends public money. Scrutiny ensures that executives are held accountable for their decisions, that their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public and that there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve public policy.” As such, it is important that scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that the Council and its partners remain effective and accountable.

Leicester City Council’s Scrutiny Structure

For the 2023/24 municipal year, there was a change in the scrutiny structure. The Council continued with the model of an Overview Select Committee but was supported by six scrutiny commissions covering all facets of the council’s business rather than the previous seven. Culture and Neighbourhoods Services scrutiny commission combined the former Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Tourism and Neighbourhood Services commissions.

Overview Select Committee



Report Structure

This annual report covers the period between May 2023 to April 2024 and summarises some of the key activity and areas of influence by scrutiny throughout the year.

The report provides detail of the work of the Overview Select Commission, and each of the six City Council scrutiny commissions. The annual report does not intend to draw out a large quantity of detail or highlight each recommendation, and instead sets out some of the key achievements by the scrutiny bodies, examining areas of influence and work undertaken as part of focussed reviews or task and finish work. Full detail of each scrutiny meeting can be found by accessing relevant agendas, and minutes via leicester.gov.uk.

The report also does not intend to provide full detail of what is covered by each of the scrutiny bodies. Detail of the configuration of scrutiny at Leicester City Council can be accessed via our [scrutiny webpages](#).

By its very nature, scrutiny examines some work over a more considerable period of time, and this report also points to those strands of work that will continue or may emerge throughout 2024/25. This is reflected as part of the commission summary pages throughout the report.

Overview of Scrutiny 2023/24

In total, there were 46 public meetings across the eight scrutiny bodies (including JHSC). This was supplemented by further work performed by members in the form of separate scrutiny task group meetings or additional briefing sessions on topics of significance.

All meetings, with the exception of JHSC, took place in person at the City Council's committee rooms at City Hall, though a hybrid set-up was initiated to allow some non-voting participants to join remotely. Meetings were comprised of eight elected members that were politically balanced, with some commissions being supplemented by co-opted members or standing invitees. The Chairs of the scrutiny bodies throughout 2023/24 were as follows:

Overview Select Committee – Cllr Ted Cassidy

Adult Social Care – Cllr Melissa March

Children, Young People and Education – Cllr Misbah Batool

Culture and Neighbourhood Services – Cllr Mohammed Dawood

Economic Development, Transport & Climate Emergency – Cllr Sue Waddington

Housing – Cllr Ashiedu Joel

Public Health and Health Integration – Cllr Geoff Whittle



The commissions and committees continued to examine key strategic priorities and emerging issues. As in previous years, a significant proportion of scrutiny related to the consideration of executive decisions prior to them being taken, including scrutiny of the annual budget setting process. This equips scrutiny to challenge, support and influence the City Council's decision-making processes and remains a prime role of the scrutiny function. Scrutiny also strives to examine issues that emerge throughout the year that have significant implications for the people of Leicester.

Many of the scrutiny bodies also performed an extensive level of work in addition to that taking place as part of formal scrutiny meetings. Several focussed task group reviews were initiated throughout 2023/24. It is commonplace for the suggestion behind this work to originate at a formal meeting, often when it is apparent that the level of scrutiny required is extensive and requires a more detailed process of evidence-gathering. Examples of this work include the Overview Select Committee examining the Council's corporate equalities duty and workforce representation; the Economic Development, Transport, & Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission's work in understanding more on 20mph zones and Culture and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission's investigation into ward community funding. Upon the completion of all task group work, the relevant decision-maker submits a report back to a commission meeting that details a response to the scrutiny recommendations.

