

Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

DATE: THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2026

TIME: 5:30 pm

**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles
Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Members of the Committee

Councillor Zaman (Chair)

Councillor Halford (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Dr Barton, Cassidy, Chauhan, Dave, Haq and Waddington

Members of the Committee are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Julie Bryant and Ed Brown (Governance Services)

e-mail: governance@leicester.gov.uk

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

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Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact: **Julie Bryant** (julie.bryant@leicester.gov.uk) or **Ed Brown** (edmund.brown@leicester.gov.uk), **Governance Services**. Alternatively, email governance@leicester.gov.uk, or call in at City Hall.

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To issue a welcome to those present, and to confirm if there are any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the meeting of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 22nd January 2026 have been circulated, and Members will be asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair is invited to make any announcements as they see fit.

5. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

Any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures will be reported.

6. PETITIONS

Any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures will be reported.

7. MUSEUMS SERVICE OPERATIONAL CHANGES UPDATE **Appendix B**

The Director of Tourism Culture and Economy submits a report to provide an update on the delivery of the Museums and Galleries Strategy, focusing upon operational changes at Abbey Pumping Station and Newarke Houses Museum.

8. SELECTIVE LICENSING UPDATE **Appendix C**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Environmental Services submits a report on progress with selective licensing schemes in the city.

9. DRAFT PSPO ZONE: 2 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE **Appendix D**

The Director of Neighbourhood & Environmental Services and the Head of Safer Communities will give a presentation providing an update on the development of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the outer city areas.

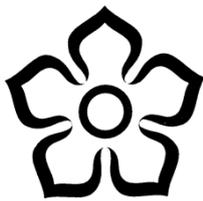
10. PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME **Appendix E**

The Director of Corporate Services submits a report setting out the details of the Government's Pride in Place Programme (PiPP), including information on compliance, mobilisation, governance, and early groundwork actions required for this long-term initiative.

11. WORK PROGRAMME **Appendix F**

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider the work programme and make suggestions for additional items as it considers necessary.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Zaman – Chair
Councillor Halford – Vice Chair

Councillor Dr Barton
Councillor Dave
Councillor Waddington

Councillor Chauhan
Councillor Haq

In Attendance

Deputy City Mayor - Councillor Cutkelvin
Assistant City Mayor – Councillor Dempster

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171. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.
Apologies were received from Councillor Cassidy.

172. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have had in the business to be discussed.

There were no declarations of interest.

173. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With regard to the minutes of 27th November 2025, questions were raised over the votes counted on the proposed amendment on the Assessment and Recommendations Report for Libraries and Community Centres.

This was checked following the meeting and it was confirmed that the votes counted had been correct.

In response to a request for the executive decision on the issue, it was

suggested that this would be published following the upcoming by-election.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commissions held on 3 November 2025 and 27th November 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

174. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair suggested that reports be taken as read where possible.

175. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

176. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

177. DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27 AND DRAFT THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27

As the reports on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme were related, they were taken as one item.

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed Draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2026/27, and a report on the City Mayor's proposed Draft Three-Year Capital Programme 2026/27.

The Head of Finance (City Development & Neighbourhoods) gave an overview of the reports, key points to note were as follows:

- It was noted that the draft settlements were complex and included the amalgamation of existing grants.
- The Revenue report set out the budget for 2026/27, and the medium-term financial strategy for the following two years.
- The draft Budget reflected the Government's Fair Funding consultation over the summer; however, despite an improved financial position, a budget gap remained, requiring continuation of the five-strand strategy agreed by Council last year, including the following:
 - Budget savings of £23m
 - Constraining growth in areas such as Social Care and Homelessness
 - A reduction in the Capital Programme
 - Releasing one off monies to buy time
 - A programme of property sales, which was now planned to reduce the

cost of borrowing

- It was proposed that the strategy be extended to March 2029.
- The budget built in scope to meet ongoing cost increases in Social Care, homelessness and housing benefits.
- The scope for additional investment was limited but included amounts for areas previously supported by grants that were no longer available.
- Revenue Budget points directly relevant to the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny commission included:
 - £300k for a dedicated team to help deal with Ash Die Back
 - £300k to part fund a team to tackle anti-social behaviour and enforce public space protection orders
 - £1m to replace the loss of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to enable partial continuation of the work that was funded from this grant
- The final budget would be updated and presented to Council on the 25th February and would include the updated figures following the draft finance settlement, currently being working through.
- The General Fund Draft Capital Report sought approval of just under £130m over the next three years.
- In 2025/26, the Capital Programme moved to being funded primarily through government grants and borrowing, and this approach would continue in 2026/27.
- The aim was to alleviate the revenue pressure placed by borrowing Capital Programme, by using £60m of capital receipts.
- Draft Capital Programme points directly relevant to the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny commission included:
 - £345k for depot improvements and transformation works
 - £450k for public toilet refurbishment
 - £225k for the Historic Building grant fund
 - £75k to continue the programme to refresh festival decorations
 - £430k for Heritage Interpretation panels
 - £450k to replace grounds maintenance machinery
 - £185k for mobile CCTV equipment to tackle fly tipping and street scene offences
 - £360k for replacement tree planting
 - £650k for 3G Pitch Replacements
 - £50k feasibility for the Curve automation system
 - £350k as possible match funding for the Voices of Leicester project

In response to member discussion, the following was noted:

- Members expressed concern that the draft budget would leave the incoming administration in 2028 with significant unresolved issues.
- Savings on back-office functions appear to be under-performing with current pressures now impacting frontline services. It was clarified that reported progress was against a three-year target, with remaining savings representing residual requirements, and that Finance and Corporate Services have fully achieved their savings for 2025/26.

- Members queried the final figures being presented at the Council meeting rather than first to the Overview Select Committee. It was confirmed in response that this was the case and that the same draft reports would be submitted to the OSC.
- The savings were profiled out and there may be changes in the final report where savings are not deliverable. Alternative considerations were in the pipeline for Libraries and Community Centres.
- All divisions were required to deliver savings, with continual challenge to all directors across the different service areas.
- In response to a member question on The Dedicated Schools Grant, it was noted that this question would be best directed to the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission (CYPE). A recent CYPE task group had recently made several recommendations, and it was noted that Leicester City benchmarked well against other authorities in relation to deficit.
- There was a £60m target set for asset sales. Yield consideration was taken into account for any potential assets to be sold.
- Members suggested that it would be helpful to show savings as a percentage of the overall budget for each division.

AGREED:

- 1) That the reports be noted.
- 2) For more figures to be circulated on savings as a percentage of the overall budget for each division.

178. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES UPDATE (6-MONTHLY UPDATE)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report providing an update on matters related to the council's Bereavement Services. The report was taken as read and a slide show was presented. Key points to note were as follows:

- An improvement project was planned for Gilroes in March 2026, involving a new road layout and enhanced drainage. The contract had been awarded to Ground Control Ltd.
- There had been a significant reduction in numbers of cremations due to the increasing numbers of people opting for direct cremation via commercial companies.
- Around half the burial numbers took place in existing graves.
- There were ongoing dialogues with the faith communities around burial space.
- The search for a new cemetery site was currently on hold due to the Local Government Reorganisation, and the Law Commission review which potentially could provide thousands of additional graves and

extend the burial capacity of all cemeteries.

- DEFRA had issued new technical guidance around emissions and the Council was required to achieve compliance by 2029.
- A new corporate website would enhance the marketing of Gilroes.
- Pricing had been benchmarked against other providers.
- Members had requested an update on the Law commission review. The slides gave an overview of Phases 1 – 3.

In response to member questions and comments, the following was noted:

- Gilroes was open Monday – Friday 8:30-5PM and, on Saturdays strictly by appointment. The site was staffed by a small team.
- Gilroes did not have a Friends group, however, there were guided walks undertaken by volunteers from War Graves Commission
- Local competitors had offered more modern, lower-cost options, with direct cremation providers expanding rapidly; comparisons had been difficult, the service had adapted where possible, but could not operate at the same scale as large private companies.
- Cremation charges were the same for city and non-city residents due to lower maintenance requirements, while burial services required different payment arrangements.
- It was noted that Saturday services were not in high demand.
- The service generated an annual surplus of around £1m, excluding capital expenditure and not based solely on revenue.
- There was a duty to maintain municipal cemetery and buildings for perpetuity. Even when they were full.
- There were currently 4 council cemeteries in operation. Local Government Reorganisation could help to increase opportunities.
- Ground Control Ltd were experienced and would balance work being carried out with ongoing funerals during the improvement works at Gilroes Cemetery.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account.

179. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER TASK GROUP - SCOPING DOCUMENT

The Chair submitted a report providing members of the Committee with a proposed scope for the task group on Community Asset Transfer, and the opportunity to comment on the scope for the review, suggest issues to include and consider joining the group.

The Chair noted that dates for meetings were in the process of being established. The eventual aim would be to put together a set of recommendations to bring back to the Commission before going on to the executive.

It was explained that this was an opportunity to look at the issue in detail outside of the Commission meetings.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this committee to be taken into Account

180. LEISURE CENTRE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report which set out the primary and secondary research that would inform the next five-year plan and outlined how Active Leicester would continue to respond effectively to both commercial pressures and wider social challenges.

The Head of Sports and the Leisure Facilities Development Manager attended the meeting to present the report and assist with the discussion.

Key Points included:

- This was a discretionary service which had been on a significant transformation journey over the last ten years.
- In the first five years, the service had been re-structured, and issues had been considered, such as: Opening hours, expenditure controls, and ways to drive and improve performance and manage expenditure.
- The following 5 years the focus has been on smart investments and strong branding.
- Key products such as Learn to Swim and Healthy Fitness membership had grown significantly. This had generated income.
- There was a need to underpin the next five-year Leisure centre plan by doing a deep dive with primary and secondary research, looking at the

condition of the centres and their performance. Residents' surveys had been carried out, and non-users had been engaged with as well as users.

Questions and comments were invited from the Commission; it was noted that:

- It was positive that membership had recovered following the Covid-19 pandemic, and it was noted that people were becoming more mindful on fitness and health.
- It was positive that work done on women in sport had been implemented.
- There were many challenges, some of which could be related to finance. The growth in health and fitness had been tangible, but the biggest challenge was to reconcile improvement in financial performance whilst remaining accessible.
- Active Leicester services had done well at working with other departments to manage this challenge and the piloting of active wellbeing. In response to queries around cleanliness and pool temperature, it was recognised that ideally, more cleaners would be employed and temperatures increased, however, there was a need to balance this with staffing costs and bills.
- It was suggested that without continuous improvement, the centres would lose custom.
- It was suggested that there was a need to be innovative. It was necessary to collect data and the views of the public before making proposals.
- It was noted that the service was subsidised by £2m.
- With regard to points made about some people being hard to reach, it was acknowledged that there was work to be done, and it was necessary to explore this more fully as much of this was done through the council's Livewell service. 12 weeks were given free to clients of Livewell, followed by 18 months of subsidised access, however, it was necessary to get the message out. The social responsibility aspect was factored in.
- The number of County residents using the Centres could be up to 30-40% in some centres such as Braunstone, Evington and Leicester Leys due to their catchment, however, users of other specific centres such as Cossington were likely 85-90% from the city.
- It was suggested that success stories from the centres could inspire people in sport.
- The next step was the development of a five-year plan for the leisure centres that will inform how take issues forward. The plan will be informed from the primary and secondary research.

