



Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: THURSDAY, 27 MAY 2021**

**TIME: 5:30 pm**

**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)

Councillor Govind (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Gee, Halford, Joel, Joshi, Kitterick, Porter, Thalukdar and Westley

### **Youth Council Representatives**

To be advised

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

For Monitoring Officer

#### **Officer contacts:**

**Angie Smith (Democratic Support Officer),**

Tel: 0116 454 6354, e-mail: [angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk)  
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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- wear face coverings throughout the meeting unless speaking or exempt;
- make use of the hand sanitiser available;
- when moving about the building to follow signs about traffic flows, lift capacities etc;
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- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

### **Further information**

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

**Angie Smith, Democratic Support Officer on 0116 454 6354.**

Alternatively, email [angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk), or call in at City Hall.

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## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **AGENDA**

#### **NOTE:**

Due to COVID restrictions, public access in person is limited to ensure social distancing. We would encourage you to view the meeting online but if you wish to attend in person, you are required to contact the Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance.

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Appendix A**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 16 March 2021 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

**5. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING**

To note progress on actions agreed at the previous meeting and not reported elsewhere on the agenda (if any).

**6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE 2021/22**

To note the membership of the Overview Select Committee:

Chair: Councillor Cassidy

Vice Chair: Councillor Govind

Councillors Gee, Halford, Joel, Joshi, Kitterick, Porter, Thalukdar and Westley

**7. DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE 2021/22**

To note the meetings of the Overview Select Committee for 2021/22 as follows:

Thursday 27 May 2021

Thursday 15 July 2021

Thursday 16 September 2021

Thursday 4 November 2021

Thursday 16 December 2021

Thursday 10 February 2022

Thursday 24 March 2022

The meetings will commence at 5.30pm.

**8. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

**9. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer to report on any petitions received.

**10. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT [Appendix B](#)**

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that updates Members on the monitoring of outstanding petitions. The Committee is asked to note the current outstanding petitions and agree to remove those petitions marked 'Petitions Process Complete' from the report.

**11. COVID-19 UPDATE**

A verbal update will be given at the meeting on the current position regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee is recommended to receive the update and comment as required.

**12. ENHANCING WOMEN'S SAFETY** [Appendix C](#)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to the Committee to outline the current community safety work around ensuring women's safety, the process used to improve women's safety further within Leicester city and to outline the opportunity to access government funding to undertake proactive community safety work which will make a difference to the daily lives of women and girls.

The Committee is recommended to note the current work being undertaken and comment on the proposed way forward.

**13. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 OUTTURN** [Appendix D](#)

The Chief Operating Officer submits a report which is the final one in the monitoring cycle for 2020/21 and reports the final outturn for 2020/21. The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations it sees fit.

**14. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING APRIL - MARCH 2020/21** [Appendix E](#)

The Chief Operating Officer submits a report to show the position of the capital programme at the end of 2020/21, and is the final capital monitoring report for the financial year following similar monitoring reports as at Period 4, Period 6 and Period 9. The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations it sees fit.

**15. INCOME COLLECTION APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021** [Appendix F](#)

The Deputy Director of Finance submits a report which details progress made in collecting debts raised by the Council during 2020-21, together with debts outstanding and brought forward from the previous year. It also sets out the details of debts written off under delegated authority that it has not been possible to collect after reasonable effort and expense. The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make and observations it sees fit.

**16. REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2020/21** [Appendix G](#)

The Deputy Director of Finance submits a report which reviews how the Council conducted its borrowing and investments during 2020/21. The Committee is recommended to note the report and make comments to the Deputy Director of Finance and the Executive as they wish.

**17. CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - CONNECTING LEICESTER: AYLESTONE ROAD - PUTNEY ROAD - WELFORD ROAD** [Appendix H](#)

The Monitoring Officer submits a report informing the Overview Select Committee that the Executive Decision taken by the Deputy City Mayor Environment and Transport on 14 April 2021 relating to Connecting Leicester: Aylestone Road – Putney Road – Welford Road had been the subject of a five-Member call-in under the procedures at Rules 12 of Part 4D (City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution.

The Overview Select Committee is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation; or
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in; or
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn.

#### **18. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR**

The City Mayor will answer questions raised by members of the Overview Select Committee on issues not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

#### **19. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**Appendix I**

The current work programme for the Committee is attached. The Committee is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

#### **20. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**







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# Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021 at 4:00 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)

Councillor Dawood  
Councillor Gee  
Councillor Joshi

Councillor Waddington  
Councillor Westley

Councillor Kitterick  
Councillor Porter  
Councillor Thalukdar

In Attendance:

Sir Peter Soulsby  
Councillor Clarke

Councillor Cutkelvin

Councillor Dempster  
Councillor Master

Councillor Myers

Councillor Patel

Councillor Russell

Councillor Singh Clair

City Mayor

Deputy City Mayor, Environment and  
Transportation

Assistant City Mayor, Education and  
Housing

Assistant City Mayor, Health

Assistant City Mayor, Neighbourhood  
Services

Assistant City Mayor, Jobs, Skills, Policy  
Delivery and Communications

Assistant City Mayor, Communities,  
Equalities and Special Projects

Deputy City Mayor, Social Care and  
Anti-Poverty

Deputy City Mayor, Culture, Leisure,  
Sport and Regulatory Services

\* \* \* \* \*

## 157. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Halford and Joel. Councillor Gee was present as the appointed substitute for Councillor Halford.

The Committee noted that Councillor Thalukdar was present as a substitute Member.

#### **158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **159. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair conveyed the continued support and thanks of the Overview Select Committee to all the workers who were supporting the Covid-19 relief effort, to those working in the front line, and also to all residents in the lockdown. The Chair added that thoughts also remained with those that had fallen ill and to those who had lost loved ones during the difficult time.

The Chair also raised the issue of women's safety following the death of Sarah Everard and offered condolences to Sarah's family and friends. The Chair noted the many issues highlighted following Sarah's death and how women did not feel safe walking through streets of their neighbourhoods or anywhere, which was clearly unacceptable. The Chair acknowledged the whilst there was a pandemic, there was a right to peaceful protest, and that there needed to be a better way of policing planned vigils rather than some of the scenes witnessed on screens over the weekend. The Chair asked that a report on the Council's local position and how it was reacting to ensure women's safety go to either the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission or brought to Overview Select Committee.

Councillor Rita Patel, Assistant City Mayor for Communities, Equalities and Special Projects, offered condolences to Sarah Everard's family and friends and said the tragic event highlighted an ongoing issue. She added the objectification of women and girls needed to be tackled, with a report of two women every week murdered in their homes.

Councillor Patel said she and the City Council sent out the message that the incessant humiliation of women would not be tolerated. It was noted that recommendations in the report Women Talking, City Listening previously brought to Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 were being worked upon and would be included in the Equality Action Plan to be reported to the Committee in due course.

#### **160. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### Minute Item 137 – Apologies for Absence

Councillor Dawood asked that his apologies as sent prior to the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be recorded.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the Overview Select Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the amendment above.

## 161. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING

The Committee noted responses to questions were provided by the Chief Accountant to Members of the Overview Select Committee following the meeting as follows:

### Minute Item 147 – Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget (Including Capital Programme) 2021/22

#### **Councillors asked how many housing tenants are currently in arrears.**

At the end of December there was 5,470 tenants in arrears, with total rent arrears of £1.7m. This figure only includes housing tenants and does not include debt relating to hostels or non-dwellings.

#### **Councillors asked about Border House and whether it was made clear in February 2020 that Border House may close, an extract from the February 2020 minutes is provided below.**

*“Councillor Porter noted that Border House was owned by the Council, but the staff, who were employed by the Council, had been told that it would close, as it was not fit for purpose and funding was not available to improve it. However, asylum seekers were being housed there, which was a concern if the building was not fit for purpose.”*

*At the invitation of the Chair of the Committee and the City Mayor, the Director of Housing addressed the points made, explaining that Border House remained a hostel for families, as there had been no change in its use. There were no asylum seekers there. There had been a proposal that Border House would close eventually, as the Council moved to a “Homes for the Homeless” approach, as this would remove the need for a hostel. The policy also would mean that there was more likelihood that homeless people could stay in their preferred area.”*

### Minute Item 151 – Investment Strategy 2021/22

#### **Councillors asked what the estimated opening date and when the lease payments would start for the Travelodge.**

The lease payments will start from May 2021.

The website for the hotel is showing as taking bookings from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

## 162. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations or statements of case had been received.

## 163. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

## 164. TRACKING OF PETITIONS -MONITORING REPORT

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report updating members on the monitoring of outstanding petitions.

AGREED:

That the petition marked 'petition complete', namely 20/12/01 be removed from the Monitoring Report.

## 165. COVID-19 UPDATE

Julie OBoyle (Consultant in Public Health) and Alison Greenhill (Chief Operating Officer (COO)) provided an update on the Covid-19 data in Leicester.

The Consultant in Public Health reported:

- Positive progress was being made in the fight against the virus, but the rate in the city remained double the national average, at currently 135.5 per 100k people.
- A fall had been seen in the rate in the over 60s at 94.9 per 100k people.
- Patient numbers in hospital were falling, as was the number of people dying within 28 days of a Covid-19 diagnosis.
- Vaccination rates were increasing across the city, with 28% of the total population having had their first dose.
- The rates of vaccinations were positive in the older population and care homes.
- As well as symptomatic testing across the city, six testing centres were delivering the lateral flow test with good uptake.
- Schools had reopened. Secondary school pupils were required to take three lateral flow tests in schools supervised and then test kits at home twice a week for pupils and people in their bubble.
- The R-rate was at its lowest since the end September 2020, a much-improved picture.

The COO reported:

- With the contact tracing programme, there had been 97.5% successful contact. People were being contacted early and the right advice being given to people to protect themselves and their families.
- DHSC were calling it the 'Leicester model' and it was being used as an exemplar model.
- Business grants were complex, difficult and time consuming. The authority was running various business grant schemes. The Council's website provided information on the additional restrictions grant which had some flexibility as to who it could be given to.
- There were a range of targeted schemes looking at small and micro non-essential businesses, such as those in the city affected by footfall, for

example, dry cleaners, market traders, garages, charity offices, places of worship, driving instructors.

- Officers were keeping business' eligibility under review and would look at any convincing argument as to why people should have the grant.

In response to questions from Members, the following points were made:

- There had been an issue about vaccination take-up a few weeks previous in St Peters and St Matthews. There had been an increase in figures of take-up based on registered GP population.  
ACTION: Figures for people eligible in the city to be provided to Members.
- In terms of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, there had been widespread reports on an increased risk of blood clots. It was reported that over 11 million doses had been given in the UK and with no blood clot cases reported. It was noted that blood clots became more common as people got older, overweight, smoked and were associated with a sedentary lifestyle. There was no evidence currently the vaccine caused blood clots but might be a compounding factor between people being vaccinated and risk factors. Information had been sent out to cancel the myths in circulation and included information form GPs encouraging people to take up the vaccine.
- There were some areas of the city and communities where vaccination take-up was lower than others, though none that were disastrously low. Across all communities and areas there was a general enthusiasm to have the vaccine, and there was uptake increases as time passed.
- With regards to business grants over 17,000 payments had been made. Regular reporting back to Government on who had received grants and the amount paid was made. There was intention to publish the data being mindful of data protection. Once the business grant scheme came to an end, a comprehensive report would be brought back to the Committee.
- All cases who were positive for the virus were being contacted by the tracing team, individuals including the household of the positive contact, were asked questions on support requirements, such as the self-isolation support payment of which there were two types; one for people on work related benefits, or if people were not on work-related benefits they would have to demonstrate hardship if they were to self-isolate for 10 days, for example, if they were self-employed, but they might not be eligible if a partner in the household was working. There was other assistance that could be offered, for example, with utility bills, or the winter support grant scheme.
- A benefit of the contact tracing team was being able have a rounded view, to be able to talk to the household to give them financial and safety advice.
- The Council had no means of making someone stay at home, and someone could be eligible for support and still leave the house.
- The Peepul Centre had been reported as operating at 10% capacity. It was noted that the local authority had no control over the vaccination centres. Understanding was a lot of communication by health colleagues had been done to encourage people to take up the vaccine, and to ensure people it was safe. There were now different ways the vaccine was being delivered to communities at a local level, for example, GP surgeries, pharmacies.

- Figures in Leicester were reducing but were still high compared with the national figure. It was not yet known if the figure was low enough or what level the city needed to be at to be lifted from restrictions in line with the rest of the country so work would continue to bring rates down as low as possible. If there was to be a reintroduction of the tier system it could look at different data, for example case numbers, the over 60s rate, positivity rate, and how the local NHS was coping. Not yet been given any guidance, so assuming have to bring rates down as low as possible to get back to normality.
- Data was not received for schools, but information received on individual cases which would not be classed as an outbreak.