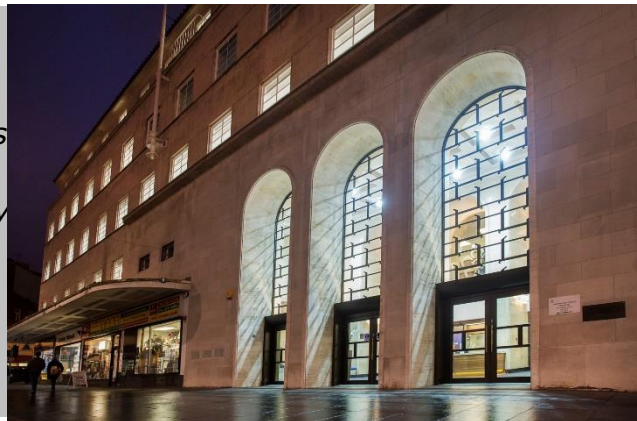
Scrutiny continues to gather the majority of its evidence from City Council service departments, though it has always been necessary for this to be supplemented with input from other organisations and stakeholders. During 2023/24, scrutiny sought evidence from a range of partners, particularly across the health sector and via housing tenant representatives. Moreover, the process of empowering the voice of young people across scrutiny was further developed during 2023/24, with representatives regularly participating in OSC, CYPE and PHHI.

During the next municipal year, there are ambitions to expand public and stakeholder engagement as part of the scrutiny process, particularly when performing more in-depth investigations and inquiries. Scrutiny Chairs will also be considering a broader range of methodologies when carrying out such informal scrutiny.

The following pages document some of the key achievements and highlights of each of Leicester's seven scrutiny bodies, drawing on areas of significance during the past year and referring to some of the priorities for taking scrutiny forward during 2024/25.

Overview Select Committee

The Overview Select Committee is the City Council's overarching scrutiny body. The committee primarily scrutinises the work overseen by the City Mayor, the council's strategic priorities and cross-cutting issues including equalities, property and the Council's finances. The Committee also engages with leaders and decision makers from key partner organisations across the city.



The key Overview Select Committee scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

Budget Monitoring Scrutiny – OSC examined the revenue and capital finances on a quarterly basis, seeking clarity on numerous issues and requesting further information on a series of matters of significance and recommending further scrutiny of those services areas that had particular impact upon the Council's overall finances.

Budget Setting process– The Committee again examined the full set of budget proposals relating to the Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2024/25. This followed tailored scrutiny at a commission level, and the comments raised previously were also examined and endorsed by OSC.

Cost-of-Living Crisis – The Committee reviewed the Council's continued response to the crisis and sought several strands of further detail, as well as requesting more focussed examinations of implications on the most vulnerable by relevant commissions. Youth Representatives also presented proposals relating to unused school meal produce which continue to be monitored by OSC.

Customer Services – OSC assessed the services provided by the Council, noting the significantly high demand and the

continued aim to digitise and transform the offer. A number of suggestions were made, particularly in relation to the telephony queuing system and a tour of customer services facilities for members was also suggested.

Directly Questioning the City Mayor – Members of the committee and youth representatives continued to raise questions directly to the City Mayor via a dedicated agenda item. Examples of questions raised included how the City Council would safeguard against bankruptcy, the Radio 2 in the Park festival arrangements and whether young people aged 14-16 should continue to require adult accompaniment at gym facilities.

Exceptional Homelessness Pressures on Housing – A special meeting was convened to examine proposals to support those experiencing homelessness pressures and proposals were later approved by Full Council.

In-year Budget Savings – The Committee examined a series of budget saving proposals ahead of Executive decisions being taken. Further examination of these was required following a call-in of the Executive decision; which was

subsequently resolved to be withdrawn by OSC.

Referrals to other scrutiny bodies – When examining corporate policy, particularly relating to the budget, OSC was proactive in recommending other commissions to undertake more in-depth scrutiny. Examples include home-to-school transport provision, implications of the cost-of-living crisis and suggesting a site-visit to the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

Strategic Property Matters – The Committee resolved call-ins to Executive decisions relating to the Market Place and St Martins Connecting Leicester schemes. Upon scrutinising both schemes further, the

Committee agreed to withdraw the call-ins and implement the decisions.

Treasury Management/Investment Activity – The Committee were rigorous in their examination of relevant strategy and policy, and recommended further training for Members on these matters, which was arranged in advance of decisions being taken by Full Council

Workforce Representation – OSC undertook some informal scrutiny relating to workforce representation across the City Council and in doing so received a comprehensive overview of how the Council adhered to the Public Sector Equality Duty before beginning to examine a significant amount of data to identify trends and areas of concern.

