

Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2026 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Zaman – Chair
Councillor Halford – Vice Chair

Councillor Dr Barton
Councillor Haq

Councillor Chauhan
Councillor Waddington

In Attendance –
Assistant City Mayor – Councillor Dempster

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196. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Dave, Cllr Cassidy and Cllr Cutkelvin.

197. 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.

198. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With regard to an action raised at the previous meeting, it was noted that Newarke Houses Museum had not opened over the Easter Holidays. It would be reviewed as to whether they could open for October half-term and the 2027 Easter Holiday.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission held on 5 March 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

199. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair noted that the meeting of the task group on Community Asset Transfer (CAT) scheduled for 14 April had been cancelled due to unforeseen issues with officer availability. Business due to be considered at this meeting would now be considered at the meeting on 7th May, where it was also hoped to meet with groups who had gone through the CAT process. It was requested that it would be useful if questions for these groups could be sent to Governance Services in advance.

200. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

201. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

202. PSPO 2 - VERBAL UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services provided a verbal update on PSPO 2. Slides were presented (attached), and additional key points to note included:

- Draft documentation had received legal sign-off and the scheme was ready to go to consultation.
- The approach protocol illustrated how PSPO2 would be managed and enforced.
- Feedback was welcome to see how the PSPO was perceived by communities.

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

- One warden would be starting this week, three more on 5th May, and two others would join later in May.
- With regard to a query about money from selective licensing schemes, it was explained that selective licensing teams were being actively worked with on management.
- In response to points made about bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters, it was explained that this was dealt with by the Police, and in terms of funding, it was specifically in relation to the public spaces team.
- The new team consisted of six uniformed officers, four support officers and one apprentice.
- Information on how the team was funded could be shared with the Committee.

- In terms of the difference between the new officers and existing City Wardens, it was explained that the work of the City Wardens was focussed on environmental issues, whereas the new officers looked at Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and crime in terms of prevention, detection and enforcement.
- In terms of the wider picture on how individuals were managed, officers would be data-led. The more reports received, the better the data would be, so officers could target patrols where they were most needed. Work would take place 7am-7pm Monday-Saturday, but there was flexibility to do targeted work in the evenings.
- The PSPO had police support and there was an agreement for them to support the restrictions within it.
- The powers of the police and of the new officers both came under the Crime and Policing Act.
- In terms of cyclists not adhering to lanes, it was explained that by-laws were managed by different teams.
- Officers worked in pairs for safety, and had safety equipment such as vests, radios and panic alarms. The Police were worked with, so there was a lot of information available for dynamic risk assessments so that operations could be pre-planned and people weren't put into high-risk situations.
- In response to concerns raised that ASB might move into different areas, it was explained that data was constantly being assessed and reviewed, and if ASB appeared to be arising in pockets, another PSPO could potentially be considered.

AGREED:

- 1) That information be provided on funding.
- 2) That information be provided on pavement cycling.
- 3) That the report be noted.
- 4) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.

203. PLACE EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report providing an update on Leicester's involvement in Sport England's Place Expansion programme and set out details of a Full Award bid that had been submitted to Sport England on 27 March 2026.

The Head of Sport Services introduced the item noting that in 2017 Sport England had selected 10 areas across the country for a pilot scheme, looking at how to address physical inactivity. A second phase was introduced in 80 areas, including Leicester.