The City Mayor said he was incredibly impressed with the way officers and teams had dealt with the challenges raised over the past year.

## **166. MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS UPDATE**

The City Mayor introduced a presentation. He informed the meeting that despite the difficulties faced over the last year, the Executive were determined to deliver the manifesto commitments first brought forward two years previously, and it was hoped to be delivered successfully over the following two years. The Executive Team were also present to talk about the particular pledges they were taking forward.

Councillor Danny Myers, Assistant City Mayor, with responsibility for Jobs, Skills, Policy Delivery and Communications proceeded to deliver the presentation, and updated on the 96 pledges contained within the document, which covered economic development, transport, sustainability, housing, health and social care, equalities, lifelong learning, culture, tourism and community safety.

Progress to date was outlined with key points highlighted below:

- The meeting was informed there were seven pledges that were foregrounded, the headline of which was to continue to protect services which had been achieved, and those services had been valued more than ever over the past year, such as parks which had been vital to people's mental health during the pandemic.
- Significant progress had been made to build over 1,500 homes built for social and council housing, and significant progress had been made on tackling homelessness.
- Also noted was the improved green transport infrastructure that had been put in place during the past year.
- Council tax support had been maintained, and a huge range of financial support for people across the city over the past year provided
- It was further noted that though schools had been shut, work to generate more school spaces had continued and was on course to meet targets previously set.
- Covid-19 had amplified pre-existing inequalities which the council was determined to tackle.

- 34 of the 96 commitments have been impacted or delayed because of Covid-19 or the lockdown. Members were confident that 88 of the commitments would be delivered over the next two years. Seven had specific issues before Members could commit to deliver, and one would not be delivered. In relation to the consideration of a local lottery, the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission recently recommended the Council did not pursue a local lottery, which had been agreed by the City Mayor and Executive.

Each of the Executive Members proceeded to introduce the relevant commitments to their portfolio throughout the presentation.

Following the presentation, the City Mayor thanked the Executive Members and said there were still lots of challenges, but he hoped everyone could recognise that the team were absolutely determined to deliver pledges.

The Chair said there had been presented a thorough review on what the Council had promised and was half-way through and was the sign of a progressive council to be able to continue to deliver on the commitments throughout the Covid-19 crisis. He suggested the commitments be reviewed in 2022, and that individual sections of the manifesto be taken to the relevant Scrutiny Commissions so they could discuss in depth progress on the manifesto commitments and give feedback and advice to the Executive.

The City Mayor and Executive agreed to attend Scrutiny Commissions to discuss the Commitments as and when they were placed on the agendas of Commissions.

Members were asked if they had any general points to raise and the following comments were noted:

- Cllr Porter there were other areas that needed to be included as priorities, for example, slave labour in the city which had not been addressed.

The City Mayor said the manifesto had been to the people of Leicester and had been overwhelmingly supported by the people of Leicester.

Chairs of the Scrutiny Commissions welcomed the report and looked forward to receiving the document at the Commissions. Comments made included an invitation to people to visit Green Lane Road where the front walls were being built as an example of good work that had been undertaken in the city. They further welcomed the improvements that had been made with housing in the city.

The Chair added that when taken to Commissions, it was important to offer some challenge to the City Mayor and Executive to see whether they were going far enough, and was delighted at what had been achieved to date, and was incredible to see what had developed in the city despite a terrible year with the Covid-19 pandemic, and he looked forward to another review in 2022 and development of future objectives.

Councillor Westley asked if an item on Leicester's Markets be taken to Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission as they had also suffered through lack of footfall and required support due to the pandemic.

AGREED:

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. Individual sections of the manifesto be taken to the relevant Scrutiny Commissions to be discussed in depth and provide feedback and advice to the Executive as they saw fit.

## **167. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING PERIOD 9 2020-21**

The Director of Finance submitted a report on performance against the revenue budget for the year. The Overview Select Committee was recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make and observations as it saw fit to the Director of Finance.

Alison Greenhill, Chief Operating Officer (COO) informed those present that the report was not dissimilar to the report at Period 6. The report included estimated additional cost arising from the pandemic. Section 1 of the report presented the overall position of a forecast overspend of £37million through a combination of reasons, such as, additional spending on testing and tracing programme, loss of income for services being closed, the cost of overtime because it was difficult to recruit to posts under current conditions.

The COO reported that budgets had not been adjusted mid-year as it was thought to be appropriate to show the true additional costs and loss of income. It was acknowledged that significant government funding had been received, but there was still an impact on services and costs. The authority had received £33million of additional grant funding and the authority would continue to put claims in for loss of income. It was noted there was continued uncertainty as government grant funding was one-off, and uncertainty over the longer-term economic recovery which would significantly impact on future budgets.

In response to questions from Members, the following points were made:

- The authority's debt tended to be fixed rate at the point the debt was taken out. Interests rates were low, and as a cash-rich authority, the large cash balances were not earning as much money as they would have done three to four years ago, but the mantra was that the safety of the money was most important. The situation was looked at on a daily and weekly basis to try to mitigate the amount of financing costs with the amount of interest the authority earned. It was noted that at a previous meeting of the Committee there had been a specific recommendation to include in future revenue budget monitoring reports the impact of treasury decisions on daily revenue budget.
- It was noted in the report at Appendix B, Para 11.4 that there was an increase in the number of voids with staff having had to work differently during the



pandemic to bring houses back into use. Members would be informed in writing of the financial impact of shortfall of rental income and council tax.

- It was asked if issues being faced now would affect how the authority managed three to four years in the future. It was reported the authority was in a good position and previous actions taken over a number of years to make sure it had good levels of reserves meant the authority had been able to be resilient during the pandemic.

The Chair added that it was been the careful management of finances over the years had helped the authority survive the current situation and would be the right foundation for moving forward.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.

## **168. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING PERIOD 9 2020-21**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which showed the position of the capital programme for 2020/21 as at the end of period 9. The Overview Select Committee was recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations it saw fit.

Amy Oliver, Chief Accountant, provided an update on the progress of capital projects and programmes. She reported there had been a significant slippage of the delivery of programmes due to Covid-19, which had been taken into account when considering the budget for 2021/22 previously reported to the Committee.

Members were asked if they had any questions on the report, and the following information was provided:

- £3million was spent on the Haymarket on DDA works on the lift to improve disabled access to people going into the theatre, some additional work to the lift area to improve DDA access into the main car park and some minor work to the ticket office.
- There had been some contractual issues with the Extra Care capital build which officers were addressing. The Council had been contractually committed to the schemes but the Government had then changed housing benefit rules, so issues were being unpicked arising from the schemes. Talks were progressing positively and were hoped to be rectified, following which the position would be firmed up. Ward Councillors were asked to be kept informed of Extra Care schemes.
- The last planning application for St Georges Church Yard had had an interesting suggestion to meander the path to improve sight lines. It was note that Cultural Quarter capital funding once associated with St Georges Church Yard was being looked at. Ward Councillors would be sent the design once known.
- Members were interested to see the filling in of the underpass in Beaumont Leys, particularly in reference to tragedy of Sarah Everard. It was asked of there were any plans to fill in the St Margaret's underpass. The City Mayor

agreed and was mindful of the fact the underpass was unpleasant and in most need of being filled in with a better crossing to take its place. It was hoped the scheme could be brought forward in the near future and was on the priority list of works.

The Chair thanked officers for the report.

AGREED:

That:

1. The report be noted.
2. Ward Councillors be kept informed of Extra Care Schemes.
3. Ward Councillors be provided with the design of St Georges Church Yard once known.

### **169. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR**

- a) Councillor Porter asked the City Mayor who would be his choice to replace him as Labour Party candidate at the next election.

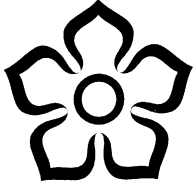
The City Mayor responded it was his hope to be reselected and serve another term, but it would be the choice of the Labour Party and electorate. He added there were many months before a decision would be taken and he had many things to do as the city moved out of pandemic and to deliver the manifesto commitments.

- b) Councillor Thalukdar had a request to the City Mayor as Bangladesh celebrated its 50 years independence on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Because of the pandemic in the city and around the world, people were not celebrating outdoors. He said it had been an achievement for the Bangladeshi people in 1971 when a lot of people had sacrificed their lives. Councillor Thalukdar asked if the City Mayor could send a message to the Bangladeshi people in the city of Leicester on the eve of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The City Mayor said he would be delighted to do send a message to the Bangladeshi community that had brought and given so much to the city, and that there would be some degree of celebration but some memories of pain.

### **170. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There being no items of urgent business, the meeting closed at 7:39pm.



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City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**All Wards - Corporate Issue**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
**Overview Select Committee**

**27 May 2021**

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## Tracking of Petitions - Monitoring Report

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### Report of the Monitoring Officer

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on the current status of responses to petitions against the Council's target of providing a formal response within 3 months of being referred to the Divisional Director.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the current status of outstanding petitions and to agree to remove those petitions marked 'Petition Process Complete' from the report.

#### 3. Report

The Committee is responsible for monitoring the progress and outcomes of petitions received within the Council. An Exception Report, showing those petitions currently outstanding or for consideration at the current Overview Select Committee meeting is attached.

The Exception Report contains comments on the current progress on each of the petitions. The following colour scheme approved by the Committee is used to highlight progress and the report has now been re-arranged to list the petitions in their colour groups for ease of reference:

- **Red** – denotes those petitions for which a pro-forma has not been completed within three months of being referred to the Divisional Director.
- **Petition Process Complete** - denotes petitions for which a response pro-forma has sent to the relevant Scrutiny Commission Chair for comment, subsequently endorsed

by the Lead Executive Member and the Lead Petitioner and Ward Members informed of the response to the petition.

- **Green** – denotes petitions for which officers have proposed a recommendation in response to a petition, and a response pro-forma has been sent to the relevant Scrutiny Commission Chair for comment, before being endorsed by the Lead Executive Member.
- **Amber** – denotes petitions which are progressing within the prescribed timescales, or have provided clear reasoning for why the three-month deadline for completing the response pro-forma has elapsed.

In addition, all Divisional Directors have been asked to ensure that details of **all** petitions received direct into the Council (not just those formally accepted via a Council Meeting or similar) are passed to the Monitoring Officer for logging and inclusion on this monitoring schedule.

#### **4. Financial, Legal and Other Implications**

There are no legal, financial or other implications arising from this report.

#### **5. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

The Council's current overall internal process for responding to petitions.

#### **6. Consultations**

Staff in all teams who are progressing outstanding petitions.

#### **7. Report Author**

Angie Smith  
Democratic Services Officer  
Ext. 376354

Date Petition referred to Divisional Director	Received From	Subject	Type - Cncr (C) Public (P)	No. of Sig	Ward	Date Receipt Reported to Council (C) / Committee (Cttee)	Lead Divisional Director	Current Position	Scrutiny Chair Involvement	Date of Final Response Letter Sent to Lead Petitioner	Current Status	Ref. No.
11/03/2020	Brenda Worrall (on behalf of Leicester CND)	Petition asking the council to make Leicester a Nuclear Ban Community	(p)	96	City-wide	19/03/2020 (C)	Miranda Cannon / Kamal Adatia	Following a question on the topic raised by the petition, at full Council on 19 March 2020, the City Mayor confirmed that he intended to bring a motion to the Council seeking to resolve a clear position in relation to the global threat of nuclear weaponry and the particular developments referred to in the petition. Due to the current abeyance of Council meetings, it is not currently possible to indicate when that will be.	Proforma returned by the Scrutiny Chair		GREEN	20/03/01
23/12/2020	Elyas Adam	Petition to get on-street parking for residents of Freeman Road North. Signatures were also received from Trafford Road and King Edward Road	(p)	77	Evington		Andrew L Smith	When this current program of works has been completed the council will look to identify further areas where resident's parking would be appropriate, where residents are having problems parking due to commuters, and shoppers etc. The petition will be treated as a request for residents' parking for the 3 streets named in the petition and placed on the database of requests.	Proforma returned by the Scrutiny Chair	21/04/2021	PETITION COMPLETE	20/12/02
25/02/2021	Rumena Rahman	Petition requesting resident parking for Rowsley Street	(p)	58	Stoneygate		Andrew L Smith	Councillors have been emailed for comments. All research work has been completed. Comments awaited prior to completion of proforma.			AMBER	21/02/01
13/04/2021	Kulbir Singh Soand	Petition for the one-way traffic system to be reverted back to two-way.	(p)	46	North Evington		Andrew L Smith	Petition forwarded to the Director			AMBER	21/04/01
20/04/2021	Mrs Sabaia Khan	Petition re the purchase of allotment land to the rear of properties	(p)	14	Evington		John Leach	Petition forwarded to the Director			AMBER	21/04/02
26/04/2021	Mr Altafbhai Sidat	Petition request to remove the 24 hour bus lane on Taylor Road.	(p)	75	Wycliffe		Andrew L Smith	Petition forwarded to the Director			AMBER	21/04/03

RED - Pro-forma not completed within 3 months of being referred to Divisional Director

PETITION PROCESS COMPLETE - Scrutiny Chair commented on Pro-forma, Lead Executive Member signed off response and final letter sent to Lead Petitioner.