Possible Overview Select Committee plans for 2024/25 include:

Budget and in year budget savings– The Committee is likely to regularly examine the City Council’s overall programme of in-year budget saving proposals on an ongoing basis and will ensure that key proposals are also considered by the relevant commissions.

Corporate Equality Strategy and Action Plan – The Committee intends to inspect the revised draft strategy and action plan, which will set out the City Council’s continued commitment to equality and diversity.

Environmental Impact of Construction Projects – OSC are keen to understand more about the overall environmental impact of corporate construction work and will assess the current position.

Ongoing cost-of living response – The Committee will continue to have an oversight of how the needs of the City’s most vulnerable families and communities are being met.

Strategic Priorities– OSC will closely examine progress made in response to the strategic priorities set out by the City Mayor and Executive.

Workforce Representation– OSC will conclude its findings in relation to the informal scrutiny work around workforce representation.



Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

This Commission focuses on matters relating to the delivery of statutory adult social care functions, such as care services to allow independence in own homes, care services for those that require care away from home and policies that underpin a broad range of social care issues.

The key Adult Social Care scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

ASC Improvement Journey – The Commission thanked the division for its openness in its discussion of identifying strengths and challenges for preparing for the new adult social care assessment framework to be introduced. It was requested that the Commission be updated when more information is known about the assessment and visit.

ASC Performance Monitoring – The Commission continued to monitor the performance of the division whereby it was recommended that an additional metric be created in relation to monitoring discharges from hospital to social care which was agreed and created for future reporting.

Charging Policy – The Commission debated the proposals to treat higher or enhance rate disability benefits as income in full and the introduction of an administrative charge for use of the appointeeship service. Whilst some concerns were raised, following a vote the Commission noted the proposals but recommended that further work and fostering relationships with the Making it Real Group and others who draw on support, particularly regarding communications, as well as being proactive to ensure individuals understand the scope of disability related expenditure.

Dementia Strategy – The Commission endorsed the refreshed *Living Well with Dementia Strategy* and agreed to support and share the aims of the Strategy.

Direct Payments - The Commission requested to explore the topic in which the success of the division offering direct payments for over 25years, offering choice and control to residents was celebrated, but Members recognised the concerns and risks, particularly where an individual uses a non-contracted provider or employs a personal assistant.

Growing Needs of Autism -The Commission commended the work and commitment to understanding the growing needs of autism and neurodiverse conditions and to promote a strength-based approach in raising awareness and encouraging employers to utilise skills. It was recommended that the issue be discussed further at the appropriate Board or Committee to enable partnership working.

Hastings Road Day Centre – The Commission debated the offer and utilisation of the Day Centre, which resulted in a withdrawal of a formal proposal to review the decision. Members were satisfied that officers and the Deputy City Mayor had provided assurance that alternative provision would be found, and

transitions carefully managed with support of a social worker to work closely with the person, family, and carer to ensure needs continue to be met which was monitored regularly by the Commission until all individuals transitioned to alternative services.

Joint Scrutiny work – The Commission examined a number of issues alongside the Public Health and Health Integration Scrutiny Commission including mental health service provision, substance misuse, winter planning and the health and social care workforce. Following feedback from scrutiny, improvements were made to the Inspired to Care website, particularly the apprenticeships pages and consideration of how to evaluate the successes of the No5 Wet Centre was requested.

Reablement Service – The Commission celebrated the good work of the service in enabling residents to be supported to prevent hospital admission or to be discharged from hospital and supported at home. It was noted that the service has continued to grow and is a significantly different offer to alternative places with the integration of health and social care services.

Recommissioning of Homecare – The Commission were keen to play a part in the process of establishing new contracts for future service provision and recommended the tender be amended from providers requiring a minimum CQC inspection of 'Requires Improvement' with 'Good' in the 'well led' section, to overall inspection being 'Good' which was endorsed.

Possible Adult Social Care Scrutiny plans for 2024/25 include:

ASC CQC Assessment – The Commission requested to be updated on the new assessment framework concerning adult social care services and be informed of the visit.

Adult Social Care Budget – The Commission agreed to monitor the budget and requested an informal scrutiny briefing session to discuss details in further detail in the new financial year.