The Project Manager for Sports and Leisure provided an overview of the report together with a slide presentation attached to the minutes. Key points to note, not included on the slides, were as follows:

- Adequate physical activity required certain social conditions which were not prevalent in Leicester. Political alignment around decisions was vital.
- There was a focus on connecting systems together.
- Sport England were committed to ending the postcode lottery so that the area a person resided in did not dictate their longevity.
- Work was ongoing to expand the evidence base and turn knowledge into action. Relationships were being built with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) to find new ways of working.
- The Moving Conversations report had seen responses from over 700 participants highlighting barriers to activity including; people feeling unsafe when exercising in the community, expenses, quality of the urban environment, the need to improve parks, anti-social behaviour and current health conditions impacting activity.
- The Photo Voice project had seen a positive response with an exhibition delivered.
- A bid had been submitted to Sport England for £1.8m. This would be for 18 months work with the VCSE partners to recruit Active Neighbourhood Champions, aligned with social prescribing and Health budgets.
- The key was to create equity of access.
- A peer review was likely around the 30th April.
- This was a long-term strategy with a whole systems approach. Working with senior leaders to help them realise their place in the mission.
- The 2-year plan included the Launch of Community of Change Practitioners which members were welcomed to join. This would launch on the 14th May.

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

- The outcome of the £1.8m bid should be known in June. The money would be revenue, and a large amount would go towards the VCSE sectors ways of working. There would also be a budget for community activities.
- Areas were selected based on deprivation data from the 2018 Health and Wellbeing Survey. Members queried whether council funding could be directed to areas not selected. It was explained that a focus on leisure centres and initiatives could reach wider parts of the city. Approximately 70% of the Council's budget was allocated to statutory services, limiting flexibility. It was noted that the areas not included would be given consideration within future projects.
- Both mental and physical health were incorporated into the project, with work already being delivered through community initiatives such as Jamila's Legacy.
- Active Together had good links with GPs, there were further opportunities to link in with health partners, a joined-up approach was vital due to the number of initiatives involved.
- Work had been undertaken with community organisations to support outreach.
- The £1.8m would be divided over the 4 quadrants, with 1

Neighbourhood Champion for each of the areas. A range of sports could be incorporated alongside a doorsteps partner for young people.

- Sport England had a separate capital budget connected with the programme, applications had not yet been made as further discussion regarding the application process is required.
- Members requested mapping information on the disadvantaged areas of the city.
- Members queried decision making for other initiative funding such as Pride in Place. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Secretary of State for understanding of funding allocation and to ensure a fair spread across the MSOAs.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.
- 3) For information on disadvantaged neighbourhoods to be circulated with officer guidance.
- 4) For a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding allocation of MSOA funding.

204. LEICESTER RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Director of Tourism Culture and Economy submitted a report providing Members with an overview of Leicester Riverside Festival, including its history, location, activities, partnerships, and recent development. The report also outlined how the festival has evolved and its current strategic relevance to the city. Key points to note were as follows:

- The festival was a large, free, family-friendly outdoor event around the River Soar.
- It had grown from a small event to an event that now attracted over 60,000 people.
- The economic impact of the festival was estimated at £3.1m.
- The festival had initially taken place across Bede Park, Western Boulevard, Castle Gardens and the River Soar, but had now expanded on to the De Montfort University (DMU) campus.
- The festival had over 80 performers and over 100 traders.
- The live music stage would now be moving on to Bede Park, featuring local artists and providing a platform for a larger audience.
- The festival included free arts and heritage experiences.
- The festival was inclusive and multi-generational, and reflected the city's diverse communities. It was led by the Festivals and Events team and supported by partnerships.
- DMU provided space and venues and an events team. Students were also becoming involved in programmes and using it as a showcase.

- Leicester Music Board was a new partner.
- There was a wellbeing-focussed arts programme called 'Bloom' in collaboration with Bright Spark Arts.
- Heritage Bus tours would be available.
- Outdoor film screenings would take place using DMU screens.
- £30k funding had been received from Arts Council England. Arts Council funding also provided free outreach workshops which included storytelling events that signposted to the festival. There was also Arts Council funding for people who wished to be involved in the festival and work with the Festivals and Events team in production.
- Families with complex needs could use quiet/safe spaces.
- The festival was of strategic importance as it was a platform for community engagement, including the Family Hub.
- The festival was important for economic activity as it was a chance for businesses to make money and a chance to promote tourism. It had enhanced city centre vitality and activity beyond the site, in the city centre could benefit.
- Of the £147k budget, the Council contributed around 24%, the other 76% came from vendors, PRS sponsorship, Arts Council funding and DMU funding.
- The festival brought societal, cultural and economic value to the city, and had the potential to become a significant regional or national festival.