GREEN - Lead Executive Member consulted on proposed response and Pro-forma sent to Scrutiny Chair

AMBER - Petition response progressing within 3 months of being referred to Divisional Director



# Appendix C

## Report to Overview Select Committee

Date of Committee meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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# Enhancing Women's Safety

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood & Environmental  
Services

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Daxa Pancholi, Head of Community Safety & Protection
- Author contact details: 0116 454 0203
- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database: 1

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to;
- a) outline the current community safety work around ensuring women's safety,
  - b) the process to be used to improve women's safety further within Leicester city and,
  - c) outline the opportunity to access government funding to undertake proactive community safety work which will make a difference to the daily lives of women and girls.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The issue around women safety has become more prevalent over the recent years. Leicester City Council takes this matter seriously and as such has undertaken considerable work around the domestic and sexual violence agenda. Whilst domestic and sexual violence and abuse issues affect both men and women, the majority of victims tend to be women and girls. In addition to this stream of work, existing community safety work undertaken to date, whilst not focussed on women's safety solely enhances women's safety e.g. work around prostitution, night-time economy, target hardening of homes and public spaces.
- 2.2 Safer Leicester Partnership (the city's community safety partnership) will be reviewing the work that it currently undertakes around this agenda and identify any further strategic steps that can be taken within a partnership context. In terms of the actual delivery, the Safer Leicester Partnership's Community Safety Tasking Group (CSTG) will identify a programme of work that can be undertaken to improve women safety.
- 2.3 Furthermore, the Government has faced mounting pressure to make our streets safer following the murder of Sarah Everard. In a bid to improve security, the Home Office has made available £25 million through a programme called the Safer Streets fund. This fund will be allocated through a bidding round where police authority areas will be invited to submit bids, with costed proposals against the type of issues which are to be addressed.
- 2.4 This funding can be used, for instance on better lighting and CCTV facilities in the streets so women feel safer walking through streets, parks etc. That said, it will be up to individual areas to identify key issues and hotspots for their city and then in turn agree on a programme of actions and solutions. The Home Office will be looking for innovative and creative set of actions that bring



together and involve both local communities and the voluntary sector in the identification of solutions.

- 2.5 As this work progresses, a further report with detailed plans and activities will be brought to the Committee for comments later in the year.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that members of the Committee note the current work being undertaken on this agenda and comment on the proposed way forward identifying any additional steps that can be taken to address the issue of women's safety.

### 4. Report

- 4.1 Leicester City Council has for some time taken the issue of women's safety seriously, and with this in mind resourced considerable work around the domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) agenda.
- 4.2 The current four Leicester City Council DSVA services (all delivered by UAVA) started on 1/12/15, these are;
- Children, young people and families service (CYPFS) for sexual and domestic violence. This incorporates practical and emotional support and is for children and young people of any age.
  - Safe Home Service, which is for those who do not have safe housing due to sexual or domestic violence. This service can secure homes where appropriate, give housing advice and support and provide emergency supported accommodation (refuge provision).
  - Domestic Violence Perpetrator Interventions service. This is for men and women and is aimed at those who want to change their behaviour (they have not been ordered by a court to do so). This includes partner/ ex-partner support and a variety of individual and group work programmes.
  - Information and Support Service. This includes helpline, individual and group support across all levels of risk (of harm) and need and includes counselling, recovery, crisis and advocacy work.
- 4.3 In addition to this the city council and partners have undertaken work within the night-time economy such as "Ask Angela" which provides women with an opportunity to alert bar staff should they feel vulnerable and unsafe. A further initiative, involved the establishment of a safe haven via the use of the CityBus by the Clock Tower in the city centre, where individuals are able to report crime, minor cuts etc. Furthermore, significant work has been undertaken to safeguard sex workers by offering health and safety advice as well as advice on how to stay safe on the street.

- 4.4 Officers are also exploring the use of a digital platform and applications to help make city spaces safer, particularly for women. An example of this is the use of MySafetipin app which helps inform decisions about moving around a city, based on the safety score of an area. The app is free and uses crowd-sourced data.
- 4.5 A recent bid was submitted through the “Changing Futures” funding stream, it is expected that the funding will improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantages. Leicester’s submission specifically includes the following with a significant emphasis on women;
- a) Women with Multiple Disadvantage particularly sex workers
  - b) Prison leavers including short term/revolving door offenders
  - c) Those with a dual diagnosis or proposed dual diagnosis
  - d) Complex mental health cases
- This bid was submitted on 6<sup>th</sup> of May, it is expected that a decision will be announced at the end of May/ early June.
- 4.6 The Safer Leicester Partnership produce a 3-year plan which contains a number of priorities. These priorities are determined through identifying threat, harm, and risks that the city faces which partners agree should be addressed through joint effort. These priorities are reviewed annually to ensure they remain focussed and that appropriate joint planning and resourcing allocation around these key issues is being undertaken. When undertaking a review, consultation takes place with key stakeholders, members of the public and elected members.
- 4.7 Keeping women safe has always been an important matter; to ensure and given recent national concerns this is to be further considered by the Safer Leicester Partnership at its next meeting, taking on board any feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.8 Once an area of work has been added and recognised as a priority for the Safer Leicester Partnership, this will ensure that there is additional activity and resourcing to address the priority that has been agreed. In order to then achieve a difference on the ground, the priority will be addressed via a multi-agency group; as such, it is expected that this workstream will be delivered through the community safety tasking group. This group consists of officers from, the city council, the blue light services, the two universities, university hospitals of Leicester etc
- 4.9 Further to the above, the Home Office will be providing support under the Safer Streets Fund towards addressing women’s safety concerns. This initiative was previously focussed purely on serious acquisitive crime e.g. robbery, burglary, theft of vehicle. In the wake of Sarah Everard’s death, the Government announced an additional £25m for the Safer Streets fund specifically around Violence Against Women & Girls; this additional funding has been made available to specifically focus on the safety of women and as the Home Office term it by “*increasing the safety of public spaces of concern*”

*for women and girls*". The funding opportunity formally opened on the 10<sup>th</sup> May (with a bid deadline of 18<sup>th</sup> June).

- 4.10 As this round of Safer Streets funding is being specifically focussed around "*increasing the safety of public spaces of concern for women and girls*"; in order to co-ordinate activities around Leicestershire; local stakeholders have come together to discuss three potential innovative approaches/ bids.
- 4.11 The type of proposals which partners have suggested come under three headings that is, community, spaces, and people; outline below are some of the ideas discussed to improve women's safety.
- a. Community
- Corporate responsibility expectations established to create safe spaces both at night and during the day, such as 24hr petrol stations, corner shops and public facing buildings where women can safely go to for support and assistance.
  - Being more proactive post incident to build community confidence around the use of that public space.
  - Stalking and harassment, run campaigns on this issue, to encourage reporting.
- b. Spaces
- Making spaces busier and therefore safer; planning consideration would need to be taken into account.
  - Increased use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR).
  - Improved street lighting and CCTV especially in parks/ open spaces.
  - Working with taxi drivers, licensees (what to look out for/ do) and ensuring safe routes home especially at night.
- c. People
- Work with perpetrators; instilling safer/healthy relationships.
  - Education in schools encouraging discussions around the consequences of negative behaviour.
  - Work with universities to address students at the start of adult life around this issue.
  - Tackle misogynistic attitudes.
  - Work with sex workers; supporting them to keep and stay safe.
  - Women of different age groups may need tailored support to keep them safe.
- 4.12 The new Police & Crime Commissioner will determine exactly which geographical areas are to be targeted for this funding opportunity; but given the lack of time to prepare the bids and the very different nature of these bids compared to previous Safer Streets rounds, LLR wide conversation are being initiated around this issue from a prevention perspective. The workshop focussed around the Safer Streets opportunity, but the outputs may well support wider work across LLR.

## **5.0 Way Forward**

- 5.1 Officers will bring a further report to a future meeting of the Overview Select Committee with detailed plans of how this area of work is to be delivered via the Safer Leicester Partnership.
- 5.2 Partners will have also had an opportunity to discuss and submit proposals towards the Safer Streets Fund programme; this information too, will be shared with Overview Select Committee.

## **5. Financial, legal, and other implications**

### 5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implication contained in this report, that said depending on the proposals contained within the bid submitted to the Home Office, city council teams may receive funding to deliver activities on the ground which support women's safety. This decision on how the funding will be utilised will be made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Furthermore should the Safer Leicester Partnership deem this area of work a priority, then a proportion of the monies received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, (that is, Partnership Locality Fund of £238k) may be utilised to fund activities to enhance women's safety.

Amy Oliver, Interim Head of Finance Ext. 454 5667

### 5.2 Legal implications

In terms of any funding, the Council must comply with the funding conditions specified and if the funding is used to procure any services then the Council will be required to comply with internal rules and ensure the funding is used for the specified purpose.

Legal Services can advise on any terms and conditions relating to the funding agreement. Any funding will need to be assessed against subsidy rules.

Seema Patel, Principal Lawyer 454 1406

### 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no significant climate change implications associated with this report. The implications of specific projects proposed or applied for should be considered separately as appropriate.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

### 5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, 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.

The report provides an outline of the opportunity to access government funding to undertake proactive community safety work which will make a difference to the daily lives of women and girls. Whilst this is likely to have a positive impact it is important that going forward so that consideration of equalities impacts is taken into account in the development of any plans/proposals and as an integral part of the decision making process, it is recommended that an Equalities Impact Assessment is undertaken.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Ext 37 4148

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

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Act: implications with regards to the duty of local authorities to consider the impact of their decisions and actions on crime and disorder in the local area.

Daxa Pancholi,  
Head of Community Safety,  
Ext 37 0203

**6. Background information and other papers:**

**7. Summary of appendices:**

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

No

**9. Is this a "key decision"?**

No

**10. If a key decision please explain reason**



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# **Executive Decision- Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Overview Select Committee: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Lead director: Alison Greenhill

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### Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Amy Oliver
- Author contact details: 37 5667
- Report version number: V1

## 1. Summary

This report is the final one in the monitoring cycle for 2020/21 and reports the final outturn for 2020/21.

The year has been dominated by the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic, the need for the Council to incur expenditure to respond to and mitigate the effects of the pandemic, and the loss of income due to facility closure in successive lockdowns. The outturn reported shows the combined effect on our budget of covid related costs and losses, other budgetary variations unrelated to covid and one-off grant received by the Government.

Overall, we are reporting a net underspend of £4.3m, although this does not show the full picture. The pandemic did not end on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The city has experienced a year of enduring transmission with its rates consistently ranked near the top of all local authorities. The contributing factors to this are not going to go away, and vaccination rates are less than the UK average (considerably so for some community groups). National modelling also suggests that a third wave is highly likely although the severity remains to be seen.

Whilst the Government has provided more funding for the pandemic in 2021/22 (principally £11m of unringfenced funding, but also funding to manage local outbreaks and to partially compensate losses of income in the first quarter), it is felt unlikely that the Government will provide more money than has already been announced. Thus, we need to be sure we have sufficient provision for any pandemic related costs in 2021/22. Additionally, members will wish to see a comprehensive set of measures to assist the recovery of the city's economy once the pandemic is over. For this reason, the report proposes setting aside significant sums for these purposes.

Our approach to recording the costs of the pandemic are as follows:

- (a) Extraordinary costs which the Council would not normally incur have been charged to a new budget. These costs have been shown at paragraph 15.6 below;
- (b) Costs of a type the Council normally incurs have been recorded as part of normal budgets (e.g. adult social care costs);
- (c) Grant income received for the pandemic has been either credited to departmental budgets or retained in a central budget. The latter grants are described at paragraph 15.68 below.

The pandemic has affected patterns of service provision with a change in the usual patterns of new adult care packages (and funds available from the NHS). The impact on children's social care is more difficult to determine.

The pandemic has also affected local tax collection. At the end of 20/21, 89.7% of the current year's business rates had been collected compared to 95.7% in 2019/20. 91.6% of council tax had been collected compared to 94.6% in 2019/20. Additional spend was also



incurred on council tax support. A quirk of local authority finance is that the consequent financial losses to the Council do not affect the 2020/21 outturn but impact 2021/22: estimates were reflected in the current year's budget.