Care Package Reviews – The Commission have expressed urgency in the new municipal year to consider care package reviews in order to understand what is being done to address backlogs.

Homecare Contract – The Commission played a part in improving the tender for new contracts for future homecare service provision. The Commission is keen to discuss further when contracts are live, particularly to update on time banking and Unison's Ethical Charter for zero-hour contracts.

Workforce – The Commission considered the challenges to the workforce across health and social care and requested to monitor the progress, particularly the development of the draft external workforce strategy and promoting apprenticeships.

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission

The Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission is responsible for examining children's social care, education & attainment and support provision for children and young people and families. Diocesan, trade union and school governor representatives work with elected Members on this Commission.



Key scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

Ash Field Academy – The decision to withdraw funding for residential provision at Ash Field Academy was examined by the Commission. In examining the decision following a call-in, the Commission recommended that further discussions be held between Leicester City Council and Ash Field Academy on the tapering of funding in order to ease the transition whilst the Academy found other sources of funding.

Family Hubs – The Commission considered the progress towards the Family Hubs model in line with the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme funded by the DFE. The focus was being placed on developing an integrated network of support both online and at physical locations across Leicester.

Fostering Service Annual Report 2022/23 – The Commission considered the activity and performance of the Fostering Service and requested further information on the costs surrounding the proposed Customer Relationship Management Tool and suggested to reach out to SGO carers via the newsletter to promote awareness of help on offer.

In-house residential accommodation – New residential facilities for looked-after

Children at Holly House and Hillview were examined by the Commission.

Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report – In reviewing the annual report, the Commission suggested that more consideration could be given to how young people could become involved in safeguarding reviews and requested that the impact of potential cuts to Childrens' Centres and any potential knock-on effect could be looked into.

RAAC in Leicester City Schools – The Commission received verbal updates on the use of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Leicester City Schools. Members were reassured that possible RAAC issues in schools were being addressed and all schools in the city had the requirements for the safety standards.

SEND Transport Provision – The Commission examined the statutory duty to provide transport assistance to children with SEND that fit certain criteria and made a number of recommendations including seeking Government funding for electric school busses, to consider a similar transport system to the city centre 'Hop' busses for schools and colleges and raising

personal transport budgets to reduce taxi use.

School Attendance – The Commission examined data on the known education provision for children in Leicester up to the end of the 2022/23 academic year, looking particularly at absences and the reasons behind those absences.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) –The Commission received a verbal update on the situation involving UASC in the city. As part of the discussion, it was noted that a number of regional and national stakeholders would look at development around UASC Accommodation and how collective work can be done to improve the system.

Possible Children, Young People & Education Scrutiny plans for 2024/25 include:

Children Seeking Safety - To examine the challenges faced by CSS in accessing education, health support and accommodation.

DSG High Needs Block – To consider changes to how money from the DSG High Needs Block is being spent. An informal scrutiny investigation is likely to be undertaken once an initial report has been reviewed by the Commission.

Family Hubs – To understand more about the programme for developing hubs across the city and how they will serve to extend early-years provision into communities.

Sufficiency Strategy - To look at the provision of Care Packages/Residential Accommodation for Children Looked After (CLA) by the Council in terms of increasing capacity to mitigate the need to use private sector provision.

Update from Impower – To provide more information about the work done by Impower in mapping the needs of CLA against the costs of placements.

Use of Capital Programme in Schools – To understand how spending from the Capital budget will be used to improve school buildings.

Culture and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission



The Culture and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission is responsible for examining many of the everyday services that people access within their own communities, including the provision of libraries, community centres, environmental and enforcement services. This Commission also holds responsibility for looking at museums, festivals & events, sports services as well as the voluntary and community sector support and issues relating to community safety and community cohesion.

The key scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

Active Leicester Strategy Action Plan -

The emerging Active Leicester Strategy action plan, following the launch of the strategy in July 2023 was considered by the Commission. The Commission suggested that should Sport England funding become available, grassroots/community sports clubs be considered for priority over larger professional clubs with their own funding streams. It was further suggested that opportunities to encourage cooperation between professional sports clubs and voluntary sector organisations be considered.