In response to member discussion, the following was noted:

- With regard to issues raised around crowd density, it was noted that there was lots of space on the DMU campus and around the Newarke to expand. Ambition was subject to resource, but it was hoped to move activity to other areas to help the flow of audiences. The peak attendance was around 3-5pm, so people could avoid peak times if they wished to avoid crowds. Hotspots were traditionally where the arts and crafts markets were and around the music stage, the music stage moving to Bede Park would create more audience capacity. Weather had an impact on footfall.
- In response to points made about events helping to Leicester as a destination, it was noted that other events had taken place, such as Light up Leicester, which had helped to increase footfall in the city, and further events would take place, such as the World Cup Fanzone on Jubilee Square, and the Radio 2 Party in the Park festival on Victoria Park.
- It was suggested that Leicester's proximity to London could be a selling-point to make it attractive as a destination.
- Cosmopolitan Arts Festival would be incorporated into the fan zone event plans.
- The Council's contribution to Riverside Festival had remained similar over the last few years. Mors sponsorship was now being brought in. If the festival was to continue at the same level, it may be necessary to consider incremental improvements. It was further noted that increased

audience came at an increased security cost and that when money was brought in, it was often spent in areas that could not be seen, such as infrastructure. It was hoped it could be looked into as to how to get money into artists.

- In response to suggestions surrounding purchasing equipment rather than hiring, and potentially using barriers for sponsorship, it was noted that opportunities to attract capital investment were always being sought and that Arts Council Grants were going into creative programmes. It was also noted that it was good to have a certain amount of fixed infrastructure, but this would need storing. In response to a suggestion that Council-owned equipment could be hired out when not being used, it was explained that rules around the use of public funds would mean that it could not be offered at less than the commercial rate.

AGREED:

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

205. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

206. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no further items of urgent business, the meeting finished at 18:55