Additionally, the Government has provided around £200m for additional rate reliefs and business support grants in 2020/21 which do not affect the outturn and are not included in this report.

## **2. Recommended actions/decision**

2.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- Note the outturn position detailed in the report.
- Approve the following earmarked reserve changes:
  - a) transfer the amounts in City Development & Neighbourhoods as detailed in Appendix B, Paras 5.1,6.1,7.1,9.1 & 10.1 to reserves.
  - b) transfer the amounts in Adult Social Care as detailed in Appendix B, Para12.10 to reserves.
  - c) transfer the underspend in Public Health as detailed in Appendix B, Para 14.5 to reserves.
  - d) transfer sums for capital investment and post covid recovery as discussed in Appendix B, para. 15.5 & 15.7 to reserves.
  - e) transfer of departmental reserves to the managed reserves strategy as detailed in Appendix C, para 4.
  - f) transfer of grants paid in 2020/21 where expenditure will not be incurred until 2021/22 to reserves as detailed in Appendix C, para 5.3 and 5.4.
  - g) merge the children's services pressures with the social care reserve, as detailed in Appendix C, para 4.8.
  - h) merge the Covid reserve with the managed reserves strategy as detailed in Appendix C, para 5.1.
  - i) transfer the underspend of £4.3m equally between the Service Transformation and ICT development reserves to assist with delivering new ways of working and to support the budget strategy for 2022/23.

2.2 The OSC is recommended to:

Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit

## **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

N/A

## **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

The General Fund budget set for the financial year 2020/21 was £282.4m.

Appendix A summarises the budget for 2020/21.

Appendix B provides more detailed commentary on the forecast position for each area of the Council's operations.

## **5. Detailed report**

See appendices

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### 6.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance

### 6.2 Legal implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

### 6.3 Equalities implications

No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as this is not applicable to a budget monitoring report.

### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues

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

No other implications are noted as this is a budget monitoring report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

## **7. Background information and other papers:**

Report to Council on the 19th February 2020 on the General Fund Revenue budget 2020/2021.

Period 4 Monitoring presented to OSC on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Period 6 Monitoring presented to OSC on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

Period 9 Monitoring presented to OSC on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **8. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A – Outturn Summary;

Appendix B – Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances;

Appendix C- Earmarked Reserves;

## **9. 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

## Revenue Budget at Outturn 2020/21

<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>OUTTURN</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>
Financial Services	11,147.9	11,450.2	302.3
Information Services	9,190.3	9,496.2	305.9
Human Resources & Delivery, Communications & Political Governance	9,912.4	9,896.2	(16.2)
Legal Services	2,730.5	3,359.0	628.5
<b>Corporate Resources &amp; Support</b>	<b>32,981.1</b>	<b>34,201.6</b>	<b>1,220.5</b>
Planning, Development & Transportation	14,498.8	23,161.0	8,662.2
Tourism Culture & Inward Investment	4,117.6	6,829.8	2,712.2
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	32,095.5	35,328.1	3,232.6
Estates & Building Services	4,681.8	5,702.0	1,020.2
Departmental Overheads	1,021.0	796.6	(224.4)
Housing Services	2,591.8	2,909.8	318.0
<b>City Development &amp; Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>59,006.5</b>	<b>74,727.3</b>	<b>15,720.8</b>
Adult Social Care & Safeguarding	123,483.2	122,495.6	(987.6)
Adult Social Care & Commissioning	(16,207.3)	(24,580.2)	(8,372.9)
<b>Sub-Total Adult Social Care</b>	<b>107,275.9</b>	<b>97,915.4</b>	<b>(9,360.5)</b>
Strategic Commissioning & Business Support	1,296.0	1,255.5	(40.5)
Learning Services	11,038.3	13,877.0	2,838.7
Children, Young People & Families	65,522.2	60,964.5	(4,557.7)
Departmental Resources	1,042.6	631.8	(410.8)
<b>Sub-Total Education &amp; Children's Services</b>	<b>78,899.1</b>	<b>76,728.8</b>	<b>(2,170.3)</b>
<b>Total Social Care &amp; Education</b>	<b>186,175.0</b>	<b>174,644.2</b>	<b>(11,530.8)</b>
<b>Public Health &amp; Sports Services</b>	<b>23,379.5</b>	<b>26,814.5</b>	<b>3,435.0</b>
Housing Benefits (Client Payments)	500.0	(1,419.4)	(1,919.4)
<b>Total Operational</b>	<b>302,042.1</b>	<b>308,968.2</b>	<b>6,926.1</b>
Corporate Budgets	3,061.8	147.8	(2,914.0)
Additional COVID-19 related expenditure		24,769.9	24,769.9
Additional COVID-19 income		(51,827.0)	(51,827.0)
Post Covid Economic Recovery		20,000.0	20,000.0
Capital Financing	6,316.5	5,022.2	(1,294.3)
<b>Total Corporate &amp; Capital Financing</b>	<b>9,378.3</b>	<b>(1,887.1)</b>	<b>(11,265.4)</b>
Public Health Grant	(26,599.0)	(26,599.0)	0.0
Managed Reserves Strategy	(2,377.4)	(2,377.4)	0.0
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>282,444.0</b>	<b>278,104.7</b>	<b>(4,339.3)</b>

**Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances**

**Corporate Resources and Support**

Corporate Resources Department incurred an overspend of £1.22m on a budget of £33m.

**1. Finance**

- 1.1 Financial Services outturn is a net overspend of £0.3m. An overspend of £0.7m was due to reduced summons costs as debt recovery was delayed on local tax – although tax collection in 20/21 does not affect the outturn, the division budgets for income from summons costs, which was not received. This overspend was reduced by a number of vacancies generating a saving of £0.4m.

**2. Information Services**

- 2.1. Information Services outturn is an overspend of £0.3m due to additional costs in IT Development of £0.9m. This has been offset by vacancies of £0.6m across the division.

**3. Human Resources, Delivery Communications & Political Governance (DCPG)**

- 3.1. The outturn is a net underspend of £16k. This largely occurred due to the slowing down in recruitment of apprentices and additional income from traded activity by HR Operations and Health and Safety. These were partly offset by the costs of the Digital Transformation Team.

**4. Legal, Registration & Coronial Services**

- 4.1. The Legal Services Division has overspent by £0.4m, due to increased staffing costs and loss of income of £0.2m in Registration Services, Local Land Charges and Property Planning due to COVID-19.
- 4.2. Coronial Services outturn is £0.2m due to high costs in pathology tests and increased workload including additional COVID-19 costs, continuing the pattern of recent times.

## **City Development and Neighbourhoods**

The department overspent by £15.7m on a net budget of £59m. The position for each division is as follows:

### **5. Planning, Development and Transportation**

- 5.1. The division overspent by £8.7m. COVID-19 has resulted in a significant loss of income in relation to car parking, bus lane enforcement and planning fees, totalling £7m. In addition, running costs during the year were higher as a result of COVID-19. This report requests that £1.1m of grant income is transferred to the departmental reserves to finance expenditure against those grants which will be incurred in future years.

### **6. Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment**

- 6.1. The division overspent by £2.7m. Income fell short of budget by £7.1m with the most significant effects of COVID-19 being on income at De Montfort Hall, museums and markets. These shortfalls have been partially offset by savings on running costs. This report requests that £0.4m of grant income and contributions are transferred to departmental reserves to finance expenditure which will be incurred in future years.

### **7. Neighbourhood & Environmental Services**

- 7.1. The division has overspent by £3.2m. Within Regulatory Services there has been a significant drop in building control fees and licensing income. Partially offsetting this, the service has benefitted from savings on running costs while buildings such as libraries and community centres have been closed. This report requests that £3.3m is transferred to reserves to finance expenditure which will be incurred in future years. Of this £3m will be set aside for future legal, service design and procurement costs in association with the waste management PFI contract (which ends in 2028).

### **8. Estates & Building Services**

- 8.1. The division overspent by £1.0m largely as a result of lower capital fees being generated on projects being managed by the division. This is partly due to reduced capital works in the pandemic, and partly due to a structural problem with the budget which was resolved when the 2021/22 budget was set. However, savings on running costs have arisen while buildings have been closed.

## **9. Departmental Overheads**

- 9.1. This holds the departmental budgets such as added years' pension costs, postage and departmental salaries. An underspend of £0.2m arose in this regard. This report requests that £9k of funds received upon the transfer of the Leicester DNA Centre Ltd to the Council are placed into reserves for the company.

## **10. Housing General Fund**

- 10.1. The Housing General Fund overspent by £0.3m as a result of additional costs incurred by Fleet Services on repair costs of older vehicles, hire costs and prudential borrowing for the vehicle replacement programme. Additional grant income and staffing underspends in Homelessness services have fully covered the increased cost of temporary accommodation not linked to COVID-19. This report requests that £187k of grant income is transferred to reserves to finance expenditure which will be incurred in future years.

## **11. Housing Revenue Account**

- 11.1. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced income and expenditure account relating to the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The HRA underspent by £0.6m, excluding revenue used for capital spending (which is reported in the capital outturn report).
- 11.2. Rental income was £0.5m lower than budget, primarily due to the closure of Border House. Compounding this, the ability to complete housing benefit claim forms in the early stages of lockdown was limited, leading to some income being lost.
- 11.3. The Repairs & Maintenance service underspent by £1.3m. The extended lockdown meant that additional work to catch up on a repairs backlog that accumulated in tenanted properties did not take place in 2020/21; staff were diverted to assist in turning around void properties. Staffing vacancies throughout the year contributed £0.6m to the underspend, with a further £0.5m from a reduction in material spend from reduced job numbers. There was a £0.6m underspend on the use of contractors, primarily on projects for district heating and structural works. Reduced work brought in £0.4m less income for the HRA, mainly internal to the Council.

- 11.4. Management and Landlord services overspent by £0.8m. The cost of council tax on void properties exceeded the budget by £0.5m, and the cost of property lettings was £0.3m over budget. Additional COVID-19 costs have been offset by underspends on staffing across tenancy management and STAR.
- 11.5. The interest payable by the HRA on its debt was £0.6m lower than the budget.

## **Adult Social Care**

### **12. Adult Social Care**

- 12.1. The pandemic and the resultant extended lock-down has had a significant impact on the adult social care service in 2020/21. This impact has been seen both in terms of changes to the normal annual flows of people entering and exiting the adult social care system and the extent to which additional financial support has been given to providers facing extra costs.
- 12.2. Overall, there has been a net increase of only 46 people in care at the end of the year compared to the start, a 0.9% increase (2.8% in 2019/20). Behind this headline number however, the trend of increasing numbers of working age people in care has continued, with a 7% increase year on year (146 people) compared to 5.8% in 2019/20. These increases are predominantly in those people with mental health issues. However, the trend in recent years of small increases in the numbers of older people in care has been reversed in 2020/21 with a 3.3% net reduction (100 people). This reduction has been seen predominantly in the number of people in residential homes.
- 12.3. Whilst the numbers of requests for support through the normal community routes have been lower this year due to the lockdown, this inflow has been offset by new people coming into care following discharge from hospital, although many of these people have had short term care packages only. During the March to September 2020 period hospital patients were rapidly discharged from hospital with adult social care packages in order to free up bed space. Such patients received their care package free of charge. For those who were already receiving adult social care prior to hospital admission, any charges post-discharge were stopped and the lost fee income recovered from the NHS. For those who were new to adult social care, the service paid for their care package and then re-charged this cost to the NHS. These arrangements came to an end on 1 September and anyone still requiring an ongoing package of care has been subject to the normal financial assessment process.



- 12.4. From September, hospitals have still discharged people back home as rapidly as possible with an initial package of care if required. The NHS has paid for these packages for up to six weeks, until the person has been assessed to determine whether an ongoing care package is necessary. This discharge related funding has continued to the end of the financial year. To date we have re-charged £3.2m of package costs for over 800 people, the vast majority of which were new to the service. In 2019/20 by comparison, the number of new long and short-term entrants was around 2,200.
- 12.5. People have not been able to access services as easily during the lock downs and this has resulted in significantly lower usage of direct payments, lower transport costs and less take up of community equipment and other preventative services.
- 12.6. Whilst the pattern of inflows and outflows in the care system has been different in 2020/21, the increase in need of existing people in care has remained. The rate of increase has been trending steadily upwards in recent years and in 2019/20 was 5.9% - this translated to an in-year cost increase of £6.5m. This year that trend has paused with an increase of 5%, which translates to £6.2m in absolute terms, £0.6m less than the budget. This is predominantly due to fewer numbers of older people with changes to their care package, presumably due to the impact of not wanting or being able to access services during lockdown.
- 12.7. An additional £12.5m of funding has been given to providers during the year to assist with additional COVID related costs, including PPE, agency cover staff, higher sick pay, costs of testing staff and necessary alterations to settings. Of this £3.7m has come directly from the Council and £8.8m from specific Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) grants which have been administered by the service. The Council has provided fee uplifts and advance payments to help with cash-flow. The DHSC grants include the Infection Control Fund, a Rapid Testing Fund (to support increased testing in care homes) and the Workforce Capacity Fund (to boost staffing levels in residential and community settings where there are existing shortages).
- 12.8. Taken as whole, these COVID related factors result in costs which are lower by £5.4m compared to the assumptions in our original pre-pandemic budget. It must be stressed that these lower costs are a temporary one-off event which is attributable to the unique circumstances created by the pandemic in 2020/21.