- In response to suggestions surrounding the installation of Padel courts, it was explained that the council was aware of the padel market and facilitating external interest to invest in the city and therefore at the moment the focus would be to monitor the market. Analysis had been undertaken and whilst the emergence of Padel as a sport had been noticed, there was no current plans for the Council to provide Padel. Points were noted about its potential to encourage Young People.
- In response to questions about how to bridge the gap between the plan to increase income by £2m and also address the concerns around cost from non-members, it was explained that it was important to ensure that the price-point was correct in terms of value for money. More people coming through the doors would increase income. Currently, the council operated and provided substantial concession rate for eligible groups as part of its core pricing structure.
- In terms of working with various groups, this had been discussed with regard to gyms and leisure centres. There is strong internal working between public health to active wellbeing and promote physical activity. The joint working and future plans at getting people active could come to the Commission. It was additionally noted with respect to this that there was crossover with public health on programmes in chair exercises and to increase people's core strength.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account.

181. DE MONTFORT HALL & HAYMARKET THEATRE

The Director of Tourism Culture and Economy submitted a report updating on the operational and financial progress at De Montfort Hall and the Haymarket Theatre, which are being managed as an integrated service.

The Venue Director of De Montfort Hall attended the meeting to present the report and assist with the discussion.

Key Points included:

- Both venues were doing well, and a significant milestone has now been achieved, as it now costs the Council less to operate De Montfort Hall and the Haymarket Theatre as a joint service than it would be to maintain them as empty buildings. This means they are budget neutral and also enabled the delivery of a high quality cultural and teaching/

learning offer for the city.

- Over the last ten years, the position of DMH has improved, with the real terms cost of operation falling by over £1m through a more commercial approach being adopted with more popular programming, increased secondary spend, and full refurbishment carried out.
- The 2024/25 outturn saw turnover increase by £1.2m and the cost of operations falling to £247k (down from £1.3m in 2014/15). Also noted that a reserve fund had been created through a small levy on tickets to fund a basic renewals programme.
- Approximately 25% of visitors are local and come from within the existing city council boundary, this goes up to just over 50% if you include the wider Leicester urban area – meaning the city council area plus the districts immediately on the city’s boundary. Haymarket Theatre had come back into Council control in 2020 and had now found its purpose around teaching and learning, particularly for Young People.
- The Addict Dance Academy operate from the Haymarket Theatre Monday to Friday teaching musical theatre and dance at higher education level. UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) had facilitated studios and rehearsal rooms for them, as well as equipment to bring the stage back into use for student performances.
- Leicestershire Music use Haymarket on Saturdays and Monday nights to teach, and plan to also use the auditorium for student shows.
- Haymarket was a work in progress, but progress was being made and the agreements in place did not mean that further users could not be accommodated.
- Overall, combining the buildings as one service gave an economy of scale and expertise that was delivering well.
- Key headlines were displayed on a slide (as attached with the agenda).

Questions and comments were invited from the Commission; it was noted that:

- It was recognised as positive that the services had recovered well from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It was noted that DMH had been a serious concern, but had improved hugely over the last ten years. It was suggested that this was largely down to the leadership.
- In response to questions regarding parking at the Haymarket Theatre, it was clarified that hirers and users did not have parking spaces at the theatre and that car parking for staff and users was difficult in the pay and display as no spaces or reduced rates are allocated to the theatre for use.
- With regard to parking on Victoria Park, DMH received a cut of evening rates. DMH also had a pre-bookable car-park of its own on site. Both

are well used.

- In response to a suggestion for bringing in an Asian franchise or concession to serve food at Asian shows to increase profit margins, it was noted that when Asian shows are booked in, they often bring their own caterers and deals are done to hire the catering facilities at the hall.
- Outdoor shows had been put on every year, but outdoor theatre had been downscaled in recent years to lower risk and generate income.
- In response to a suggestion on keeping bars open following shows, it was noted that this had been trialled a number of times, but few people made use of them and the cost of the staff was not covered.
- In response to a suggestion that a lack of mobile signal prevented customers using online taxis companies, it was noted that this was not an issue that was known, but would be investigated.
- It was clarified that in terms of subsidy, £250k went to DMH and the rest to Haymarket, so Haymarket received most of the subsidy.
- Philharmonia would continue, but the deal had been restructured so they were not subsidised and were self-sustaining.
- In response to points made about steep steps at DMH, this had been looked into, and no workable solution found – although noted that there were few issues and staff in these areas were aware of the potential risk. It was also noted that the upper steps at DMH in question were less steep than many sports stadiums.
- Haymarket did not currently have a brochure, as the shows it will present are student presentations aimed at students' friends and family rather than touring or commercial shows aimed at the public. However, a new website had recently been launched which will carry details of these shows.
- 650 Young People per week attended Haymarket Theatre, and this had a knock-on benefit to the local economy.
- A membership deal was in place with restaurants near DMH.
- With regard to Local Government Reorganisation, data had been mapped to show where people were coming in from, with a significant proportion of visitors coming from neighbouring council districts.
- In terms of accessibility, DMH had lifts and wheelchair facilities and adult changing spaces. Accessible seating was also available upstairs through lifts. Haymarket had more significant challenges in terms of access, which will be expensive to fix but would need to be addressed at some point.
- There were around 250 shows per year at DMH, largely because more tribute acts had been booked due to a change in the UK touring industry post covid. The venues were also hired out to groups such as the Bardic Symphony Orchestra and the Leicester Philharmonic.
- Issues raised about single ticketholders not being able to choose where

to sit could be looked into.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account.

182. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

183. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no further items of urgent business, the meeting finished at 19:45

Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

**Museums Service
Operational Changes Update**

5th March 2026

Lead director/officer: Peter Chandler

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All.
- Report author: Joanna Jones
- Author contact details: Joanna.jones@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the delivery of the Museums and Galleries Strategy, focusing upon operational changes at Abbey Pumping Station and Newarke Houses Museum.

2. Museums Service Vision and Strategic Priorities

The new Museums Service Vision & Strategic Priorities 2025-29 was implemented on 1st May 2025. The vision is a high-quality cost-effective museum service with fewer, but much improved buildings and collection displays resulting from very significant capital investment.

Over the last decade £23.2m has been invested, with a further £5.6m of investment underway and planned.

Investment of £411k has been secured from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a development stage grant at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery.

Taken together this represents a total of £29.2m capital investment in the museum service.

The Service's long-term strategy realigns resources to use them more efficiently and develop the museum service, making it more relevant to Leicester people and better showcasing our history, community stories and world class collections. There will be improved access to Leicester's social history collection through the creation of new *Story of Leicester* galleries at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery. In early 2025 a development stage National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £411k was secured for this project and work is underway on this.

Previously other funding was secured by the museums service for the Leicester Museum & Art Gallery capital project, including £350k from Arts Council England for the Leicester Stories Gallery which opened in 2022 and £766k of Arts Council England MEND funding for essential repairs to the building as part of the improvement works which are currently underway.

The museums service has secured Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) investment every year since 2018 with funding in place until 31st March 2027. Investment between 2018-23 was £2m in total and for 2023-26 is £1.2m. The service recently secured further NPO funding of £434k, giving a total investment figure of £3.6m This funding is being used to develop and deliver a range of inclusive and accessible activities and programmes, including exhibitions, co production programmes, income generation, collections access, offsite museums activity and volunteer development.

3. Offsite Activities

The museum service has been working to increase the level of activity it undertakes across the city beyond museum sites. Through a hub and spoke model, museum services are being delivered outside of museum buildings and developing our non-traditional audiences, which is a core objective of our strategy. The museum service has already established a successful programme taking the museum and collections out into communities outside of the city centre to reach non-traditional museum visitors and to make museums more accessible, for example, to Neighbourhood Centres, libraries, shopping centres and festivals. There was a 28% increase in offsite engagement from 61,609 in 2018/19 to 79,017 in 2023/24. All activities are free for participants and examples include the Doorstep Museums initiative in 2024 at The Brite Centre - this engaged with 1,800 visitors and at St Barnabas Library with 500 people.

Offsite engagement has increased again to 88,331 for Quarters 1-3 (April – December) 2025/26.

4. Operational Changes

Operational changes were implemented at Newarke Houses Museum and Abbey Pumping Station on 1st May 2025. The revenue savings for the operational changes were £112k for Abbey Pumping Station and £134k for Newarke Houses Museum, with a total saving of £246k at these two sites.

The rearrangement of the service is not an overall reduction of the museums service. Once we have completed capital improvement works at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery by 2029/30, we anticipate that visitor figures across all museum sites and offsite will increase from 515,241 (2024/25 when the Vision and Strategic Priorities were implemented) to around 560,000. This includes an adjustment reflecting the changes at Newarke Houses Museum and Abbey Pumping Station.

5. Abbey Pumping Station

Abbey Pumping Station is open on event days, railway days, Steam with the Team days and Mondays during LCC school holidays (excluding Christmas). School visits continue to be provided. Access has continued to be provided for the Leicester Museum Technology Association (LMTA) volunteers to continue their work programme on Mondays which includes maintaining the working collections and beam engines. Gardening volunteers also participate at the site on Mondays.

In September 2025 the Food and Craft Fair previously held at Belgrave Hall was transferred to Abbey Pumping Station. This event had 1,924 visitors across the weekend. In 2024 The Food Fair held at Belgrave Hall had a total of 1,126 visitors giving a 70% increase in visitor numbers at the Abbey Pumping Station event compared to at Belgrave Hall. Positive feedback was received from members of the public and stallholders. The museums team is planning to repeat this event at Abbey Pumping Station this year.

6. Children and Young People

During July and August 2025, the Holiday Activities & Food programme was delivered at Abbey Pumping Station. Children and young people who receive benefits related free school meals

can participate in LCC's free holiday activities and food (HAF) programme over the summer holiday. The museums service is a HAF provider and during the summer of 2025 provided a HAF programme at Abbey Pumping Station for 6–11-year-olds with a total of 416 participations. The programme enables children to participate in activities at the museum and to have a nutritious meal as part of their visit.

Abbey Pumping Station – Public Access 1st May 2025 – 9th February 2026

Activity	Attendance Numbers
Existing events.	3,200
Railway Days.	3,948
Steam With the Team.	301
LCC School Holiday Mondays.	2,001
New events and hires.	1,766
Transferred event – Food & Craft Fair September 2025.	1,927
School visits and Holiday Activity & Food programme.	577
LMTA volunteers (88 days).	1,544
Garden volunteers.	443
Total	15,707
Heritage bus weekend event offsite at Great Central Railway Quorn & Woodhouse Station.	3,100
Total – Abbey Pumping Station & Offsite.	18,807

Prior to the operational changes being implemented annual attendance numbers at Abbey Pumping Station were 41,000 on average per year.

7. Newarke Houses Museum

Newarke Houses Museum is open on Saturdays and on Wednesdays (during LCC school holidays) between May to August. This ensures continued public access during peak visitor times including the school summer holiday period.

In addition to these usual opening days Newarke Houses Museum opened on Sunday 8th June as part of the *Siege of Leicester* event programme and on Saturday 20th September as part of the Heritage Open Days programme. Organisations and groups can hire the museum and there is currently a group which regularly hires space within the building.

Supporting Leicester's children and young people is a key element of the new strategy and school visits have continued to be provided at Newarke Houses Museum since 1st May 2025.

The garden at Newarke Houses Museum continues to be maintained. Recently the trees in front of the Chantry House part of the museum have been pruned to make the museum and building more visible, enabling the 16th century architecture to be appreciated.

Newarke Houses Museum – Public Access 1st May 2025 – 9th February 2026

Activity	Attendance Numbers
Saturdays (May – August).	2,689
Wednesdays during LCC school holidays May - August).	1,450
Other events, including the Siege of Leicester.	636
School pupils visiting.	555
Private hires.	1,477
Total	6,807

Prior to the operational changes being implemented, annual attendance numbers at Newarke Houses Museum were 41,000 on average per year.