PSPO Zone 2

Charlotte Keedwell
Public Spaces Service Manager
16th April 2026



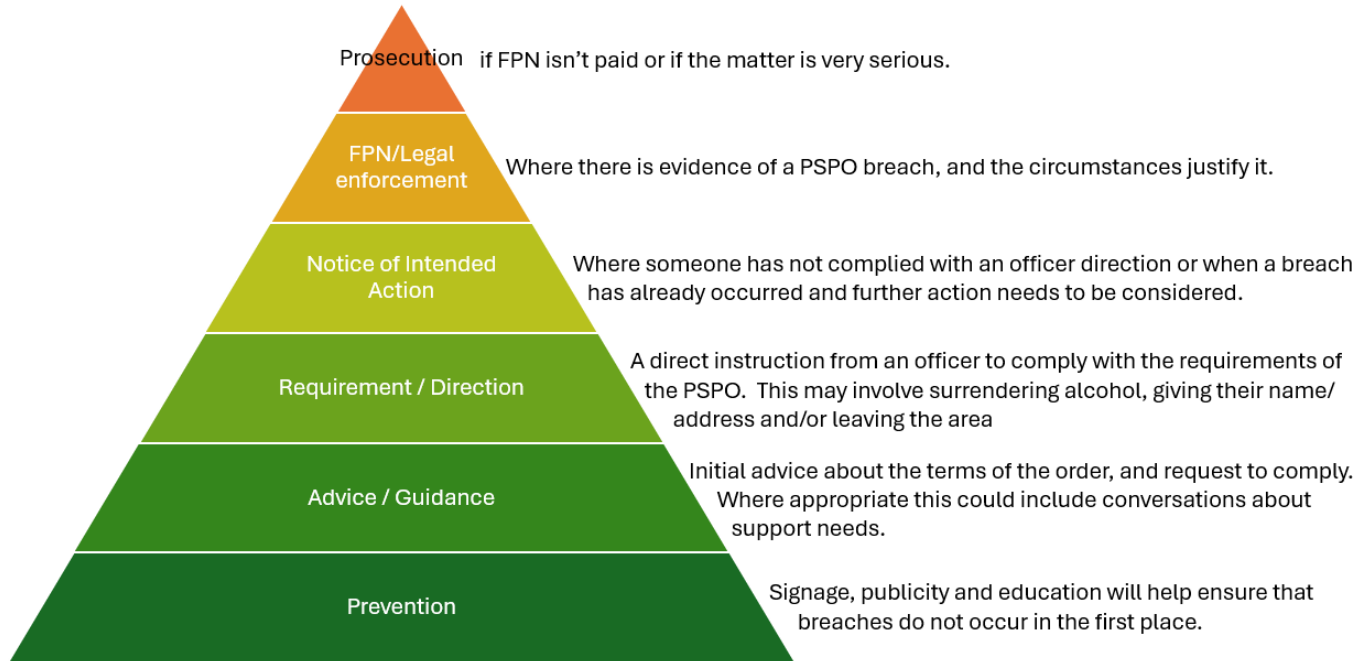
PSPO Timeline and update

- All Legal documents have been finalised in their draft format for consultation
- 6-week consultation period with the public and key partners
- Final analysis, report writing, and executive sign off
- Go Live September/October 2026

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	Oct-26
Evidence Gathering	02/07 -30/11													
Consultation Preparation/ Drafting the Order				01/12-15/04										
Pre-Consultation Political and PCC Approvals					02/02- 15/04									
Consultation Public/Police/ Community								24/04 – 05/06						
Consultation Analysis & Final Legal Documentation									05/06- 19/06					
Political Sign-off										19/06 - 15/08				
City Mayor Decision Notice												15/08 - 01/09		
Signage										15/06 - 15/08				
Staff Preparation												15/08 - 01/09		
Press Release and Public Notification													01/09 - 15/09	
PSPO Zone 2 Launch													01/09 - 15/09	

Approach Protocol



The hierarchy is not a linear process and officers will use professional judgement to ensure that the most appropriate action is taken based on the circumstances of the breach and the person causing the anti-social behaviour.



Leicester Place Expansion

Sophie Noon, Project Manager, Sports & Leisure

16 April 2026



Leicester
City Council



Minute Item 203

Too many people in Leicester suffer because of inactivity

- **All our health:** Physical inactivity is associated with 1 in 6 deaths in the UK and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually (including £0.9 billion to the NHS alone). Our population is around 20% less active than in the 1960s. If current trends continue, it will be 35% less active by 2030.
- **Life expectancy gap** has widened post COVID: Leicester males and females in the least deprived areas have an additional 9 years of life expectancy compared to those in the most deprived areas.
- Leicester citizens can also expect **more years 'not in good health'**