- 12.9. A further £4m of underspend is not COVID related, although still very much one-off in nature. The bulk of this is one off unbudgeted income received in the 2020/21 accounts, which relates to the final settlement and recovery of prior years' related joint funded income due from NHS via the CCG. Additionally, some expenditure budgets which were uncommitted in 2020/21 but are committed in 2021/22 including those which will contribute to spending review savings.
- 12.10. Taken together, these two COVID and non COVID one off events mean that the service has under-spent the original budget of £107.3m by £9.4m, after the transfers to reserves outlined in the following paragraph, for which approval is sought in this report. For the sake of clarity the £9.4m underspend is one-off in nature and has no bearing on future year's budget assumptions in terms of the level of provider price increases (driven by changes in the rate of the statutory national living wage) and increases in the level of need and demographic changes.
- 12.11. Quite separately from the above, additional payments were received from the CCG out of the Better Care Fund in 2020/21 totalling £5.3m. This funding is to be used to support health inequalities across the city and plans are being developed jointly with the CCG, Public Health, Housing, the voluntary sector and adult social care. It is recommended therefore that the £5.3m, together with a further £1.6m of other health funding covering specific schemes, giving a total of £6.9m be transferred to the NHS joint working ear marked reserve.

## **Education and Children's Services**

### **13. Education and Children's Services**

- 13.1. The pandemic has had a significant impact on certain areas of the Children's services budget, in particular lowering the expected SEN home to school transport costs due to lock down and in delaying the implementation of previously agreed budget reductions from the review of Connexions and the Education Welfare Service. The on-going impact of the pandemic on children's social care is less clear.
- 13.2. The number of looked after children at the end of the year was 657 compared to 621 at the start of the year. The year-end figure includes over 30 children awaiting adoption, double the number at the start of the year, as a result of delays in court proceedings. There was speculation in the sector that during the initial lockdown the potential for abuse and neglect would increase, but go undetected, to be followed by a surge in care entrants once children returned to school in the autumn. In fact, during the

period April to September the number of new LAC was very similar to the previous year. From October onwards there has been an increase in the rate of entry but it is unclear to what extent this is COVID related as there was a similar increase seen in 2019/20 over the same period.

- 13.3. Whilst the number of care entrants was similar to 2019/20, the number exiting care was significantly lower. This has not been helped by the adoption court delays discussed above, however there was also a one-off significant number of LAC moved to special guardianship orders in 2019/20 which distorts the year on year comparison.
- 13.4. Numbers of children in external residential and semi-independent placements at the end of the year have increased in total by 19 to 102 (15.5% of the total), although numbers in independent sector fostering placements (IFAs) have remained broadly constant. There are also a large number of placements with parents and those waiting for adoption which do not incur a placement cost. Nevertheless, the average placement cost of the cohort at the end of the year has increased by 3.5% to £45k pa. One of the main issues seen in 2019/20 was the increase in the number of more complex and difficult to place young people and the resultant higher overall average placement cost for our LAC cohort. As can be seen from the modest increase in average placement cost this year, the position has not deteriorated markedly in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, although clearly the number of high cost placements is still an area of concern.
- 13.5. The service spent £33.9m across all placement types, including SGOs in 2020/21, £1.7m less than the budget, but £2m more than in 2019/20.
- 13.6. Multisystemic Therapy-Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) intervention programmes diverted 143 children from care in-year, with in-year LAC placement cost avoidance of £3.7m, £1.9m net of programme costs.
- 13.7. As a result of the pandemic and the impact on the local economy the review of the Connexions service was postponed with the loss of £0.2m of budgeted savings. New charging arrangements for the Education Welfare Service have been postponed for a year which, together with the loss of penalty notice income resulted in a £0.5m unbudgeted cost.
- 13.8. Additional resources were deployed in the Special Education Service in 2020/21 to deal with a backlog of Education, Health and Care plan assessments and reviews. The additional costs associated with this and the ongoing (although lower than expected due to lockdown) budget pressure from SEN home to school transport costs totalling £2.2m, have

been more than offset by a combination of budget savings elsewhere. These include savings from social care agency and other staffing costs, lower LAC home to school transport and savings in Early Help.

- 13.9. In total Children's services spent £76.7m, £2.2m less than the budget of £78.9m.
- 13.10. The High Needs Block (HNB) allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £59m was overspent by £4.9m. Whilst there was an increased allocation of the HNB in 2020/21 of £6.7m, in effect this was completely absorbed by the underlying shortfall in resources seen in 2019/20 of £6.6m which was 'baked in' to our cost base for 2020/21. As a result, all of the new growth in demand in 2020/21 was unfunded. This demand is driven by the numbers of children with Education, Health and Care plans which have increased year on year by 13.5% to nearly 3,000. This increase has translated to an overall cost increase of 10.5% in direct placement costs in 2020/21.
- 13.11. DSG reserves remain in credit at the end of 2020/21, but only just, with a balance of £1.4m.
- 13.12. Schools have clearly been significantly disrupted in 2020/21. School balances at the end of the year (i.e cumulative funds unspent by schools) have increased overall by £9.4m to £24m. Primary schools increased their balances by £5.9m, secondaries by £3.3m and special schools including PRUs by £0.2m. This significant increase is a combination of cost savings, additional catch up grants not yet utilised together with above inflation increases from the national school funding formula in 2020/21.
- 13.13. Schools have been able to make savings in running costs during the lockdown, including in utilities, exam fees, learning resources, training and agency staff. There were of course increased cleaning costs but overall, these savings amounted to £5.7m. Schools also received £1.8m of catch up grants which will be predominantly spent in 2021/22. The national funding formula also provided an average increase of around 5.3% for the schools' main budget in 2020/21, although some schools benefited well in excess of 10%.

## **Public Health & Sports Services**

### **14. Public Health & Sports Services**

- 14.1. In early July, the city was placed in extended lockdown, and an extensive local testing operation was launched. The costs of this have been recorded against the central budget for pandemic costs.
- 14.2. Public Health and Sports spent £25.7m, £2.3m more than the budget of £23.4m. Sports services contributed £3.4m to this overspend, with Public Health itself being £1.1m underspent.
- 14.3. The costs of the sexual health service provided by Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust during the lockdown have been subject to negotiations as activity levels have been low during this period, as these services do not allow social distancing. A similar situation also applied to GP provided health checks. The overall impact of this was an underspend of £0.8m across the two services, compared to a total budget of £3.9m.
- 14.4. Other underspends of £0.3m include vacancies in the Integrated Lifestyle Services team and in the main public health team together with the deferral of the bi-annual public health annual surveys.
- 14.5. It is recommended that the underspend within Public Health of £1.1m is transferred to an ear marked reserve to fund catch up work in 2021/22. The main driver of the underspend was the disruption to the sexual health and health check services due to COVID. The proposal for this area in particular is to commission catch up activity for Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and NHS Health Checks to reduce the adverse effects of the reduced provision in 2020 on the health of Leicester's citizens.
- 14.6. Sports Services have been severely affected by the lockdown with income down by 95% against a budget of £5.9m. The service was able to make some savings in pay, utility and other running costs totalling £2.1m, resulting in an overall overspend of £3.4m

## Corporate Items & Reserves

### 15. Corporate Items

- 15.1. The corporate budgets cover the Council's capital financing costs, items such as audit fees, bank charges and levies.
- 15.2. An additional corporate budget was created for all costs incurred as a direct consequence of the pandemic, other than those which cannot be distinguished from normal departmental activity (the chief exclusion is social care costs, which were charged to the department). All income shortfalls also fell to departments. Throughout 2020/21 we saw continued expenditure on PPE, communication, track and trace to reduce transmissions and accommodation to support rough sleepers. The table below summarises the expenditure recorded in the new budget, and the final cost:

Type of Expenditure	Forecast £000's
Food Hub	813
Community mobilisation	86
Accommodation	2,596
IT costs	778
Communications	2,071
Property costs including PPE	2,358
Staffing	3,502
Other	690
Transport	1,100
Supporting Self Isolators and the Vulnerable	138
Supporting testing	638
Pandemic Recovery	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,770</b>

- 15.2. As the pandemic continues, it is apparent that funding is going to be required for a recovery package and to support budgets in 2021/22. This was recognised at period 9, when an additional contribution of £10m was suggested to be met from the above budget, with a view to further consideration as the year progressed.
- 15.3. Funding will be needed to support service provision and vulnerable people, and to facilitate economic recovery. This will require a combination of capital and revenue spend. The Government has made £11m available for emergency support in 2021/22 (and some other sums). A further £11m of unringfenced funding was made available at the end of 2019/20: this can now be included in managed reserves for covid related revenue expenditure, doubling the amount the Government has provided for 2021/22. From the new corporate budget, it is proposed to make available

£10m for capital projects that support recovery as shown in the above table.

15.4. When the Council set the budget for 2021/22, £30m was set aside within managed reserves to fund covid related expenditure. It is believed this will no longer be needed for dealing with immediate aspects of the pandemic given the package described above. £20m can therefore be used to support future budget strategies (to manage the expected significant cuts we will be required to make after this year). It has, of course, been very difficult to make ongoing budget savings during the pandemic, and the scale of future cuts is therefore itself an indirect consequence of the pandemic. It is proposed that the remaining £10m is used to support income generating capital investment which will also support future budgets. In total, £42m of managed reserves will be available to support future budgets.

15.6 It is also proposed to set aside £20m from the 20/21 final budget to provide a separate post covid economic capital investment package, which will principally be used to support bids to the Government's levelling up fund, which (if successful) will lever in many times this sum. This is shown separately in the table at Appendix A.

#### 15.7 Additional Covid Income

Grant income received from the Government has been credited to a central account, except where it was sensible to allocate the money to specific departments. £52m has been received (or is still due) for 20/21. The key sums are:

- (a) £22.7m of unringfenced emergency support;
- (b) £8.0m to partially compensate income losses (which is still subject to review by the Government);
- (c) £11.4m to manage and mitigate the effects of outbreaks;
- (d) £1.8m to support the extremely clinically vulnerable.

#### 15.8 Capital Financing

Capital financing costs relate to principal and interest payments on debt incurred on historic capital expenditure, offset by income on investments. A full report on treasury activity is elsewhere on your agenda. Savings have been achieved on this budget due to higher than expected investment income. This has been achieved by means of loans to local authorities for over one year which were placed before interest rates dropped in the pandemic (and exceeded pre-covid expectations) and the receipt of grant income in advance of need.

## Earmarked Reserves – Year-end Summary

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. Earmarked reserves represent sums set aside for specific purposes. This is in contrast to the annual revenue budget, which exists to support the Council's day-to-day operations. Reserves are however increasingly being used to mitigate future budget pressures.
- 1.2. Reserves are created or dissolved with the approval of the City Mayor. Directors may make contributions to reserves provided that the purpose of the reserve is within the scope of the budget from which the contribution was made. Directors may withdraw money from reserves to support spending that is consistent with the purpose for which the reserve was created.
- 1.3. Earmarked reserves can be divided into different categories: information on the larger reserves in each category is detailed below.

### 2. Ring-fenced reserves

Ringfenced reserves, are funds held by the Council but for which we have obligations to other partners or organisations

2.1 The following reserves are ringfenced for schools;

2020-21	Balance at 31st March 2020	Total in Year Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000
DSG not delegated to schools	5,577	(4,144)	1,433
School Balances	14,954	9,154	24,108
School Capital Fund	2,750	3	2,753
Schools Buy Back	2,486	(57)	2,429
<b>Total School Ring Fenced Reserves</b>	<b>25,768</b>	<b>4,955</b>	<b>30,723</b>

2.2 DSG not delegated to schools is principally for spending on the High Needs Block. Schools' balances have increased for the reasons explained in the report.