8. Conclusion

The museums service is on track to deliver the Museums and Galleries Vision and Strategic Objectives by 2029. The service is being delivered both at museum sites and via offsite activities which take collections into neighbourhoods.

5. Recommended actions/decision

To note and comment on this report.

6. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

Stakeholders were informed of the operational changes in March 2025.

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

7.1 Financial implications

The financial performance of the museums service, including the changes identified in this commentary, continue to be reported and scrutinised on a quarterly basis at operational and strategic level. Should any financial risks or further opportunities emerge, these will be identified for decision making.

Joel Martin, Principal Accountant Ext 374002 (on behalf of Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance)
20 February 2026

7.2 Legal implications

The report includes various positive outcomes from strategic and operational improvements that have been recently introduced to the service.

There are no apparent adverse (or other) legal implications from the content of this report.

Emma Young, Qualified Lawyer
18 February 2026

7.3 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 duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, 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, sexual orientation.

It provides an update on the operational changes and strategic realignment of the Museums Service following the implementation of their 2025–2029 Vision. Initiatives that aim to create experiences that involve and inspire residents and visitors, sharing the city's significant collections, that celebrate the stories of Leicester's diverse communities and the unique places, art and heritage which shape the city's identity and showcasing these to the world should lead to positive impacts for people from across all protected characteristics. Involvement in art, heritage and culture has the potential to enrich people's lives, having accessible experiences should help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. The Museums Service is now reaching a wider range of people by taking activities directly into local neighbourhoods. Programs like the summer food and activity scheme ensure that all children, regardless of their family's income, have a chance to enjoy Leicester's culture and history.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh Ext 37 4148

Dated 18 February 2026

7.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications arising from this report.

Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246
18th February 2026

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

None

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)?

No

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

No



Selective Licensing update

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 05/03/2026

Lead director/officer: Sean Atterbury

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Fosse, Saffron, Stoneygate, Spinney Hills, Westcotes.
- Report author: Rachel Hall
- Author contact details: rachel.hall@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

Selective Licensing is in effect in three areas of the city. The purpose of the schemes is to improve residents' quality of life by raising living conditions and the neighbourhoods as a whole.

The schemes will be in place until October 2027, and progress is shown via a series of measure on a dashboard attached to the report.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny:

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are invited to:

- Note the contents of report

3. Detailed report

Selective Licensing schemes may be introduced in areas that are experiencing one or more of the following issues:

- High levels of deprivation
- Poor property conditions
- Significant and persistent problems with anti-social behaviour
- High levels of crime
- High levels of migration
- Low housing demand (or likely to become such an area)

Following extensive consultation between November 2021 and February 2022, three selective licensing designations were made. The areas affected are shown in the plan at **Appendix A**. The designations took effect in October 2022, and will remain in place until October 2027.

Progress is continually monitored and an overview is attached at **Appendix B**.

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

4.1 Financial Implications

The income over the lifetime of the selective licensing scheme is estimated to cover the costs over the same period, to ensure that the Council recovers costs without generating a surplus.

Signed: Joel Martin, Principal Accountant (on behalf of Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance)
Dated: 20 February 2026

4.2 Legal Implications

This is an information report, and no legal implications arise from its content.

Signed: F. Hajat Qualified Lawyer
Dated: 23 February 2026

4.3 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, the council has a Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The life chances of residents are closely linked to the quality of their neighbourhoods and housing conditions, and the selective licensing schemes aim to improve management and standards in the private rented sector in areas with high deprivation and poor property conditions. These improvements are expected to have a positive impact on residents across all protected characteristics, including by contributing to better health and wellbeing and more stable, safer neighbourhoods.

Disabled people, people with long-term health conditions and other vulnerable tenants (for example some new arrivals to the country, people on low incomes, or those with limited housing choices) are more likely to be negatively affected by poor housing conditions and management, so targeted action to regulate and improve standards is likely to be particularly beneficial for these groups. The designated areas are among the more deprived parts of the city, so action to improve housing quality and management in these neighbourhoods also supports the council's wider aims around reducing health inequalities and improving outcomes for residents experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to inform the original decision to introduce selective licensing and drew on the findings from the consultation to understand potential impacts on people with protected characteristics. As the schemes progress, the council should continue to monitor any equalities impacts (for example through complaint trends, enforcement activity and feedback from tenants and landlords) and use this learning to inform ongoing implementation and any future decisions about selective licensing.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148
Dated: 20 February 2026

4.4 Climate Emergency Implications

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

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246
Dated: 20th February 2026

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4.5 Other Implications
N/A
Signed:
Dated:

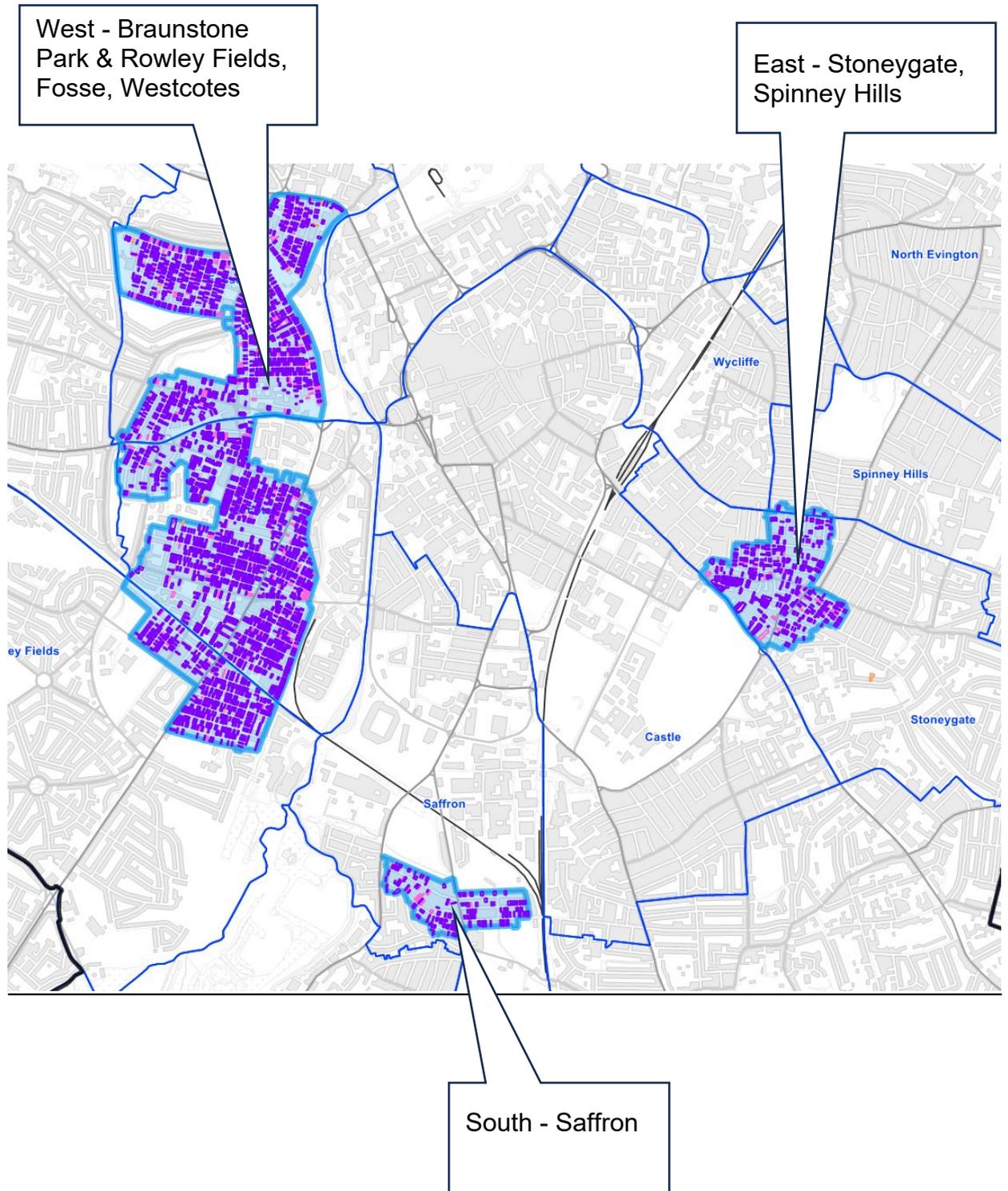
5. Background information and other papers:

6. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A – selective licensing designation areas

Appendix B – selective licensing dashboard

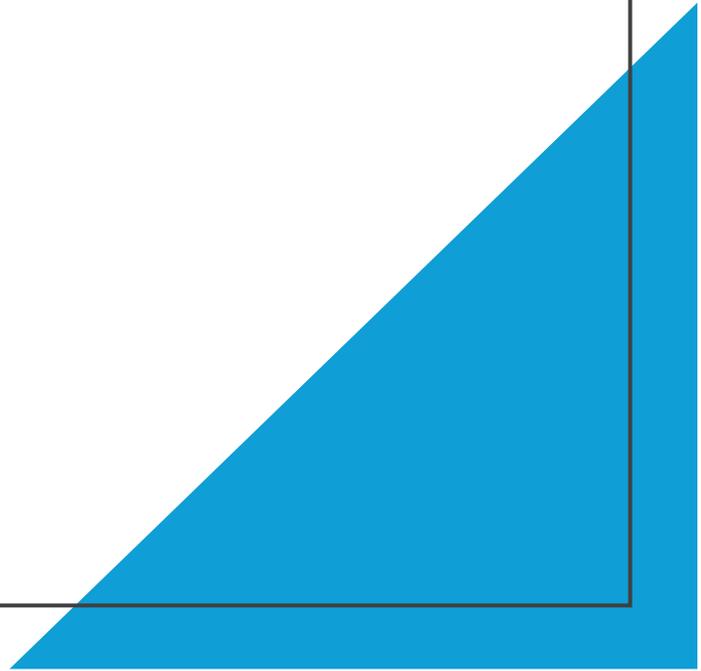
APPENDIX A – SELECTIVE LICENSING DESIGNATION AREAS