Stocking Farm /
Mowmacre

Thurnby Lodge

North Evington /
Rowletts Hill /
Northfields /
Merrydale

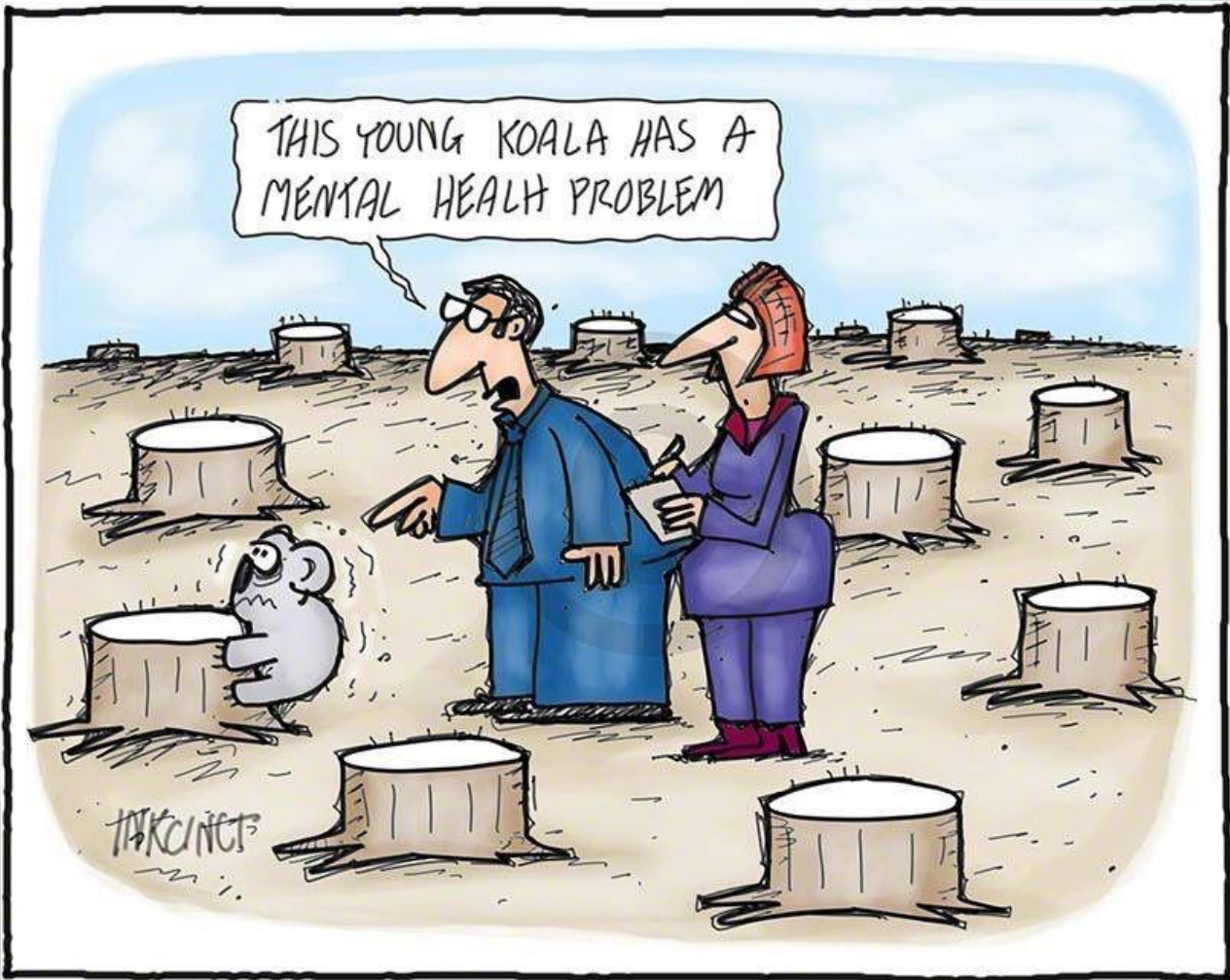
Saffron / Eyres



The Change we want: “This is for Us”

We aim to create a Leicester where:

- **The Active Choice is the easy choice:** residents in the most deprived neighbourhoods live actively and enjoy their neighbourhood.
- **Trust and belonging are embedded:** Provide space, community power, and infrastructure.
- **Equity of access:** Everyone can walk, wheel, cycle, and play safely.