2.3 The following reserves are ringfenced for Arts Council & Education & Skills Funding.

2020-21	Balance at 31st March 2020	Total in Year Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000
Education & Skills Funding agency Learning Programmes	863	249	1,112
Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation Funding	822	23	845
<b>Total Other Ring Fenced Resources</b>	<b>1,686</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>1,958</b>

### 3. Capital Programme Reserve

This reserve supports approved spending on the Council's capital programme. It has increased by the £40m proposed as detailed earlier in the report. This is a provisional balance until the capital financing is completed for 2020/21.

2020-21	Balance at 31st March 2020	Total in Year Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Capital Programme Reserve</b>	<b>57,591</b>	<b>39,996</b>	<b>97,588</b>

### 4. Departmental Reserves

Departmental reserves are held by services to fund specific projects or identified service pressures identified. A number of the reserves were reviewed at outturn identifying £0.6m that was available to be transferred to the managed reserves strategy.

2020-21	Balance at 31st March 2020	Total in Year Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000
Financial Services Reserve	4,070	(1,018)	3,052
ICT Development Fund	6,265	2,170	8,434
Delivery, Communications & Political Governance	4,550	(1,073)	3,477
Housing	2,118	240	2,358
City Development (Excl Housing)	5,308	4,074	9,382
Social Care Reserve	17,142	200	17,342
Health & Wellbeing Division	4,088	204	4,292
NHS Joint Working Projects	2,483	6,937	9,420
Other Departmental Reserves	1,037	(573)	464
<b>Total Other Departmental Reserves</b>	<b>47,061</b>	<b>11,159</b>	<b>58,221</b>

Detail on the larger reserves is provided below: -

- 4.1 **City Developments and Neighbourhoods:** to meet known one-off costs relating to highways activities, provisions for insurance claims and other contingent events, along with the funding for projects that have carried forward into 2021-22.
- 4.2 **Delivery Communications & Political Governance:** this is principally for elections and other projects within the department.
- 4.3 **ICT:** rolling funds for network and server upgrades, mobile airtime and upgrade of PC stock. It also funds initiatives to make ICT more resilient and to improve remote working. This reserve includes the proposed transfer of £2.17m to support the delivering new ways of working included in the recommendations to this report.
- 4.4 **Financial Services:** for expenditure on improving the Council's main financial systems; spikes in benefit processing and overpayment recovery; and to mitigate budget pressures including reducing grant income to the Revenues & Benefits service.
- 4.5 **Health & Wellbeing:** to support service pressures, channel shift and transitional costs.
- 4.6 **Housing:** to meet spikes in temporary accommodation costs, hold grant funding for homelessness projects that will continue into 2021-22, and government funding to support recent arrivals to the city.
- 4.7 **NHS Joint Working Projects:** the government has provided funding for joint working between adult social care & the NHS. The £6.9m increase is explained in the report above.
- 4.8 **Social Care Reserve:** this reserve was created to assist with the management of in-year pressures in both adults and children's social care, and has now been merged with the Children's Reserve which was set up for a similar purpose. The first call on this reserve will be to fund future social care budgets, and secondly to manage fluctuations in year. It is suggested that £10m is notionally allocated for the former purpose but this will be reviewed after receiving the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.

## 5. Corporate reserves

Corporate reserves are those held for purposes applicable to the organisation as a whole and not any specific service and are administered corporately

2020-21	Balance at 31st March 2020	Total in Year Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000
Managed Reserves Strategy	77,657	(7,397)	70,259
Covid-19 -Business Rates deficit reserve	-	22,291	22,291
Business Support Grants	-	2,722	2,722
BSF Financing	7,493	1,145	8,638
Insurance Fund	8,519	2,089	10,609
Severance Fund	4,821	6	4,827
Service Transformation Fund	3,730	2,137	5,867
Welfare Reserve	5,505	890	6,395
Other Corporate Reserves	4,604	48	4,652
<b>Total Corporate Revenue Resources</b>	<b>112,328</b>	<b>23,932</b>	<b>136,260</b>

Detail on these reserves is provided below: -

- 5.1 **Managed Reserves Strategy:** a key element to delivering our budget strategy, as set out in the budget report for 2021-22 and ongoing. The transfers relate to departmental reserves as discussed earlier in the report. Of this £70m, Council approved the use of £17m to support the 21/22 budget. £11m is allocated for covid costs as described above, and £42m for future budget strategies.
- 5.2 **Covid-19 Business Rates Deficit Reserve:** the government provided grant funding in 2020/21 to enable councils to pay additional business rate reliefs. However, due to the way local tax is accounted for, the reliefs do not affect the general fund until 2021/22. This reserve is essentially an accounting reserve which will be fully used in 2021/22.
- 5.3 **Business Support Grants Reserve:** the government provided grant funding in 2020/21 to support businesses during the pandemic. The balance of funding is required for grants to businesses in 2021/22.
- 5.4 **BSF Financing:** to manage costs over the remaining life of the BSF scheme and lifecycle maintenance costs of the redeveloped schools.
- 5.5 **Severance Fund:** to facilitate ongoing savings by meeting the redundancy and other costs arising from budget cuts.
- 5.6 **Insurance Fund:** to meet the cost of insurance claims: nearly all our costs are met from this fund.

- 5.7 **Service Transformation Fund:** to fund projects which redesign services enabling them to function effectively at reduced cost. This reserve includes the proposed transfer of £2.17m to support the delivering new ways of working included in the recommendations to this report.
- 5.8 **Welfare Reserve:** this reserve provides support for welfare reform and welfare support more generally, which would include the potential longer term implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.9 **Other reserves:** includes monies for spend to save schemes that reduce energy consumption, the combined heat and power reserve, and the surplus property reserve to prepare assets for disposal

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# **Executive Decision Capital Budget Monitoring April- March 2020/21**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Overview Select Committee: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Lead director/officer: Alison Greenhill

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Amy Oliver
- Author contact details: amy.oliver@leicester.gov.uk

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to show the position of the capital programme at the end of 2020/21.
- 1.2 This is the final capital monitoring report of the financial year following similar monitoring reports as at Period 4, Period 6 and Period 9.
- 1.3 As reported throughout the year the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the capital programme, with many schemes delayed. Some £36.9m slippage has been reported on work programmes, the chief reason for which is the pandemic. A number of projects have had to revise their forecast completion dates, some of these schemes are now showing as green in the RAG rating as the revised dates are expected to be met. This will have an impact on capacity to deliver additional schemes next year as we make up for lost time and was considered when putting the 2021/22 capital budget together.
- 1.4 Work is continuing to monitor any additional cost pressures as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2. Recommended actions/decision

2.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- Note total spend of £133.5m for the year.
- Note the progress in delivery of major projects, as shown at Appendix A.
- Note progress on spending work programmes, as shown at Appendix B, and approve the carry-forward of resources into 2021/22 for schemes where spend has slipped into 2021/22 (£36.9m).
- Note that the majority of provisions remain unspent as shown at Appendix C and approve the carry forward of the Early Years – Two Year Olds provision into 2021/22 (£141k), Appendix C, Para 1.4.
- Note that across a number of schemes, £6.3m has been declared as savings following completion of schemes within budget. Of this £5m was funded by Corporate resources and will now be available for future capital projects.
- Approve the transfer of £1.7m from additional secondary school places to the schools' capital maintenance work programme to fund the ongoing costs for the temporary modular buildings up to 2028.
- Approve the transfer of £1m to Connecting Leicester from Pioneer Park Infrastructure, as detailed at Appendix A, Planning, Development & Transportation, Para 2.2.

- Approve the addition of £850k to assist with the redevelopment of land at Stocking Farm and Southfields/Newry, to be funded with a contribution from One Public Estate Land Release Fund. The redevelopment is aimed at assisting with preparation of the land for building homes.
- Approve the addition of £798k to Highways Maintenance, funded by DfT grant, Appendix B, para 3.6.
- Approve the addition of £750k to Additional SEND places, funded from the underspend on additional secondary school places, Appendix A, Children's Services, Para 2.1.
- Approve the addition of £562k for replacement of cladding on the Phoenix Square building to be funded by grant from Homes England, as detailed at Appendix B para 3.19.
- Approve the addition of £290k for refurbishment of Knighton Park and Evington Park depots, funded from the depot reserve.

The OSC is recommended to:

- Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.

### 3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

N/a

### 4. Background and options with supporting evidence

4.1 The 2020/21 Capital programme was initially approved by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020. It has subsequently been amended after monitoring exercises.

The capital programme is split in the following way:

- (a) Schemes classified as '**immediate starts**', which require no further approval to commence; and
- (b) A number of separate '**policy provisions**' which are not released until specific proposals have been approved by the Executive.

4.2 Immediate Starts are further split into:

- (a) **Projects**, which are discrete, individual schemes such as a road scheme or a new building. Monitoring of projects focusses on delivery of projects on time and the achievement of milestones. Consequently, there is no attention given to in-year financial slippage;
- (b) **Work Programmes**, which consist of minor works or similar on-going schemes where there is an allocation of money to be spent during a particular year. Monitoring of work programmes focusses on whether the money is spent in a timely fashion;

- (c) **Provisions**, which are sums of money set aside in case they are needed, where low spend is a favourable outcome rather than indicative of a problem;
- (d) **Schemes which are substantially complete**. These schemes are the tail end of schemes in previous years' capital programmes, usually consisting of small amounts of money brought forward from earlier years.

4.3 A summary of the total approved 2020/21 capital programme as at Period 12 is shown below:

	<b>£000</b>
Projects	217,280
Work Programmes	141,302
Provisions	202
Schemes Substantially Complete	29,070
<b>Total Immediate Starts</b>	<b>387,854</b>
Policy Provisions	35,308
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>423,162</b>

4.4 The following changes have occurred to the capital programme since Period 9:

	<b>£000</b>
Energy Efficiency Technology addition	24,341
Jewry Wall addition	2,500
Goscote House Demolition addition	1,952
Council Housing - External Property Works - re profiled	892
External Property Works addition	400
Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Expansion addition	250
Highways Maintenance addition	170
Fashion Technology Academy addition	100
<b>Net Movements</b>	<b>30,605</b>

These movements are included in the table at 4.3 above.

4.5 The following appendices to this report show progress on each type of scheme:

- Appendix A – Projects
- Appendix B – Work Programmes
- Appendix C – Provisions
- Appendix D – Projects Substantially Complete
- Appendix E – Policy Provisions

4.6 This report only monitors policy provisions to the extent that spending approval has been given, at which point they will be classified as projects, work programmes or provisions.



#### 4.7 Capital Receipts

4.7.1 At Period 12, the Council has realised £11.7m of General Fund capital receipts, of which £4.5m is unallocated to the approved capital programme.

4.7.2 "Right to Buy" receipts from sales of council housing have amounted to £10.6m received in year.

#### **5. Detailed report**

N/A

### **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

#### 6.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, 37 4001

#### 6.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

Emma Jackman, Head of Law (Commercial, Property and Planning).

#### 6.3 Equalities implications

No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as this is not applicable to a budget monitoring report.

#### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

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

No other implications are noted as this is a budget monitoring report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

**7. Background information and other papers:**

Capital Programme 2020/21 presented to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2020/21 presented to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

2019/20 Capital Monitoring Outturn Report presented to OSC on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

2020/21 Capital Monitoring P4 Report presented to OSC on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

2020/21 Capital Monitoring P6 Report presented to OSC on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

2020/21 Capital Monitoring P9 Report presented to OSC on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**8. Summary of appendices:**

- Appendix A – Projects
- Appendix B – Work Programmes
- Appendix C – Provisions
- Appendix D – Projects Substantially Complete
- Appendix E – Policy Provisions

**9. 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

## PROJECTS

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, the focus of monitoring projects is physical delivery, i.e. whether they are being delivered on time, on budget and to the original specification. This appendix summarises progress on projects. Project summaries provided by departments/divisions are shown on pages 10-21 within this Appendix.

Department / Division	Total Budget £000	2020/21 Spend £000
Corporate Resources	1,166	428
Smart Cities	200	10
Adult Social Care	2,510	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	116,302	36,611
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	25,981	2,217
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	2,261	409
Estates & Building Services	28,097	180
Children's Services	23,519	3,714
Public Health	3,056	2,016
Housing Revenue Account	14,188	7,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,280</b>	<b>52,905</b>

- 1.2 A list of the individual projects is shown in the table on pages 8-9 of this report. This also summarises the progress of each project. Attention is drawn to expected completion dates and any project issues that have arisen.
- 1.3 A colour-coded rating of progress of each project has been determined, based on whether the project is progressing as expected, and whether it is still expected to complete within budget.
- 1.4 The ratings used are:
- (a) **Green** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives seems very likely. There are no major issues that appear to threaten delivery significantly.
  - (b) **Amber** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives appears probable. However, some risks exist and close attention will be required to ensure these risks do not materialise into major issues threatening delivery. Alternatively, a project is classed as amber if some insubstantial slippage or minor overspend is probable.