Burial Strategy – The Commission looked at action taken to mitigate the pressure on burial space following increased demand resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and the reducing availability of burial space in the council’s cemeteries. It was requested by the Commission that all faiths be involved with local consultation regarding any changes in legislation on the re-use of graves arising from the national Law Commission review of burial legislation.

Cultural and Creative Industries

Strategy – The Commission contributed to the strategy which was aimed to develop a strategy that will enable the city’s creative and cultural industries to thrive.

Museum Service – The Commission scrutinised the museum service’s use of National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding from Arts Council England, plans for new galleries, exhibitions and schemes, including the Climate Change Gallery at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG), the ‘Healthier Happier City’ initiative and a programme of free activities aimed at helping with the cost of living as well as engagement with volunteers and volunteer development. The Commission highlighted how museums and culture could be used in different ways and sought regular updates on the Museum Strategy and NPO.

Voluntary Community Sector

Engagement – The Commission examined the latest pledges and actions of the VCSE Strategy. It was recommended that VCSE and LCC boards co-produce funding submissions together. It was further suggested that consideration be given to establish a team to support and empower

community groups, and that there be more engagement with Ward Councillors.

Ward Funding – Following an initial report that was brought to the Commission in September 2023, it was agreed that a task group be convened to examine the issues surrounding ward funding. The task group looked at various aspects of the distribution of the funding and the application process. A number of recommendations were agreed including suggestions to expand the scope of multi-ward applications.

Women in Sport – A range of findings were presented to the Commission following scrutiny-led review into ways to and encourage more women to participate in sport and physical activity. The Commission suggested that an annual update on women’s involvement in sport be provided. Additionally, the Commission recommended that good practice in other authorities should be considered in the forthcoming strategy.

Possible Culture & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny plans for 2024/25 include:

Active Leicester and Women in Sport – An annual report will be provided, which will also reflect how the commission’s recommendations arising from the Women in Sport review have been taken forward.

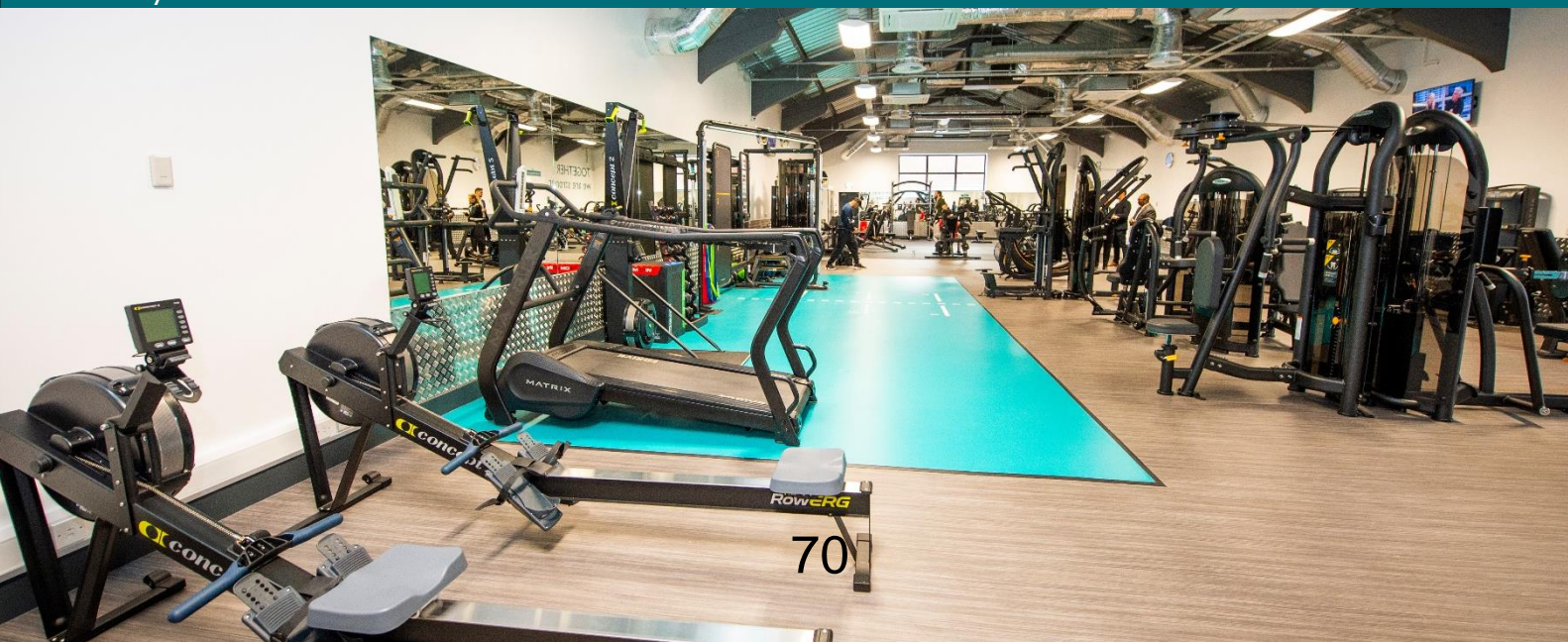
Culture and Creative Industry Strategy – A fuller report to be brought to the Commission following the previous report in September 2023.