APPENDIX B – SELECTIVE LICENSING DASHBOARD

Selective Licensing Dashboard

February 2026

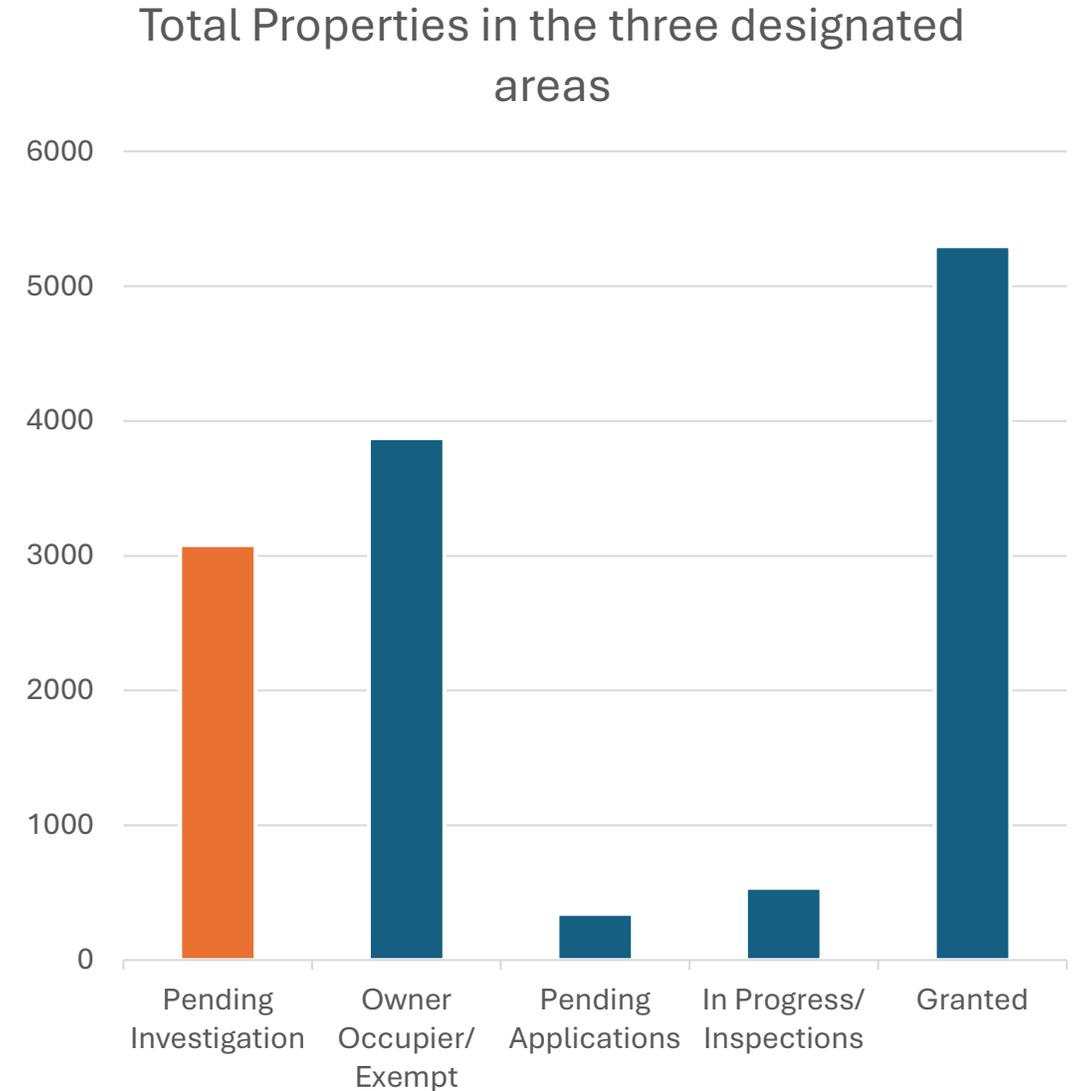


Applications received and progress towards target (Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 2025)

NB: Total properties in area as per BRE report 2020 estimated 13128; 8000 of which are privately rented.

Target: to have received 85% of estimated 8000 applications

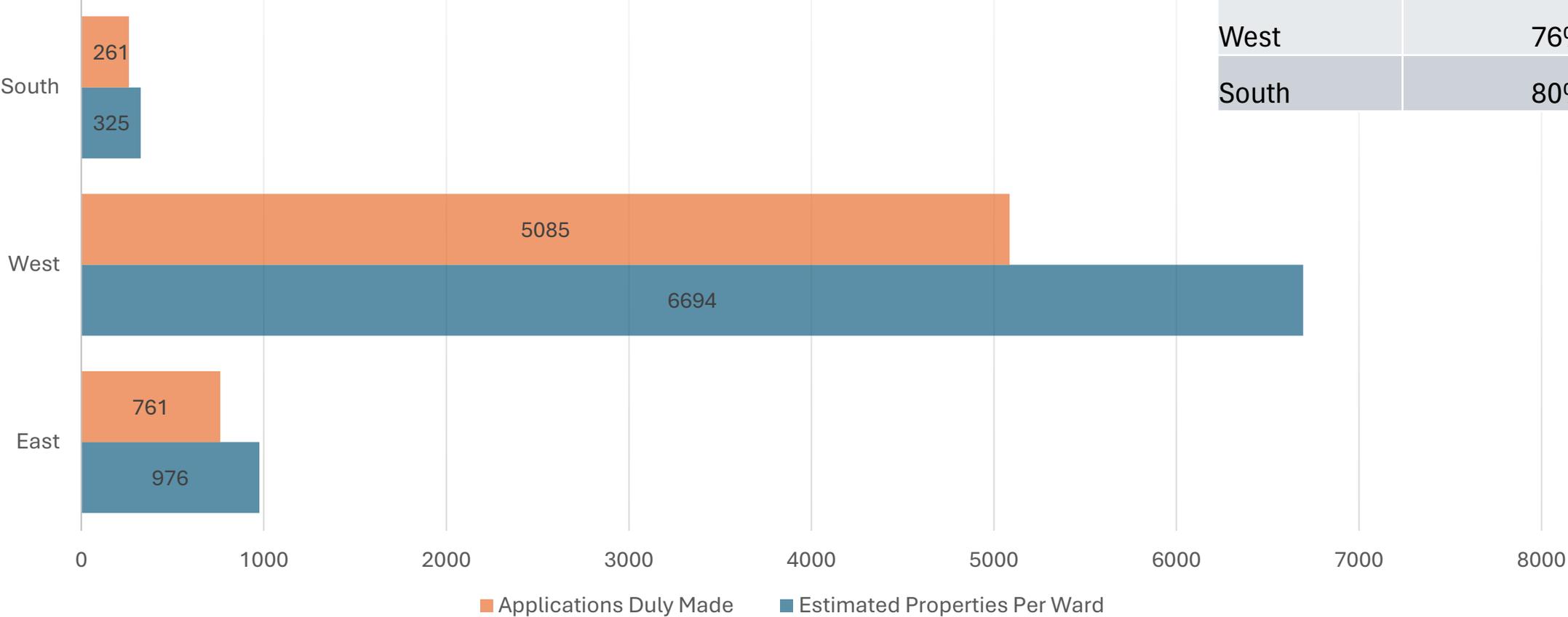
- 31 December 2025: 77%
 - 6176 applications received which are either in progress/inspection stage or granted.
 - 3873 are owner occupied or exempt from the scheme
 - 3079 subject to further investigation to determine ownership status



Number of applications received for each designated area

29

Percentage per area	
East	78%
West	76%
South	80%

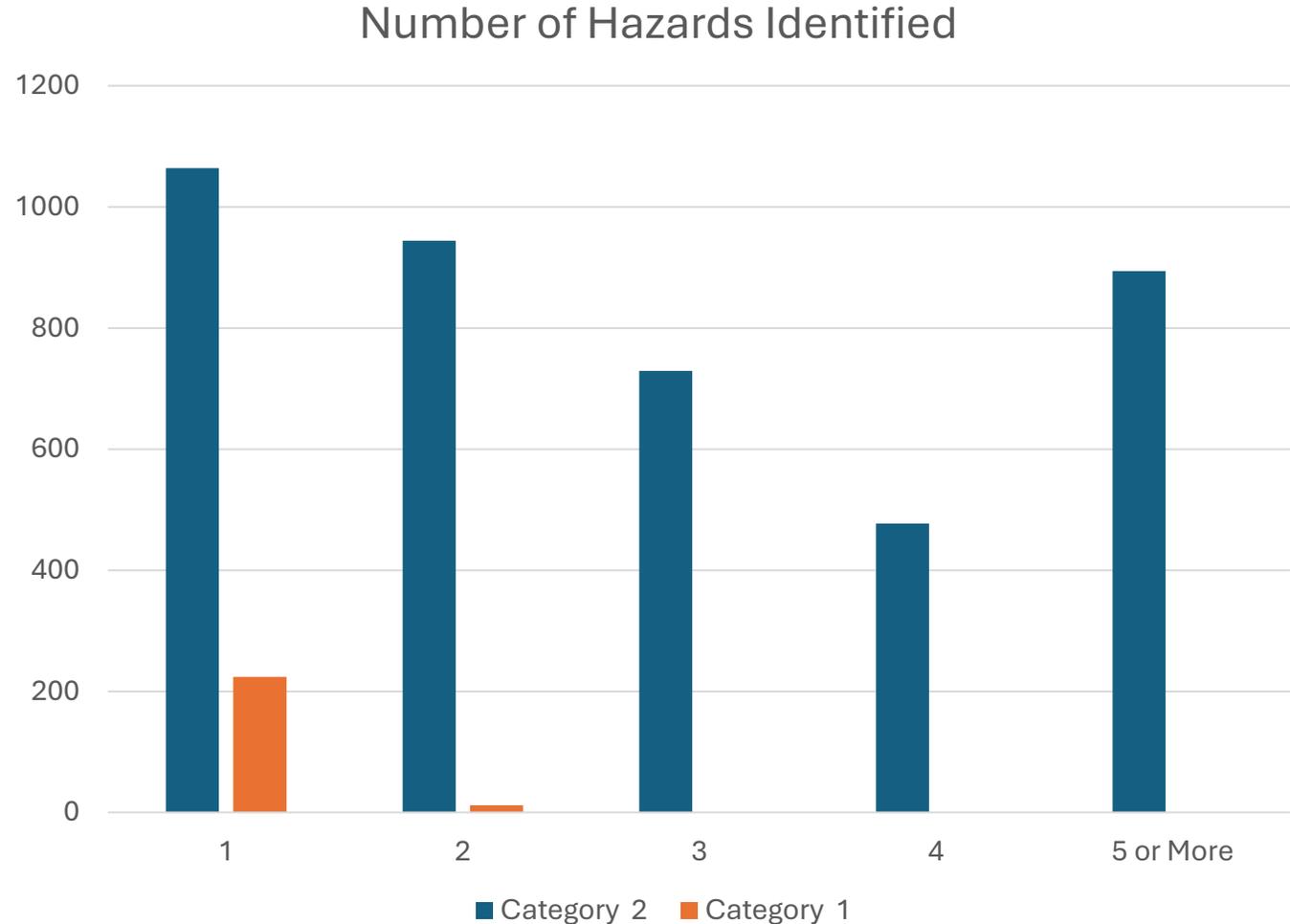


Number of Hazards and Properties (Oct 2022 to Dec 2025)

- The team continues to provide information and guidance online, and pre-booked drop-in sessions for landlords to meet with officers to discuss the scheme and make applications

- 30
- **5819** properties that have been inspected
 - **4145** properties had at least one hazard
 - **1674** properties were without any hazards