- (c) **Red** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives appears to be unachievable. The project is expected to require redefining, significant additional time or additional budget.
- (d) **Blue** The project is complete.
- (e) **Purple** The project is on hold, for reasons which have nothing to do with management of the capital programme. Examples include reconsideration of whether the project is still needed as originally proposed, or withdrawal of a funder.

## 2. Summary of Individual Projects

Dept/ Division	Project	Total Budget (£000)	2020/21 Spend (£000)	O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P12
CRS	Cash Income Management System	566	36	(530)	Jan-20	Oct-21	Purple	Blue
CRS	Corporate LAN/WAN Network Cisco Infrastructure Replacement	600	392	0	Dec-21	Dec-21	Green	Green
SC	Smart Cities Pilot Projects	200	10	0	Dec-20	Mar-22	Amber	Green
ASC	Extra Care Schemes	2,510	0	0	Aug-20	TBC	Purple	Purple
CDN (PDT)	Leicester North West Major Transport Scheme	5,778	5,434	(35)	Mar-20	Mar-21	Green	Blue
CDN (PDT)	Connecting Leicester	67,613	15,914	0	Nov-20	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	9,892	2,989	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St George's Churchyard	812	9	0	Aug-18	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Ashton Green	625	317	0	Mar-21	Mar-22	Green	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Pioneer Park	2,406	699	(1,080)	Jan-21	May-21	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Pioneer Park Commercial Workspace (formerly Dock 2)	4,892	4,699	0	Spring 18	May-21	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Ashton Green Highways Infrastructure	8,584	4,824	0	Mar-21	Nov-21	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	200	0	0	Mar-21	Jun-21	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	North West Leicester Regeneration Area	500	101	0	Mar-22	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St Margaret's Gateway	13,500	1,552	0	Sep-22	Sep-22	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	High Streets Heritage Action Zones	1,500	73	0	Apr-24	Apr-24	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	16,735	1,377	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Market Redevelopment	2,916	319	0	Dec-21	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Abbey Pumping Station	246	7	0	Mar-19	Nov-21	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Gresham Business Workspace	250	0	0	Mar-21	Sep-21	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Onsite Construction Skills Hub	818	0	0	Dec-22	Dec-22	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	New Walk Museum Phase 1	2,439	63	0	Mar-22	Mar-23	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Museums Security Programme	125	0	0	Nov-21	Nov-21	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Visit Leicester Relocation	320	57	0	Nov-21	Mar-22	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Growth Hub	1,400	384	0	Jun-23	Jun-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Phoenix 2020	400	10	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Fashion Technology Academy	332	0	0	Aug-23	Aug-23	N/A	Green
<b>Total</b>		<b>146,159</b>	<b>39,266</b>	<b>(1,645)</b>				

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Dept/ Division	Project	Total Budget (£000)	2020/21 Spend (£000)	O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P12
CDN (NES)	St Mary's Allotments	507	301	0	Jul-19	Jul-21	Green	Amber
CDN (NES)	Abbey Park Precinct Wall	546	11	0	Mar-22	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Library RFID Self-Service System	330	0	0	Mar-21	Dec-21	Amber	Green
CDN (NES)	Library Improved Self-Access Pilot	210	0	0	Mar-21	Dec-21	Amber	Green
CDN (NES)	Reuse Shop Expansion	530	35	0	Jul-20	Jul-21	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Highways and Parks Public Toilet Refurbishment	138	62	0	Mar-21	Jul-21	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Housing Estate Shops	905	0	0	Mar-22	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Touchdown Project	50	0	0	Mar-21	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	614	35	0	Mar-21	Mar-22	Purple	Green
CDN (EBS)	Haymarket Bus Station - Toilet Expansion and Refurbishments	446	48	0	Dec-20	Aug-21	Amber	Green
CDN (EBS)	Climate Emergency - Carbon Reduction Fund	888	0	0	Mar-22	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Energy Efficiency Technology	25,194	97	0	Mar-22	Mar-22	N/A	Green
ECS	Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units)	15,310	3,278	2,050	Dec-19	Sep-22	Red	Red
ECS	Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,534	219	0	Nov-21	Mar-22	Green	Green
ECS	Expansion of Oaklands Special School	4,675	217	0	Mar-22	Sep-22	Green	Green
PH	Leisure Centre Improvement Programme	2,656	1,902	0	Mar-20	Jun-21	Green	Green
PH	Leisure Centre Air Handling Units	400	114	0	Mar-20	Jul-21	Green	Green
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>		<b>203,092</b>	<b>45,585</b>	<b>405</b>				
CDN (HRA)	St Leonard's Tower Block - Lift	528	32	0	Mar-18	Sep-21	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Goscote House Demolition	4,796	409	0	Jan-20	Jan-22	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	New House Build Council Housing	6,811	6,810	0	Apr-20	Jun-23	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Tower Block Sprinkler Systems	1,322	23	0	Apr-22	Apr-22	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Property Conversions	481	46	0	Mar-22	Mar-22	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Feasibility Study for Sheltered Housing	250	0	0	Apr-22	Apr-22	Green	Green
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>14,188</b>	<b>7,320</b>	<b>0</b>				
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>		<b>217,280</b>	<b>52,905</b>	<b>405</b>				

## **Commentary on Specific Projects**

- 3.1 Explanatory commentary for projects that are not currently progressing as planned, or for which issues have been identified, is provided in the next pages. This has been defined as any scheme that has a RAG Rating other than “green” or “blue”.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Corporate Resources

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Cash Income Management System	566	(530)	Jan 2020	Oct 2021	<b>B</b>
Corporate LAN/WAN Network Cisco Infrastructure Replacement	600	0	Dec 2021	Dec 2021	<b>G</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>(530)</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

**2.1 Cash Income Management System** – Following a procurement exercise the incumbent supplier will remain the contractor. Therefore, the investment previously identified will no longer be required.



## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Smart Cities

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Smart Cities Pilot Projects	200	0	Dec 2020	March 2022	<b>G</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Adults

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Extra Care – Two Schemes	2,510	0	Aug 2020	TBC	P
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 2.1 **Extra Care – Two Schemes** – the scheme is currently on hold pending further negotiations with relevant parties.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Planning, Development & Transportation

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Leicester North West Transport Scheme	5,778	(35)	March 2020	March 2021	<b>B</b>
Connecting Leicester	67,613	0	Nov 2020	March 2023	<b>G</b>
Waterside	9,892	0	March 2023	March 2023	<b>G</b>
St George's Churchyard	812	0	Aug 2018	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Ashton Green	625	0	March 2021	March 2022	<b>A</b>
Pioneer Park	2,406	(1,080)	Jan 2021	May 2021	<b>G</b>
Pioneer Park Commercial Workspace	4,892	0	Spring 2018	May 2021	<b>G</b>
Ashton Green Highways Infrastructure	8,584	0	March 2021	Nov 2021	<b>G</b>
City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	200	0	March 2021	June 2021	<b>G</b>
North West Leicester Regeneration Area	500	0	March 2022	March 2022	<b>G</b>
St Margaret's Gateway	13,500	0	Sep 2022	Sep 2022	<b>G</b>
High Streets Heritage Action Zones	1,500	0	April 2024	April 2024	<b>G</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,302</b>	<b>(1,115)</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

2.1 **Ashton Green** – There have been delays with the next stage of development, mainly due to the impact of COVID-19.

**2.2 Pioneer Park** - Pioneer Park scheme deliverables have been achieved. However, a further £1m of LGF funding is still available to be utilised. It is proposed to transfer this to Connecting Leicester to accelerate works adjacent to Pioneer Park.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	16,735	0	March 2023	March 2023	<b>G</b>
Leicester Market Redevelopment	2,916	0	Dec 2021	March 2023	<b>G</b>
Abbey Pumping Station	246	0	March 2019	Nov 2021	<b>G</b>
Gresham Business Workspace	250	0	March 2021	Sep 2021	<b>G</b>
Onsite Construction Skills Hub	818	0	Dec 2022	Dec 2022	<b>G</b>
New Walk Museum Phase 1	2,439	0	March 2022	Mar 2023	<b>G</b>
Museums Security Programme	125	0	Nov 2021	Nov 2021	<b>G</b>
Visit Leicester Relocation	320	0	Nov 2021	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Growth Hub	1,400	0	June 2023	June 2023	<b>G</b>
Phoenix 2020	400	0	March 2023	March 2023	<b>G</b>
Fashion Technology Academy	332	0	August 2023	August 2023	<b>G</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,981</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
St Mary's Allotments	507	0	July 2019	July 2021	<b>A</b>
Abbey Park Precinct Wall	546	0	March 2022	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Library RFID Self-Service System	330	0	March 2021	Dec 2021	<b>G</b>
Library Improved Self-Access Pilot	210	0	March 2021	Dec 2021	<b>G</b>
Reuse Shop Expansion	530	0	July 2020	July 2021	<b>G</b>
Highways and Parks Public Toilet Refurbishment	138	0	March 2021	July 2021	<b>A</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,261</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

**2.1 St Mary's Allotments** - Works are continuing on site, however planned community volunteering activities such as tree planting and habitat box installation cannot take place currently due to COVID-19 restrictions. These activities will take place later in 2021.

**2.2 Highways and Parks Public Toilet Refurbishment** - Due to delays with materials during the COVID-19 pandemic, the expected completion has been rescheduled for the summer.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Estates and Building Services

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Housing Estate Shops	905	0	March 2022	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Touchdown Project	50	0	March 2021	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	614	0	March 2021	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Haymarket Bus Station - Toilet Expansion and Refurbishments	446	0	Dec 2020	August 2021	<b>G</b>
Climate Emergency – Carbon Reduction Fund	888	0	March 2022	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Energy Efficiency Technology	25,194	0	March 2020	March 2022	<b>G</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,097</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

**2.1 Energy Efficiency Technology** – This project was added to the capital programme, using external funding following successful bids, to enable the Council to undertake a programme of investment into its estate which underpins its declaration of a climate emergency and climate action plan.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Children's Services

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Additional SEND Places (including Primary Pupil Referral Unit)	15,310	2,050	Dec 2019	Sept 2022	R
Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,534	0	Nov 2021	March 2022	G
Expansion of Oaklands Special School	4,675	0	March 2022	Sept 2022	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,519</b>	<b>2,050</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

**2.1 Additional SEND Places (including Primary Pupil Referral Unit)** - Recent specialist surveys and developed design proposals specifically at the Rowans, Netherhall, and Knighton Lane SEN projects have identified additional works. These predominately relate to increased specialist teaching, play and ICT equipment, which are required to deliver an increased pupil user experience and curriculum, and to allow for the schools to cater for a greater SEN spectrum than originally intended. As such, approval is sought to transfer £750k from the underspend on additional secondary school places. Approval will be sought at a later date for the additional £1.3m funding, once plans are finalised.



## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Public Health

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Leisure Centre Improvement Programme	2,656	0	March 2020	June 2021	G
Leisure Centre Air Handling Units	400	0	March 2020	July 2021	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

### Housing

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Approval 2020/21 (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
St Leonard's Tower Block - Lift	528	0	March 2018	Sept 2021	<b>G</b>
Goscote House Demolition	4,796	0	Jan 2020	Jan 2022	<b>G</b>
New Build Council Housing	6,811	0	April 2020	June 2023	<b>G</b>
Tower Block Sprinklers	1,322	0	April 2022	April 2022	<b>G</b>
Property Conversions	481	0	March 2022	March 2022	<b>G</b>
Feasibility Study for Sheltered Housing	250	0	April 2022	April 2022	<b>G</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,188</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

**WORK PROGRAMMES****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, work programmes are minor works or similar on-going schemes where there is an allocation of money to be spent during a particular year. Monitoring of work programmes focusses on whether the money is spent in a timely fashion.