Draft Museum Strategy – The Commission will have the opportunity to examine and make recommendations in respect of the City Council’s museum strategy.

Engagement of Community Organisations – To consider how community organisations could be engaged to help the Council run services.

Heritage Lottery Fund (Place Programme Funding) – 2024/25 will be the first year of the National Lottery Heritage Fund ‘Place’ programme in the city. A detailed series of consultation and engagement sessions will take place with the city communities to identify their heritage priorities and opinions, which will then be used to shape a longer-term action plan that can draw on the programme funds.

Library and Community Needs Assessment – Summarising the community engagement undertaken in 2023 and setting out the council’s proposals for library and neighbourhood centres beyond 2024.



Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission



This commission reviews a range of matters which include regeneration, public transport and cycling provision, adult learning and job provision and climate emergency policy.

The key scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

20mph Zones - The Commission reported its task group findings following an investigation into the approach to implementing 20mph streets in the city. A series of recommendations were agreed that related to continuing with the bespoke model but enhancing the commitment to aim to achieve 100% of suitable residential streets by 2030 and reviewing existing traffic calming measures.

Climate Change Strategy Plan – Following in-depth scrutiny at a dedicated meeting on this topic, the Commission made a number of suggestions and recommendations, including lengthening the time-frame for the consultation and making the consultation documents more accessible and easier to engage with, to consider more venues other than schools for Tiny Forests, to consider adding an appendix on how Leicester could be 'greened' in the final document and to consider opportunities for joint work with Public Health.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging – An informal scrutiny task group was convened to assess the current provision of EV

charging points in the city, how the Council can help to deliver EV charging points in the future and to assess any obstacles may hinder the installation of EV Charging points in certain areas and whether they can be overcome.

Energy Efficiency for Homes – The Commission examined energy efficiency schemes in private sector housing in the city and recommended that information on relevant schemes be promoted via Ward Community Meeting.

Flooding – Updates were given following serious flooding occurrences in June 2023 and January 2024. The Commission reviewed the flood defences in place and the help available for those affected by the flooding.

Rally Park Active Improvement Project – The Commission scrutinised the initial details of the Rally Park Scheme following a successful £1.8m bid as part of Round 4 of the Active Travel Fund and requested that officers consider approaches to retain trees and improve visibility/safety as part of design process. The Commission also

suggested working with local voluntary organisations for biodiversity gain and establishing an enjoyable space.

Skills Sector 'Bootcamps' – The Commission examined Skills Sector Bootcamps, led by the Council, focused on developing sector specific skills for adults. The Commission made a number of recommendations including requesting a breakdown of statistics on the number of people coming to the city to learn from

neighbouring areas. Further to this, the Commission requested that consideration be given to a Bootcamp in delivering skills in retrofitting properties.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) – as part of its role in regularly reviewing TROs, the Commission influenced the delivery of the A6 Corridor Bus Lane Scheme, requesting officers to consider further public engagement with objections received to scheme.