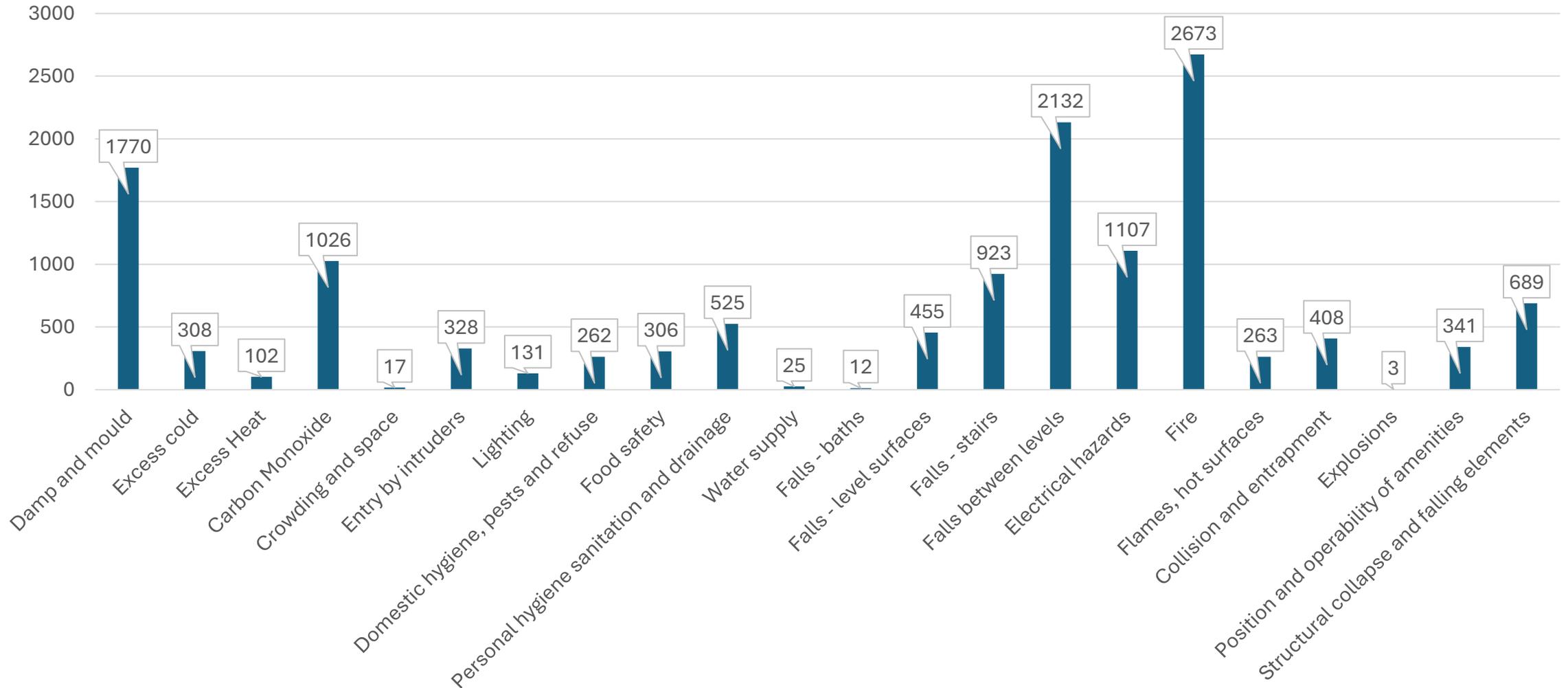
 - **238** properties (4%) with at least one Category 1 hazard
 - **3907** properties (67%) with at least one Category 2 hazard



Number of Hazards and Type (Oct 2022 to December 2025)

Individual properties may be subject to more than one hazard

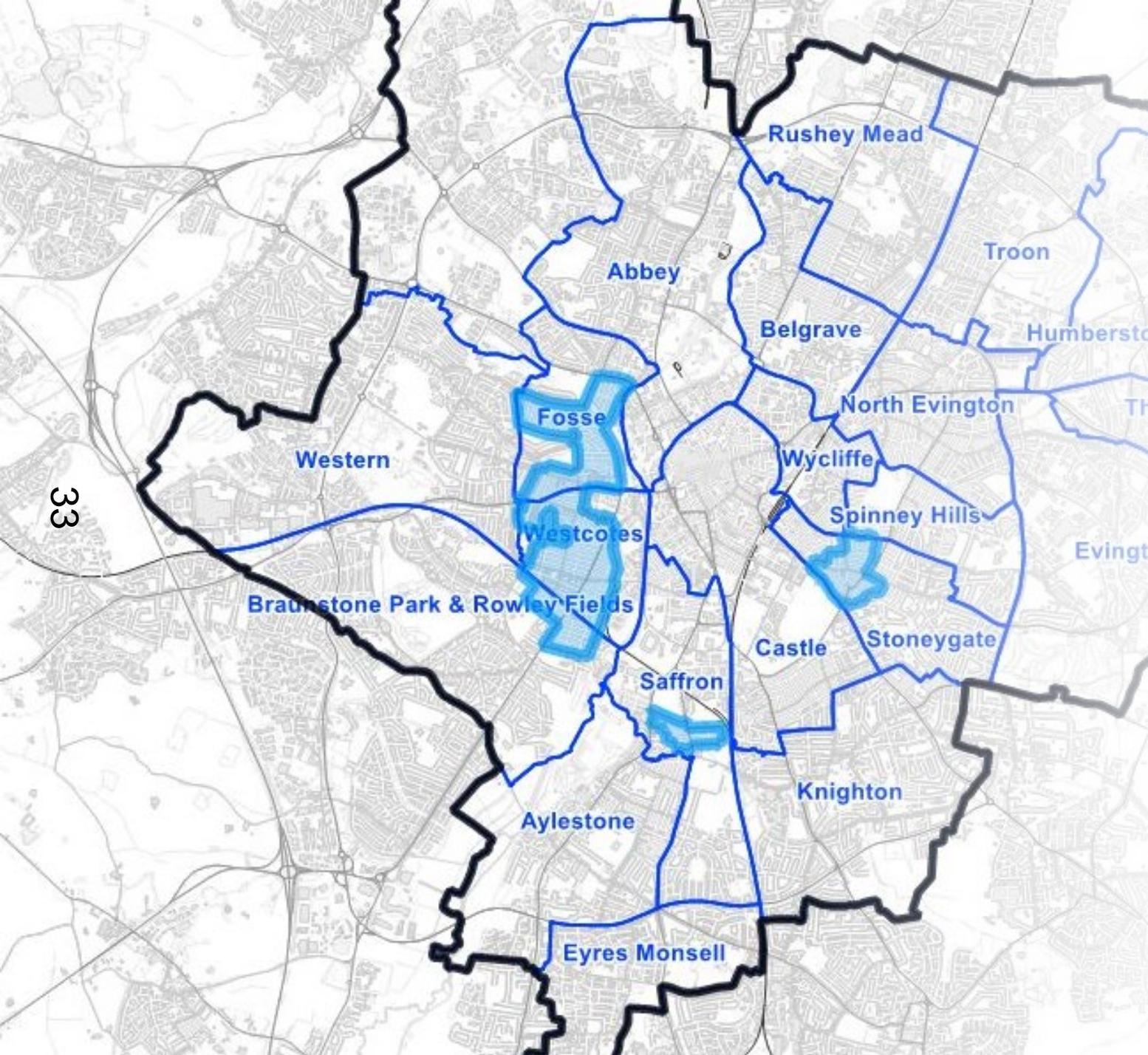
31



Enforcement Actions – Disrepair and failure to license (Oct 2022 to 31 December 2025)

- An improvement notice requires a landlord to carry out work to deal with a Category 1 or 2 hazard, or both.
- A prohibition order can be made where there are one or more Category 1 or Category 2 hazards. A prohibition order stops the use of part or all of a building.

Action				Total
a	Improvement Notices	Number issued following service requests	11	26
		Number issued following inspections (licence applications)	15	
b	Prohibition Orders	Number issued following joint working with police	59	84
		Number issued following service requests	9	
		Number issued following inspections (licence applications)	16	
c	Investigations	Currently at evidence gathering stage (Incl. IUC invites)	114	410
		Concluded and resolved without any further action	219	
		Number of landlords interviewed under caution (IUC) and case still in flight	77	



Ongoing and future plans

- Continuous partnership working with Police and Fire Service
- City Wide Landlord information session around RRA awareness session in partnership with DASH on 9th March.
- Selective Licensing Landlord Liaison Forum next session on 14th April 2026.
- Continue to facilitate landlord association meetings with ARLA, EMPO, NLA
- For landlords with large portfolios, we are now accepting BACS payments and negotiating rates of applications to enable landlords to spread payments
- The door knocking scheme will continue to identify unknown properties
- Regular drop-in sessions for landlords at customer services to provide help and advise on SL applications and HMO applications
- Review designation area towards the end of 2026 (current scheme ends October 2027)



Safer Communities Service

Culture and Neighbourhood: Scrutiny Committee
DRAFT PSPO Zone: 2 Implementation Update

5th of March 2026

Purpose

- To provide an update on the development of a PSPO for the outer city areas including;
 - PSPO Zone 2 Data Gathering and Analysis
 - Mapping of areas affected
 - Timeline of Implementation
- Any financial, legal or equality implications will be recorded at the point of decision

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Leicester
City Council

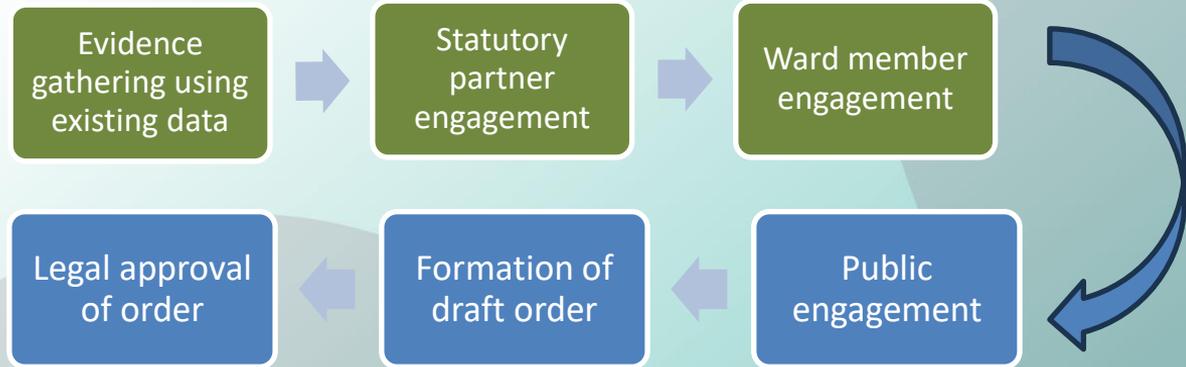
PSPO order | Key Facts

- Legal tool used by councils to address **persistent, harmful anti-social behaviour** in specific public areas.
- **Sets clear, enforceable restrictions on behaviours** such as alcohol misuse, drug-related ASB, vandalism, vehicle nuisance and other disruptive conduct.
- **Designed to protect communities**, improving safety, wellbeing and enjoyment of public spaces.
- **Implemented following evidence-based assessment**, using multi-agency data and community feedback.
- **Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence**, enforceable through fixed penalty notices or prosecution.
- **Regularly reviewed to** ensure the restrictions remain necessary, proportionate and effective.