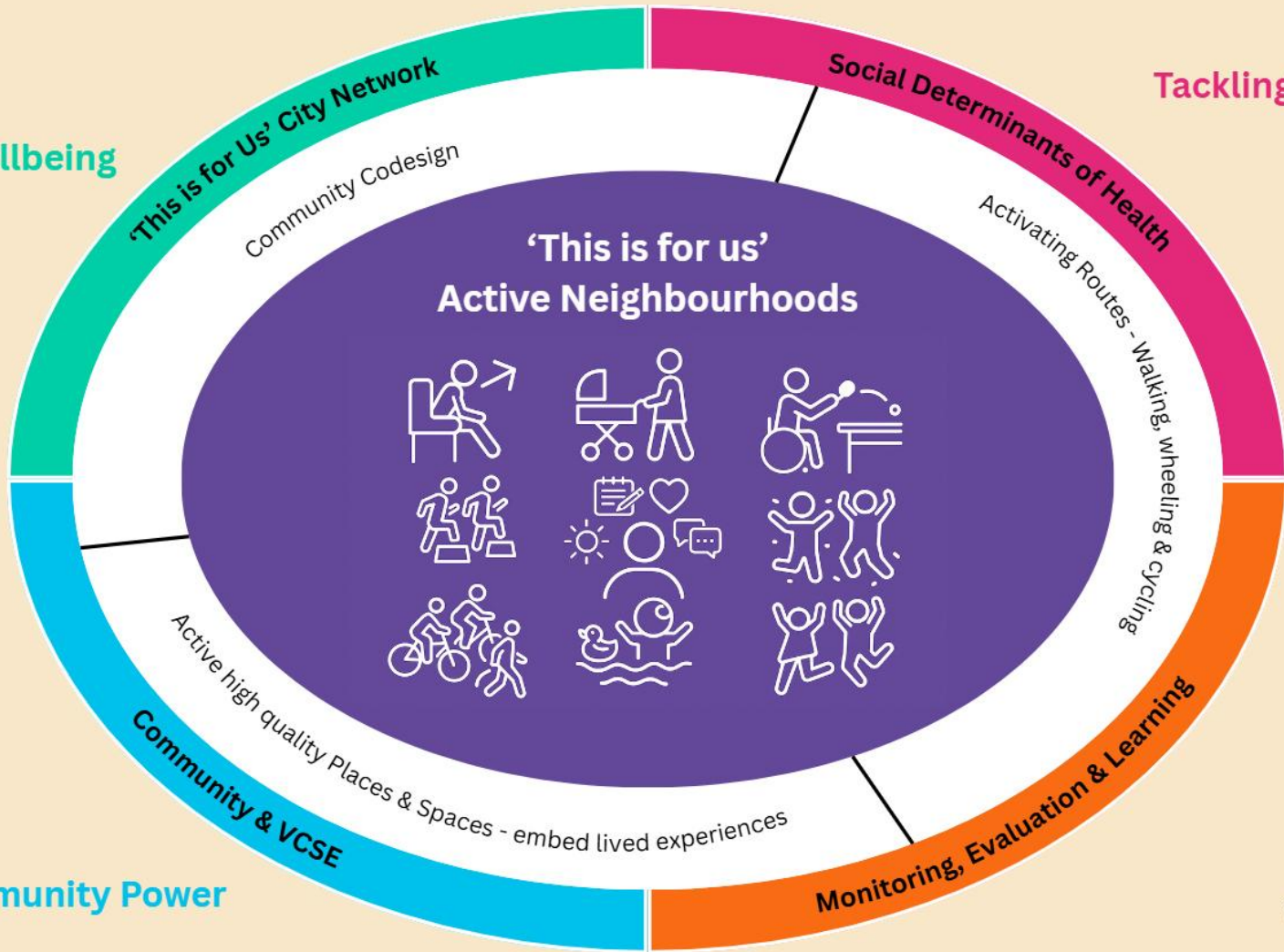
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Active Wellbeing

Tackling inequalities

Voices of our least active residents

Voices of our least active residents



Community Power

Our two-year plan:

- **Create a single vision** for walking, cycling, wheeling & play
- **Amplify voices** of the least active & highlight need for action
- **Power shift to communities**
- **Extend the reach beyond Public Health**
- Create a **Guide to participation**
- **Launch a Community of Change Practitioners** – to explore leading in complex times and how practically we can collaborate to reduce inactivity.

“This is for Us”



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