Possible Economic Development, Transport & Climate Emergency plans for 2024/25 include:

24-Hour Bus Lanes – To find out more about current and proposed provision with a view to potentially conducting informal scrutiny on the issue.

Ashton Green and Railway Station approach – Looking at progress made with key development projects across the city such as the work at Ashton Green and around the railway station, as well as further progress with the Waterside development.

ESOL – Outcomes of delivery – The Commission to consider the delivery of ESOL following the tracking of outcomes.

EV Charging Informal Scrutiny – To report on the findings of the EV Charging informal scrutiny task group.

LLEP Arrangements – The Commission will need to be kept informed on the transition of functions to the Council that were previously carried out by the LLEP.

Worker Exploitation – The Commission to receive an overview of some of challenges and issues faced in Leicester and to consider appropriate mechanisms for examining these.





Housing Scrutiny Commission

The Housing Scrutiny Commission examines a wide range of issues relating to housing and homelessness. This covers council services as well as issues affecting private sector housing and housing associations.

Key housing scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

Adaptations & Disabled Facilities Grant

- The Commission commended the service for the proactive approach to adapting properties to meet the needs of residents. It was requested that the Commission continue to be kept updated on the development of an Adaptations Strategy.

Budget – The Commission considered the housing revenue account budget, including the capital programme 2024/25 but recommended all associated budgets to housing services be shared in future.

Climate Emergency & Retrofitting – The Commission discussed the various programmes to improve energy efficiency of properties in the city. It was recommended that officers liaise with economic development regarding potential bids for upskilling individuals in green industries in which consideration is being given to be part of a regional net zero building retrofit skills pilot.

Damp and Mould – The Commission discussed regulations and the commitment to tackle damp and mould with the development of an Action Plan. Assurance was provided that governance processes are in place for appropriate inspection and remedial action in social housing, but the Commission requested to be updated on an online portal for the private rented sector.

District Heating - The Commission discussed progress regarding the installation of metres for properties supplied by the district heating network following a decision by Full Council in February 2023 to enable tenants and leaseholders to pay for usage. The Commission challenged the accuracy of costs and recommended they be reviewed to ensure tenants and leaseholders were only to be charged the identified costs. It was further agreed that the Commission would be kept updated on options for the Aikman Avenue flats.

Empty Homes - The Commission noted the success of the empty homes team and its importance as a non-statutory service. Assurance was provided that council tax rates are increased when properties are empty but the need for more devolved powers for the local authority to be able to take action to bring empty properties into use was highlighted.

Environmental Budget – The Commission noted the financial constraints to reduce the budget but recommended a formal process for documenting ward councillor suggestions to be created and future reports to include reference to other budgets available to investment in council estates.

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

Strategy – The Commission discussed the development of the new strategy and action plan, noting the collaboration and importance of partnership working. Clarity was sought in relation to the decision-making process for strategies to go to Full Council.

Housing Crisis in Leicester – The Commission discussed the Action Plan in relation to Housing Crisis that was declared in the city in November 2022 and the Task Group’s recommendations. The Commission noted the progress internally and demands of central government but requested further updates and recommended a review of the Action Plan to make the status of items clearer.

Private Rented Sector Strategy – The Commission endorsed the Strategy and Action Plan, noting the initiatives to enable access or sustain tenancies and improving standards within the private rented sector. The Commission requested Members be provided with additional information of support available and consideration for

further selective licensing schemes across the city.

Repairs Online – The Commission received a demonstration of the housing repairs platform which provides residents with greater flexibility to report repairs and alleviates pressure from the customer service centre. The successes were celebrated, and the Commission endorsed further use of the platform to report repairs and other technology where appropriate.

Tenancy Support - The Commission discussed and noted the important role of services provided to support tenants. It was agreed that consideration be given to utilising community radio stations to share messages of the tenant satisfaction survey and for members to be involved in the piloting of the customer care training.

Who Gets Social Housing - The Commission received updates regarding the housing register and requested consideration be given to improving communication to applicants on the waiting list.

Possible Housing plans for 2024/25 include:

Adaptations Strategy – The Commission requested to be kept updated on the development of the strategy.