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Development Steps

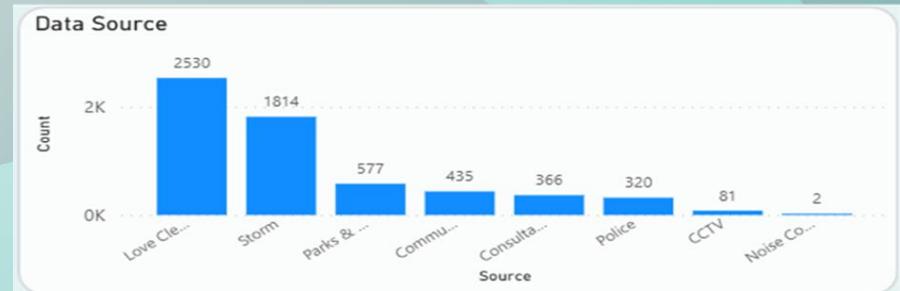
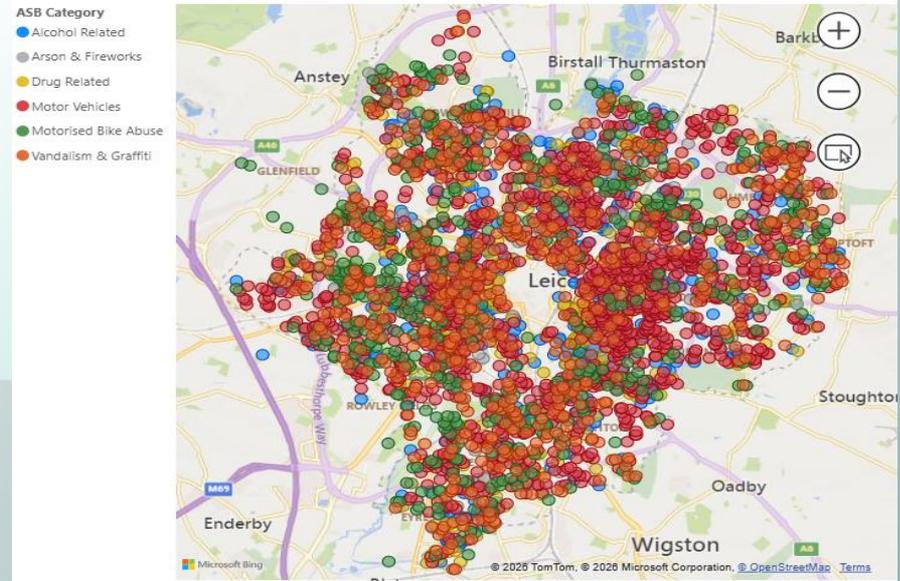
1. **Gather comprehensive evidence** from police, council ASB records, environmental data, CCTV, and community reports to identify persistent issues.
2. **Engage statutory partners** (Police, Community Safety, Environmental Health, Parks, Housing) to validate the evidence base and agree priority behaviours.
3. **Consult ward members and local communities** to understand local impact, refine behaviours included, and ensure proportionality.
4. **Draft the PSPO order**, defining the restricted behaviours, boundaries, exemptions, and enforcement approach.
5. Seek **legal review and formal approval** to ensure the order meets statutory requirements and is enforceable.
6. **Implement, communicate, and monitor** the PSPO through signage, public messaging, coordinated enforcement, and regular review of impact.



PSPO Zone 2: City-Wide Data Trends

Between June 2024 and May 2025, a total of **6125** ASB reports were received.

- It was important to understand that currently ASB data is captured by multiple sources and bringing this information together has been instrumental in truly understanding the ASB picture in the city
- Data was gathered from multiple sources: Love Clean Steets, Storm (police data), parks and open space data, previous Zone 1 Consultation data, CCTV and Noise control along with the main ASB case management data from ECIN's



Evidence gathering: Data Key Trends

- This multi-agency dataset provides reliable, corroborated evidence that the listed ASB behaviours are persistent, interconnected, and location-specific. Below, ASB Types stood out in the data analysed.

- 40 • **Motor vehicle misuse** *this may be a police matter
- **Drug-related issues**
- **Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour**
- **Fireworks and vandalism**
- **Loitering linked to harassment, alarm and distress**
- **Spitting**

PSPO Zone 2: Data City-Wide Trends

- **58%** of the reports concern motor vehicle ASB, while **14%** involve alcohol, **14%** involve drugs, and **14%** pertain to vandalism

41.

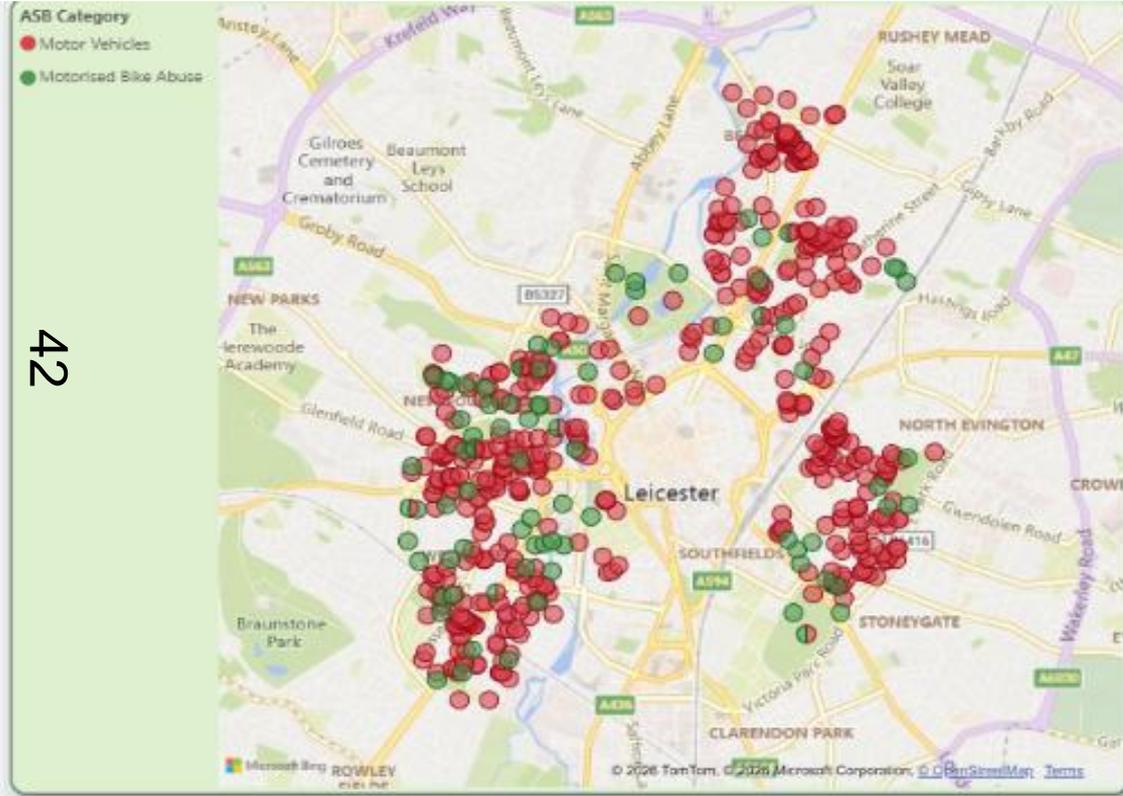
The top 5 wards with the highest reported ASB are;

Abbey, Western, Braunstone, Belgrave, and Beaumont Leys

- The dataset is comprehensive and representative; however, additional reporting is recommended



Data analysis | Vehicles



A total of 676 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reports were recorded in relation to motorised vehicles.

The highest proportion of reports originated from the following areas:

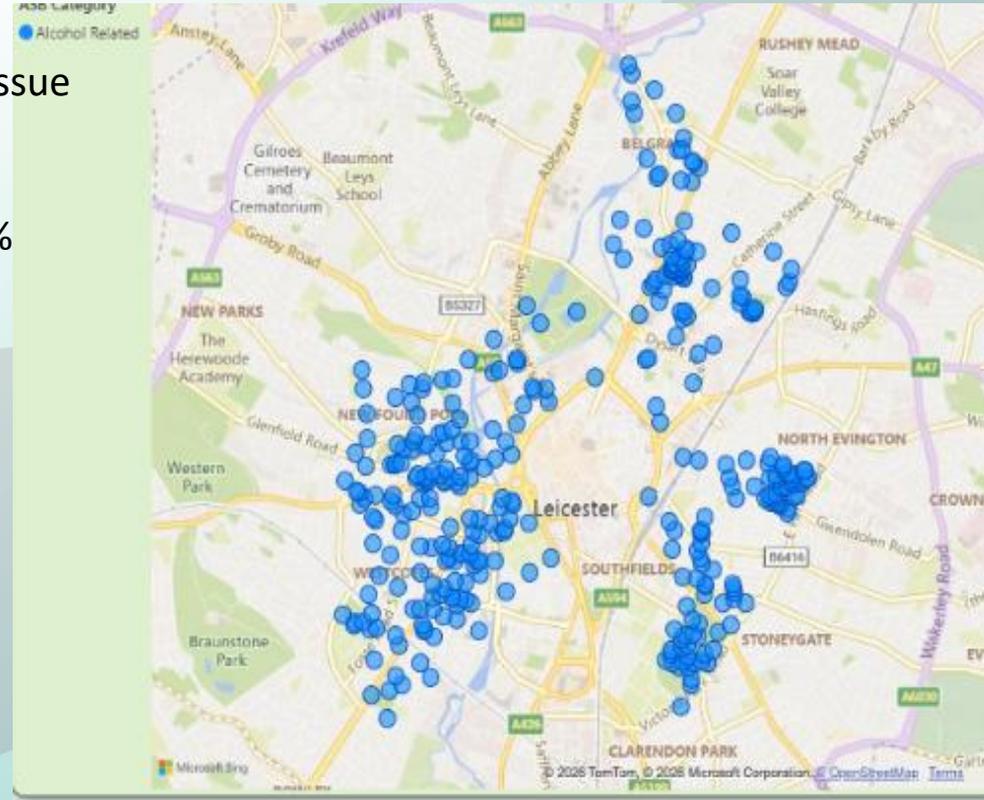
- **Belgrave Ward** – 28%
- **Fosse Ward** – 19%
- **Westcotes** – 15%

The forthcoming consultation will assist in determining whether these reports primarily relate to anti-social behaviour or constitute criminal activity.

Data Analysis | Alcohol Related ASB

Our data suggests that alcohol related ASB is an issue in four area's of the city;

- **Westcotes Ward** through to **Fosse Ward** - 38%
- **Belgrave Ward** - 25%
- **Spinney Hills Ward** – 9%
- **Stoneygate Ward** – 6%

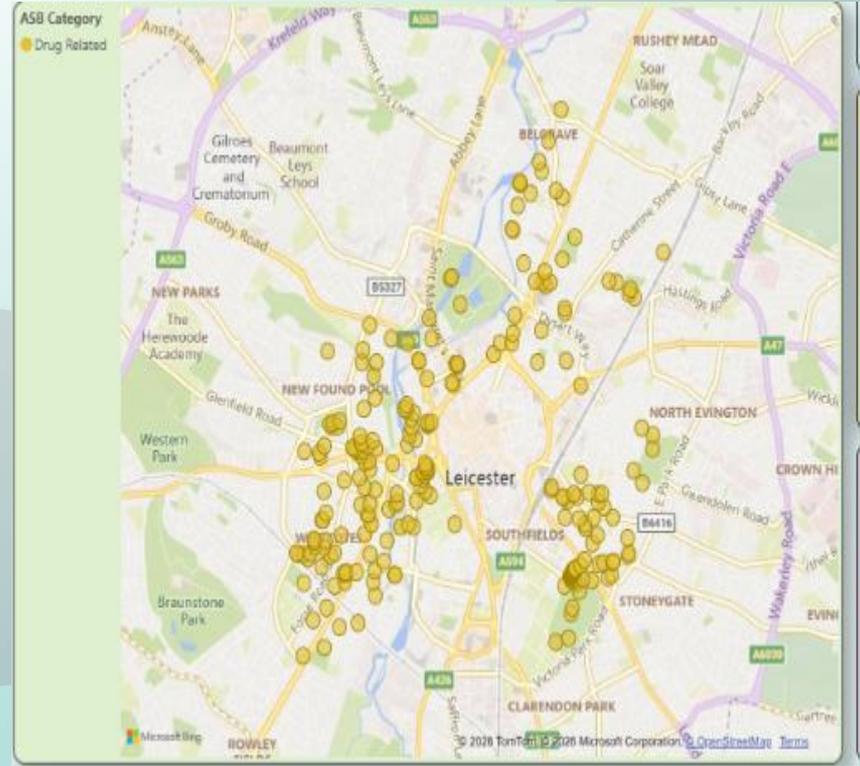


Data analysis | Drugs Related

Data shows reports of drug related reports in three areas of the city

- **Belgrave Ward** - 22%
- **Westcotes Ward** and into **Fosse Ward** - 38%
- **Stoneygate Ward** into **North Evington Ward** - 33%

Further exploration of this data is being undertaken to understand the inter-relation with police and crime data to determine whether a PSPO is appropriate to tackle this.



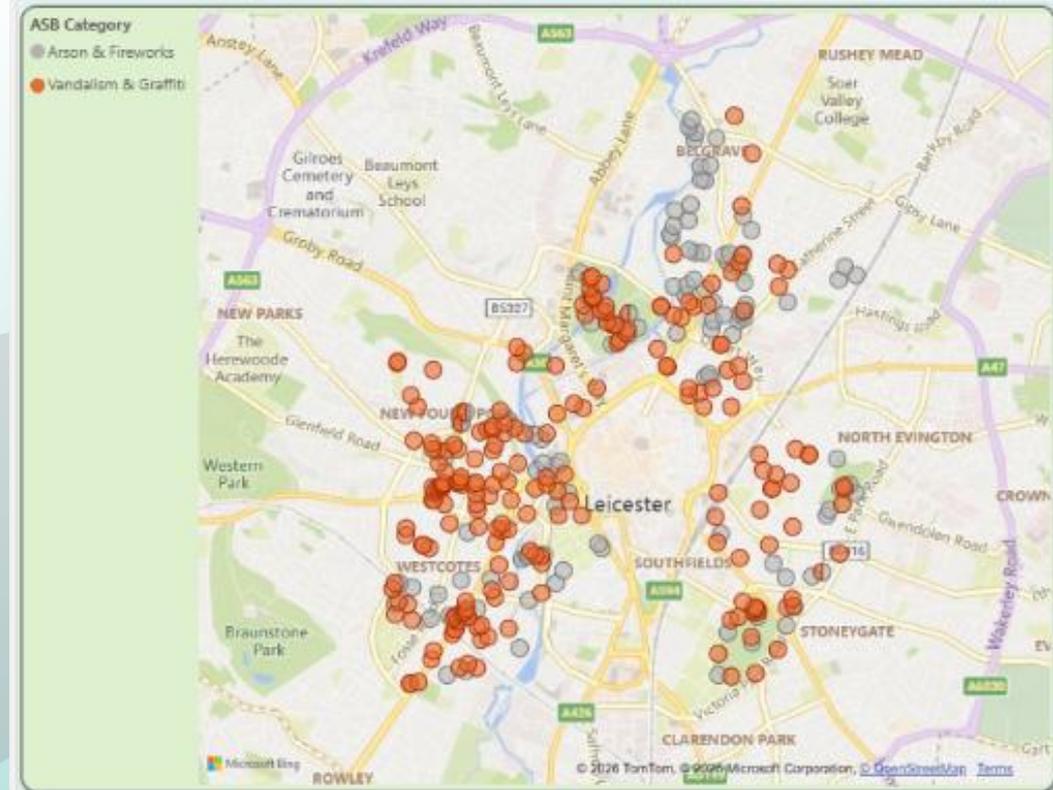
Data analysis | Vandalism and Fireworks

Our data shows that graffiti reports exist in similar areas to those that incur drug related reports.

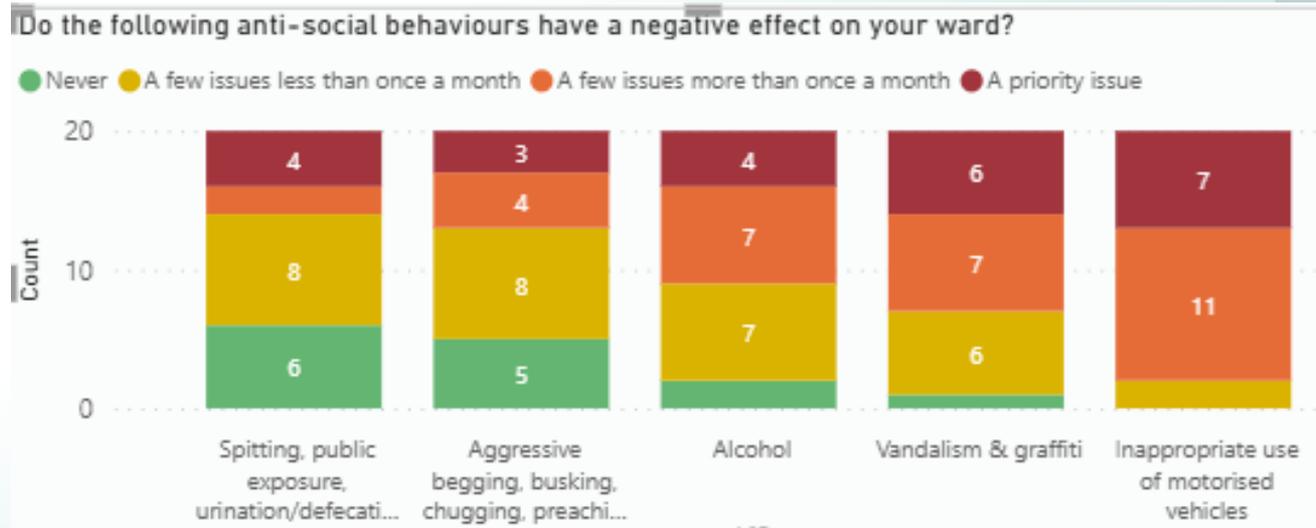
The highest proportion of reports originated from the following areas:

- **Belgrave Ward** – 21%
- **Westcotes Ward** – 20%
- **Abbey Ward** – 16%

Reports relating to fireworks display a clear seasonal trend, which is consistent with expectations for a large city. However, there are indications of potential misuse outside of typical peak periods.



PSPO Zone 2: Ward Members' Feedback



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- Early engagement was completed with all Ward Members to understand the impacts of behaviours on their constituents. The above table details the responses received.

PSPO Zone 2 Implementation Road Map

Task Description	Sept-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sept-26
Police/ Community Consultation and Evidence Gathering	02/07 to 30/11												
Consultation Preparation/ Drafting the Order				01/12-20/01									
Pre Public Consultation (Leadership and OPCC)					21/01- 15/03								
Consultation Public & Police/ Community/ internal and external Partners							15/03 -30/04						
Consultation Analysis & Final Legal Documentation									01/05- 15/05				
Political Sign-off / Signage									15/05 - 30/06				
City Mayor Decision Notice											01/07 - 15/07		
Staff Preparation											15/07 - 22/07		
Press Release and Public Notification											15/07 - 22/07		
PSPO Zone 2 Launch											22/07 - 15/08		

Thank You

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Leicester
City Council



Pride in Place Programme

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 05/03/2026

Lead director/officer: Andrew Shilliam, Director of
Corporate Services

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, Eyres Monsell, Humberstone & Hamilton, and Thurncourt Wards
- Report author: Andrew Shilliam, Director of Corporate Services
- Author contact details: andrew.shilliam@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1.0

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the details of Government's Pride in Place Programme (PiPP), including information on compliance, mobilisation, governance, and early groundwork actions required for this long-term initiative. It does not include information about the Pride in Place Impact Fund, the responsibility for which sits elsewhere in the Council.
- 1.2. The following sections set out what we know about:
 - The programme intentions and structure
 - Funding arrangements and phasing
 - Capacity funding rules
 - Governance and accountable body responsibilities
 - Requirements for Neighbourhood Boards
 - Rules for appointing Independent Chairs
 - Mandatory government deadlines
 - Areas of flexibility
 - Immediate recommended actions for the Council

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny:

- 2.1 The Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are invited to note the report and make any comments or recommendations for the Council to consider.

3. Detailed report

Overview of the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP)

- 3.1. PiPP is a 10-year government programme delivering long-term funding to disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It is explicitly community-led, with local communities empowered to set priorities and shape regeneration. Three Leicester MSOA areas have been selected by Government, being:
 - Eyres Monsell, with the Eyres Monsell Ward
 - Braunstone Park West, within the Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Ward
 - Thurnby Lodge, with the Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt Wards

- 3.2. Each area will receive up to £20 million over 10 years, £150,000 of capacity funding before April 2026. The Council is required to act as the Accountable Body for all three areas.

Programme Principles

- 3.3. The programme is built around the four core principles of (1) long term effort, activity and funding, (2) flexibility, (3) community leadership, and (4) support, and has the following overarching aims embedded with it:

- Stronger Communities
- Thriving Places
- Local Empowerment

- 3.4. Decision-making is through a Neighbourhood Board required for each area, with a clear requirement for a majority resident position.

Funding Arrangements

- 3.5. Each Pride in Place area receives £20 million over 10 years, made up of a 63% capital and 37% revenue. Funding is released annually (April) and tied to performance and compliance. For 2026/27 – the first 50% will be paid in April 2026, second 50% paid only when the Pride in Place Plan is approved (late 2026). Capital for 2026/27 is paid in full at the start of the financial year.

- 3.6. Over the ten years, funding will be delivered in three investment cycles, being (1) FY 2026/27–2029/30, (2) FY 2030/31–2032/33, and (3) FY 2033/34–2035/36. Communities are expected to decide on spending priorities and types of projects, but they have to meet the programme objectives.

- 3.7. Boards must also meet minimum spend thresholds, being at least 25% of total allocation forecast for each 3-to-4-year cycle. By Year 7 (2032/33), at least 50% of the total £20m must be spent or contractually committed. Government reserves the right to delay payments, claw back funding, and intervene if governance or spend requirements are not met. As Accountable Body, the Council has a duty to oversee this.

- 3.8. The purpose of the capacity funding is to enable mobilisation before delivery funding begins. It is explicitly intended for the following:

- Establishing governance structures
- Recruiting and supporting the Independent Chair
- Convening and administering the Neighbourhood Board
- Community engagement and consultation
- Baseline analysis, evidence gathering, needs assessment
- Project scoping, early feasibility and statutory processes
- Communications and outreach
- Programme management staffing or coordination
- Support for residents to participate effectively (training, facilitation, transport, etc.)

- 3.9. Capacity funding cannot be used for things like large capital works, purchasing property, high-cost consultancy, and activity outside the geographic boundary.
- 3.10. As Accountable Body, the Council must hold capacity funding in a ring-fenced budget, apply procurement/subsidy rules, maintain full audit trails, and report spending through annual grant returns to Government.

Governance Requirements

- 3.11. As Accountable Body the Council is legally responsible for all funds and for ensuring compliance. Our key responsibilities are to hold, administer and monitor all funding, ensure robust financial controls, support recruitment and operation of Neighbourhood Boards, appoint Independent Chairs (with MPs), and support community engagement at scale.
- 3.12. We're expected to publish the required governance information, including Board membership, minutes, decisions, declarations of interest, expenses, submit Annual Statements of grant usage signed by the S151 Officer, and to ensure lawful and effective delivery.

Neighbourhood Boards – Requirements and Structure

- 3.13. Each Board is mandated to include an Independent Chair (appointed jointly by LA + MP), the local MP (must sit on Board), at least one councillor, a senior police representative, and must be made up from a majority of local residents (people living or working within the MSOA).
- 3.14. It is expected that representatives of local businesses, faith and community groups, voluntary sector, youth/community leaders, and anchor organisations are included in the composition of the Board. The minimum recommended total membership of which is expected to be 8–15 members.
- 3.15. Boards must meet at least quarterly, operate transparent decision-making processes, publish a membership list, meeting dates, draft minutes within 10 working days, final minutes shortly thereafter, decisions and any voting outcomes, and hold a published/accessible conflict of interest register. And all Boards must be fully established by 17 July 2026.