Damp & Mould – The Commission requested to be kept updated on progress of the Action Plan and particularly around the development of an online portal for tenants in the private rented sector to report damp and mould concerns.


Homelessness Strategy – OSC recommended the Commission explored this area in greater detail.

House Builds & Acquisitions - The Commission noted the commitment to increase social housing and requested regular updates on progress of developments moving forward.

Income Collection Performance – The Commission requested to receive an update early in the municipal year to review the performance of the full financial year.

Regulator of Social Housing – The Commission to be kept updated on the new social housing regulations.

Public Health and Health Integration Scrutiny Commission



This commission is responsible for examining the health services received by all Leicester residents, which includes the services provided by the local authority's public health team along with those delivered by the NHS and health sector partners.

The key Health and Wellbeing scrutiny developments during 2023/24 included:

Access to GP Practices – The Commission discussed barriers accessing GP Practices and raised concerns around inconsistencies but were assured by plans in place and agreed to receive further updates.

Children & Young People's Mental Health Services – The Commission and Chair of CYPE noted progress and improvements across services but concerns were raised, particularly regarding GP referrals, which resulted in terminology for cases being sent back to practices being amended and further actions being explored with an update to be provided in the new municipal year.

Elective Care – The Commission discussed plans to address waiting lists and visited Phase 1 of the East Midlands Planned Care Centre, a modular building providing treatment in a Centre that will see 100,000 patients per year when fully operational. The Commission agreed to continue to monitor waiting list performance and looks forward to accepting an invitation to visit Phase 2 when completed.

Health Protection – The Commission monitored rates of illnesses in the city, particularly the outbreak of measles and requested details of vaccine centres within wards be circulated to Members to promote to residents.

Joint ASC & Health Scrutiny – The Commission examined issues alongside the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission including mental health service provision, substance misuse, winter planning and the health and social care workforce. Following feedback from scrutiny, improvements were made to the Inspired to Care website, particularly the apprenticeships pages and consideration of how to evaluate the successes of the No5 Wet Centre was requested.

Joint LLR Health Scrutiny – Members of the Commission discussed various items including additional investment to East Midlands Ambulance Service; pressures on ICB finances and UHL reconfiguration progress. The Joint Committee also voted to approve alterations to the terms of reference following regulations and guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care relating to changes to the role and powers of Health Scrutiny Committees.

Maternity Services – The Commission sought assurance on improvements to ensure safety following the inadequate CQC inspection and requested further updates to monitor performance.

Oral Health – The Commission raised concerns around access to NHS dentistry given statistics on oral cancer and 5-year-old children with tooth decay and requested to monitor progress. It was also agreed UHL would provide access to recent data for public health analysts and the proposal to write to the Secretary of State to request water fluoridation was supported.

Winter Pressures – The Commission analysed plans ahead of winter and monitored progress to compare performance. Concerns were raised about the critical incident but improvements were noted and agreed to look in more detail at virtual wards and A&E.

0-19 Services – The Commission celebrated the successes of the service and reiterated the importance of retaining school nursing and health visitors.

Possible Health & Wellbeing plans for 2024/25 include:

Access to GP Practices – The Commission requested to continue monitoring access to GP surgeries following change in methods for booking appointments and a survey that indicated Leicester residents have the most difficulty accessing GPs.

CYP Mental Health – The Commission requested to receive an update in the new municipal year on actions for improving the process for mental health referrals by GPs.

Health Inequities – The Commission expressed an urgency in the new municipal year to receive an update on health inequalities as part of the ICB 5-year forward plan.

Health Research – The Commission have expressed an interest to consider topics, funding and inclusion of communities in research across public health, health partners and universities.

Vaccinations – The Commission requested to look in further detail at vaccination and screening to better understand uptake and hesitancy.

Virtual Wards – The Commission requested a briefing session to understand the decision-making process and mitigation of risks for the increasing use of virtual wards which was agreed for early in the new municipal year.

Women's Health – The Commission are keen to explore women's health services.

Contacting Scrutiny

For more information, please contact the Governance Services Team via **governance@leicester.gov.uk**.

Leicester City Council
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/decisions-meetings-and-minutes/overview-and-scrutiny/>