Boundaries

- 3.16. Default boundaries are determined using Government-defined MSOAs, though it is possible for changes to be proposed. Any changes would require a clear rationale, including evidence of community identity or asset alignment. These boundary requests should be submitted in July 2026 and approved in Autumn 2026.

Appointment of Independent Chairs

- 3.17. The Chairs must be independent, not be an elected representative (MP or Cllr), have standing, credibility or leadership within the local community, be appointed jointly by the Council and the MP, be approved by Government as part of governance assurance, and lead the Board and act as public face of the programme.

- 3.18. There is expected to be an appointment process, which should be open, require expressions of interest to be made, and that a joint shortlisting and selection process takes place between Council and MP
- 3.19. We're expected to conduct the necessary due diligence, determine/record any possible conflicts of interest, ensure political impartiality, and ensure community credibility.
- 3.20. The Chair of each area is responsible for proposing the initial Board membership to the Council and MP for approval. Where agreement isn't possible, Government will be expected to intervene.

Required Outputs

- 3.21. Pride in Place Plan (this is mandatory) - the plan must include a 10-year strategic vision, a community engagement evidence base, priority themes and proposed interventions, a 4-year costed Investment Plan, funding and impact forecasts, a delivery plan, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and an equality impact analysis. The plans must align with Government objectives, including (1) Stronger Communities, (2) Thriving Places, (3) Taking Back Control (local empowerment).

- 3.22. Key Deadlines:

Mobilisation (Early 2026)

- Capacity funding (£150k) released
- Chairs should be appointed "as soon as practicable"

Delivery Year 1 (2026/27) - April 2026+

- First delivery funding released to the Council
- 50% of revenue released initially
- 50% of revenue released once Plan is approved

17 July 2026

- Final Board membership submitted
- Boundary change requests submitted

Autumn 2026

- MHCLG confirms membership and boundary decisions

28 November 2026

- Final Pride in Place Plan submitted for approval

Ongoing

- Annual grant usage reports
- Annual forecasts
- Board meetings quarterly
- Mid-cycle refresh at Years 4 and 8

- 3.23. Groundwork actions required

A. Governance & Mobilisation

- Map and engage local MPs

- Design a recruitment process for Independent Chairs
- Identify potential candidates for Chairs
- Prepare governance templates:
 - Terms of reference
 - Code of conduct
 - Transparency/publication arrangements
 - Conflict of interest processes
- Establish internal programme team
- Allocate internal budget for early preparatory work

B. Community Engagement Preparation

- Identify local assets and anchor organisations
- Develop an engagement strategy covering:
 - Residents
 - Young people
 - Under-represented groups
 - Faith communities
- Begin compiling evidence of need and priorities

C. Boundary & Data Work

- Review MSOA boundaries for practical delivery
- Identify any compelling reasons for boundary adjustments
- Analyse IMD and request CNI data

D. Finances

- Prepare ring-fenced cost codes for each MSOA
- Establish internal financial controls and reporting mechanisms
- Begin drafting early expenditure forecasts

E. Delivery Preparation

- Map existing and planned projects in each area
- Identify early “quick win” opportunities
- Begin assembling a longlist of potential interventions

3.24. Immediate priority areas for action in Jan+ 2026 are:

- Consider appointing a PIP Programme Lead + task group
- Appointment of Independent Chairs
- Establishment of Neighbourhood Boards
- Community engagement mobilisation
- Governance and transparency systems
- Evidence gathering and boundary review
- Preparation for capacity funding deployment

3.25. In summary, the PiPP represents a major, long-term regeneration opportunity but comes with substantial governance, transparency and compliance requirements. The Council is required to make the above preparations in order to meet the critical July and November 2026 deadlines and to establish strong community-led structures.

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

4.1 Financial Implications

The Council will act as the accountable body for the Pride in Place Programme which will enable it to receive the 3 area's grant allocations to manage, including assessing and approving any onward grant disbursement, processing payments, day-to-day monitoring and reporting. Funding will be managed within the existing financial governance framework adopted by LCC and its accountability and assurance regime, under the oversight of its chief financial officer, Section 151.

As Leicester is included in Phase 2 of the programme, the 3 Neighbourhood Boards need to confirm final membership and any proposals to alter the 'default' area boundary by 17 July 2026.

The Neighbourhood Boards will give local people the power to decide how funding is spent, putting communities in charge of the future of their neighbourhoods. Each Board must work with the wider community to develop a Pride in Place Plan, setting out a vision for their area and the projects that they would like to prioritise, and which meet the programme objectives. These plans will set out a pathway for delivery of these projects over the course of the 10-year programme and will need to be implemented within the LCC financial governance arrangements, described above.

Signed: Joel Martin, Principal Accountant (on behalf of Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance)

Dated: 24th February 2026

4.2 Legal Implications

Although the Neighbourhood Board is expected to lead the development of long-term priorities and investment plans, the Council is expected to act as Accountable Body and retains ultimate legal responsibility for compliance with grant conditions, legal compliance (including procurement and subsidy control), financial control and audit, and must therefore formally approve decisions to the extent necessary to discharge those statutory duties.

The decision is to be taken on the following resolutions at the Council Meeting on 25th February 2026 as part of the Three-Year Capital Programme 2026/27 for the Council to:

- agree to act as Accountable Body for funding provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) under the Pride in Place Programme
- add such funding to the Council's revenue or capital budget as appropriate; and
- delegate to the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Director of Corporate Services authority to administer the Programme, allocate funding, and manage delivery and compliance in accordance with MHCLG requirements and the Council's approved budget framework.

The proposed delegation for decision is lawful, proportionate and consistent with the Council's powers under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Constitution. The resolution authorises the acceptance and administration of MHCLG grant funding, the entering into of accountable body and grant agreements, and the onward distribution of funding to third party organisations, together with appropriate monitoring, audit and recovery powers.

Signed: Kevin Carter

Dated: 24th February 2026

4.3 Equalities Implications

The Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) aims to improve the lived experience of underserved communities who experience high levels of social and economic deprivation in the City of Leicester. The programme has a positive intent and focuses on addressing socio-economic inequality of outcome at an MSOA level.

PiPP is targeted at a hyper-local level with respect to tackling disadvantage, but equally due to the demographic make-up of the three priority areas, there will be intersections with the experiences and outcomes of people who share one of the protected characteristics. This is significant when taking into consideration how adverse outcomes can be compounded through a combination of different elements of identity.

It is important to have regard to balancing the rights of different groups and individuals when allocating resources of this scale. It is therefore necessary to note that when socio-economic disadvantage is combined with one or more of the protected characteristics a person's life chances can be altered to an extent which differentiates from people who are from more affluent backgrounds. This is not to say that people who share a protected characteristic from more affluent backgrounds do not experience differential experiences or outcomes, but it does recognise that socio-economic disadvantage is an additional barrier which must be addressed to create an environment where each resident of Leicester has an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive.

The PiPP due to the targeted and focused it takes will inevitably mean that there will be a difference in the level of investment made in specific neighbourhoods, but it is suggested that there is legal justification under the Equality Act 2010 that this approach is justifiable in law i.e. it is proportionate in meeting the needs of people in neighbourhoods with high levels of socio-economic deprivation (based on IMD data in England) and is meeting the 'legitimate aim' of targeting funding in areas of need to build strong, resilient and prosperous communities and tackle long-term decline and enhance community wellbeing. The Programme is not discriminatory in and of itself and positive action is permitted within the scope of the Programme.

PiPP also provides an opportunity to eliminate discrimination for those not only share a protected characteristic but also those who experience socio-economic disadvantage and therefore dual discrimination. There is equally an opportunity to advance equity of opportunity at an intersectional level.

In implementing the programme fostering good relations between different community and protected characteristic groups, thorough, transparent and evidenced-based communications will be vital to avoid creating or compounding perceptions of differential funding allocation at the neighbourhood level.

Conducting an Equality Impact Assessment is a key component of the governance arrangements for PiPP and will facilitate thorough consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty as it relates to the programme.

Signed: Aloma Onyemah

Dated: 24th February 2026

4.4 Climate Emergency Implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications arising from this report. Implications arising from specific initiatives should be given consideration as and when the relevant reports are submitted for decision.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer

Dated: 24th February, 2026

5. Background information and other papers:

[Pride in Place Programme prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: Phase 2 place selection methodology note - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: funding profiles and timelines - GOV.UK](#)

[Pride in Place Programme: list of indicative interventions - GOV.UK](#)

6. Summary of appendices:

**Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission
Work Programme 2025 – 2026**

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
19 June 2025	<p>Overview of Culture and Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Business case for the KRIII café.</p> <p>Public Space protection Orders</p> <p>Waste Engagement Findings</p>	<p>Site visit to Biffa to be arranged</p> <p>To avoid a backlog of casework arising, officers to respond to members queries within 5 days.</p> <p>Report to come back to the Commission in 12 Months following the opening of the new café to see if expectations have been met in terms of customer numbers and cost/benefit.</p> <p>Report to come back to the Commission on the plan going forward.</p> <p>Informal session to be convened around early August for Commission to discuss options with the Commission so they can inform the way forward.</p>	<p>To be arranged later in the year.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Added to workplan TBA</p> <p>Added to workplan TBA</p> <p>Arranged for 7th August.</p>
11 September 2025	<p>Heritage Places Funding, National Lottery Heritage Fund – Verbal Update</p> <p>Re-drafted Community Asset Transfer Policy</p>	<p>To note stories that need to be heard more, including about the historical diversity of Leicester in terms of the people living here and how Leicester became so diverse, as well as understanding Commonwealth contributions to the World Wars.</p> <p>Task Group to be set up</p>	<p>Funding for this is limited and the type of themes which are progressed will depend upon the type of grant applications which we receive.</p> <p>Scoping document for task group to come to Commission in January.</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
22 January 2026	<p>Budget</p> <p>Bereavement Services Update (6-monthly update)</p> <p>Leisure Centre Needs Assessment</p> <p>De Montfort Hall/ Haymarket Theatre</p> <p>Community Asset Transfer Task Group - Scoping Document</p>	<p>To include information on the search for places, the work plan for Gilroes Cemetery. Also to include Cremation facilities.</p> <p>To also include information on fees and how to encourage people to use the council cremation facilities.</p> <p>Will consist of primary and secondary research in relation to active Leicester Leisure Centre Offer. Scope includes public opinion, membership and usage numbers and engagement in activity.</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
5 March 2026	Museum Update Selective Licensing PSPO – Plan going forward Pride in Place/Impact Fund	To include visitor figures over the school holiday period.	
16 April 2026	NLHF Museum and Art Gallery Project Museum Engagement Sports Consultation Findings Place Expansion Programme	To include considerations for an open weekend.	

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
YPC Survey Findings	To go to first meeting of 2026/27 municipal year.	
Festivals and Events Review update		
Trees and Woodlands – Involvement with Schools and Education and Grassland Strategy	To include seed and produce exchange and to include areas for recreation and sports.	
Engagement of Community Organisations	Report on how community organisations could be engaged to help the Council run services as requested at the meeting of 29 January. – To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Growing spaces strategy		
Heritage Places Funding - National Lottery Heritage Fund – Update on next stage.	To include findings of Audience Agency. If Stage 1 is successful.	
KRIII Visitor Centre – Performance since new Café.	Analysing the cost/benefit of moving the Café. To include changes in visitor numbers since café moved and comparisons between old and new café. To come in February 2027.	
Update on HASBO and CRASBU	To be brought back in 12 months from 2024 report.	
Heritage panels, inviting members suggestions for new panels		
CCTV Overview	Moved from November	