Department / Division	Approved to spend in 20/21 £000	2020/21 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Adult Social Care	21	0	0	(21)
City, Development & Neighbourhoods	595	338	257	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	26,766	13,548	13,218	0
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	1,390	407	983	0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	1,160	487	580	(93)
Estates & Building Services	3,673	2,010	1,663	0
Housing General Fund	10,035	4,042	4,123	(1,870)
Children's Services	4,791	2,789	2,002	0
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>	<b>48,431</b>	<b>23,621</b>	<b>22,826</b>	<b>(1,984)</b>
Housing Revenue Account	49,234	34,479	14,112	(643)
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>	<b>97,665</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>36,938</b>	<b>(2,627)</b>

## 2. Summary of Individual Work Programmes

Work Programme	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2020/21 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Dementia Friendly Buildings Initiative	ASC	21	0	0	(21)
Feasibility Studies	CDN	595	338	257	0
Transport Improvement Works	CDN (PDT)	9,912	3,486	6,426	0
Bus Engine Retrofitting (DFT funded)	CDN (PDT)	467	242	225	0
Air Quality Action Plan	CDN (PDT)	463	255	208	0
Highways Maintenance	CDN (PDT)	7,628	4,396	3,232	0
Townscape Heritage Initiative - Business Grants	CDN (PDT)	284	186	98	0
Flood Strategy	CDN (PDT)	312	274	38	0
Festive Decorations	CDN (PDT)	49	48	1	0
Local Environmental Works	CDN (PDT)	341	250	91	0
Legible Leicester	CDN (PDT)	201	18	183	0
Parking Strategy Development	CDN (PDT)	274	247	27	0
Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy	CDN (PDT)	2,835	1,692	1,143	0
Potential Strategic Development Sites Assessment	CDN (PDT)	225	205	20	0
Architectural & Feature Lighting	CDN (PDT)	200	0	200	0
Front Wall Enveloping	CDN (PDT)	225	160	65	0
Replacement Doors & Windows St Savours Rd	CDN (PDT)	50	4	46	0
Transforming Cities Work Programmes	CDN (PDT)	2,855	2,011	844	0
Campbell Street Feasibility Study	CDN (PDT)	200	14	186	0
Conservation Building Grants	CDN (PDT)	50	31	19	0
Street Nameplates City Branding Programme	CDN (PDT)	100	0	100	0
On-Street Charging	CDN (PDT)	95	29	66	0
Heritage Interpretation Panels	CDN (TCI)	288	44	244	0
Retail Gateways	CDN (TCI)	276	37	239	0
Arts & Museum Security Improvements	CDN (TCI)	40	40	0	0
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery	CDN (TCI)	350	3	347	0
Cank St Feasibility	CDN (TCI)	236	179	57	0
Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme	CDN (TCI)	200	104	96	0
Parks Plant and Equipment	CDN (NES)	150	149	1	0
Beaumont Park Depot Rd & Related works	CDN (NES)	99	6	0	(93)
Cossington Recreation Ground Access Improvements	CDN (NES)	187	187	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	CDN (NES)	724	145	579	0
Euston Street Store	CDN (EBS)	157	36	121	0
Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme	CDN (EBS)	3,266	1,944	1,322	0
Pilot House	CDN (EBS)	250	30	220	0
Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant	CDN (HGF)	3,213	1,066	561	(1,586)
Repayable Home Repair Loans	CDN (HGF)	300	16	0	(284)
Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme	CDN (HGF)	6,522	2,960	3,562	0
School Capital Maintenance	ECS	4,541	2,706	1,835	0
Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme	ECS	250	83	167	0
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>		<b>48,431</b>	<b>23,621</b>	<b>22,826</b>	<b>(1,984)</b>

Work Programme	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2020/21 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Council Housing - New Kitchens and Bathrooms	CDN (HRA)	4,115	3,144	971	0
Council Housing - Boiler Replacements	CDN (HRA)	3,456	2,100	1,356	0
Council Housing - Rewiring	CDN (HRA)	1,884	1,445	439	0
Council Housing - Disabled Adaptations & Improvements	CDN (HRA)	1,300	816	0	(484)
Council Housing - Insulation Works	CDN (HRA)	100	14	86	0
Council Housing - External Property Works	CDN (HRA)	2,548	2,222	198	(128)
Council Housing - Fire and Safety Works	CDN (HRA)	1,538	783	755	0
Community & Environmental Works	CDN (HRA)	2,385	1,994	360	(31)
Affordable Housing - Acquisitions	CDN (HRA)	29,291	20,737	8,554	0
Affordable Housing - RPs & Others	CDN (HRA)	854	433	421	0
Public Realm Works	CDN (HRA)	1,200	247	953	0
Business Systems	CDN (HRA)	563	544	19	0
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>49,234</b>	<b>34,479</b>	<b>14,112</b>	<b>(643)</b>
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>		<b>97,665</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>36,938</b>	<b>(2,627)</b>

### **3. Commentary on Specific Work Programmes**

- 3.1 Explanatory commentary for work programmes not currently progressing as planned, or for which issues have been identified is provided below. For monitoring purposes this has been defined as any scheme where budgets have significantly changed, where spend is low or where material slippage is forecast. Due to the pandemic, there has been a lot of slippage.
- 3.2 **Feasibility Studies** - Slippage is due to delays caused by COVID-19. With lockdown restrictions beginning to ease, studies will commence in 21-22.
- 3.3 **Transport Improvement Works** - The main areas of work under this work programme are on the infrastructure at Aylestone and Putney Road linking to Welford Road. Slippage is in part a result of delays by utilities providers due to COVID-19 related issues.
- 3.4 **Bus Engine Retrofitting** - The £225k slippage is due to COVID-19 related delays in obtaining specialist parts.
- 3.5 **Air Quality Action Plan** – The £200k slippage is primarily for COVID-19 related reasons, including putting on hold the purchase of staff pool cars.
- 3.6 **Highways Maintenance** – The main slippage is on the Welford Road scheme, due to reprogramming of works to reduce impact on traffic flows as a result of COVID-19 related restrictions. Approval is sought to add £798k of additional DFT grant to the 21/22 capital programme. The additional funding will be used to expand the Highways programme of capital maintenance works.
- 3.7 **Legible Leicester** - Slippage is due to delays in the contractor supply chain due to COVID-19.
- 3.8 **Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy** – Slippage is due to COVID-19 delays in scheme design, tendering and technical approvals.. Towpath works are being delivered by our partner, the Canal and River Trust. Their preparatory work was delayed in spring 2020 when survey work was required to inform design and tender documents. Contractors were unable to visit the site. This has led to an overall slippage in the programme of approximately 4 months.
- 3.9 **Architectural & Feature Lighting** - The approved schemes have been delayed due to COVID-19 lockdowns, as the applicants are hospitality businesses.
- 3.10 **Transforming Cities Work Programmes** - Slippage is due to COVID-19 impacting on related supply and contractor delays.
- 3.11 **Campbell Street Feasibility Study** - The £186k is carried forward into 21/22 due to an extended period of commercial negotiations with a prospective development partner.

- 3.12 **Street Nameplates City Branding Programme** – The new supply contract for nameplates is now in place and the installation programme will get underway in late spring. Currently, nameplate styles are being finalised.
- 3.13 **Heritage Interpretation Panels** – The project was delayed due to capacity issues with the contractor, this has been resolved and will be delivered in 21/22.
- 3.14 **Retail Gateways** – The programme slippage is a result of not being able to deliver some of the schemes caused by business closures and lockdowns due to COVID-19.
- 3.15 **Leicester Museum and Art Gallery** - Community engagement has been delayed by the pandemic. The funders of the gallery, Arts Council England, have been kept informed of the delays. It is expected that the gallery will now open by March 2022.
- 3.16 **Beaumont Park Depot Rd & Related works** – This programme has been cancelled, as the site may be used for Park & Ride.
- 3.17 **Parks and Open Spaces** – As previously reported slippage is required due to delays with consulting key stakeholders.
- 3.18 **Euston Street Store** - Slippage is requested to complete consequential works of the main programme. This includes the secure storage facility for controlled collections, with the detailed specification taking longer than expected to finalise...
- 3.19 **Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme** - The corporate maintenance programme has slipped due to difficulty getting contractors on site as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns. It is proposed to add £562k for replacement cladding on the Phoenix Square building to be funded by grant from Homes England.
- 3.20 **Pilot House** – The project was delayed as options were considered. Spend on design work is planned for 21/22.
- 3.21 **Disabled Facilities Grants** – Following a review of the budget required in 2021/22 to meet demand and the announcement of additional government grant we are able to release £1.6m of corporate resource from the current programme.
- 3.22 **Repayable Home Repairs Loans** – As a demand-led service, the requests for loans varies, and the provision was under-subscribed. The £280k underspend is unlikely to be required in 21/22.
- 3.23 **Fleet Replacement** – Orders for vehicles have been placed to the full extent of the budget. However, the time-lag between placing orders and their delivery has resulted in slippage, exacerbated by the increases in manufacturing and delivery times caused by COVID-19 and a supplier going into administration.

- 3.24 **School Capital Maintenance** - Forecast slippage is mainly due to delays in contractors being able to gain access to schools to carry out works.
- 3.25 **Foster Carers – Capital Contribution** -. The slippage of £167k is expected to be required in 2021/22 to continue to support accommodation for look after children.
- 3.26 **Kitchens & Bathrooms** – Limited access to tenants’ properties due to COVID-19 has resulted in slippage of £1m on this work programme. A concerted effort to refurbish void properties has reduced the slippage from the £1.7m forecast at period 9.
- 3.27 **Boiler Replacements** – Boiler replacements have been limited compared with previous years due to COVID-19, but contractors are catching up with planned work. This report seeks approval to slip £1.4m into 2021/22.
- 3.28 **Re-Wiring** – Re-wiring during the year has been limited to void properties, and this is expected to continue into 2021/22. As a result of additional focus on turning around void properties, the slippage has reduced to £0.4m.
- 3.29 **Disabled Adaptations** – This demand-led work programme has underspent by just under £0.5m; fewer requests for support were received during the year.
- 3.30 **External Property Works** –Re-roofing and soffits/facia work to the value of £892k was brought forward from 2021/22 and the budget reprofiled.. The concrete survey work reported at period 9 is not yet complete so will slip into 2021/22, along with the balcony improvement work on Aikman Avenue. A focus on repairing windows and doors has led to an underspend of £128k on the replacement budget.
- 3.31 **Fire & Safety Works** – As reported previously, there is a national delay in the process for manufacturers of fire doors gaining accredited approval for their use from government. Existing doors are being monitored to ensure they remain safe, but the current procurement process continues to be affected.
- 3.32 **Communal & Environmental Works** – Due to the external nature of the work some of the 2021/22 programme of concrete path replacement was brought forward, to the value of £120k. However, large-scale planned works on the district heating network have been delayed because of the desire to avoid shutdowns during lockdown.
- 3.33 **Affordable Housing – Acquisitions** – Although COVID-19 has had an impact on the number of properties available for purchase, a continued pipeline of properties has been maintained. The purchase of the units at Hospital Close from UHL on 1 April 2021 rather than in March has resulted in slippage of £8.6m.
- 3.34 **Public Realm Works** – Whilst the full budget for the year has been allocated to specific schemes, much of the work was not completed by the end of March. The extended lockdown period led to procurement delays, with improvement schemes to internal areas of blocks being pushed back until it is safer to carry



out work in public areas. The Green Team has carried out work to make significant improvements to green areas and local stakeholders are working with the landscape architects to develop further plans for St Matthew's and St Peter's estates.

**PROVISIONS****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, provisions are sums of money set aside in case they are needed, where low spend is a favourable outcome rather than indicative of a problem.
- 1.2 As at the end of Period 12, £11k of the budgets for capital provisions had been spent.
- 1.3 Normally provisions are there if needed. The sums below are for the 2020/21 financial year.

Provision	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2020/21 Spend £000	2020/21 Total £000	Remaining Budget £000
Empty Homes Purchase	CDN (HGF)	50	0	0	50
Early Years - Two Year Olds	ECS	152	11	11	141
<b>Total</b>		<b>202</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>191</b>

- 1.4 The Early Years capital funding is to support development of places for early education for the city. It was not advisable for expansion and development of provision to take place in 2020/21, given the risks of sustainability of providers due to COVID-19. In the year ahead, it is anticipated that this funding will be required to support small project development cases, as providers are needing to remodel and respond to the changes in demand. Approval is sought to slip the remaining £141k in to the 21/22 programme.

**PROJECTS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As at the end of Period 12, the following schemes were nearing completion. The budgets are the unspent amounts from previous years' capital programmes, mainly as a result of slippage.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Dept/ Division</b>	<b>Approved £000</b>	<b>2020/21 Spend £000</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Spend £000</b>
ICT Investment - Phase 2 - Liquidlogic	ASC	64	22	0
Great Central Street / Vaughan Way	CDN (PDT)	186	36	(150)
11-15 Horsefair Street	CDN (EBS)	145	9	0
Haymarket House, Car Parks & Lifts	CDN (EBS)	3,757	3,189	0
Demolition of Former Anchor Recovery Centre	CDN (EBS)	75	62	0
Corporate Storage Area Network (SAN) Replacement	CRS	350	350	0
Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) Expansion	CRS	500	500	0
Additional Primary School Places	ECS	189	109	(7)
Additional Secondary School Places	ECS	22,757	17,381	(3,608)
Children's Residential Homes	ECS	879	723	0
St Paul's Temporary Modular Buildings	ECS	7	0	(7)
New Parks House	ECS	48	22	0
Relocation of Sexual Health Clinic	PH	113	77	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>29,070</b>	<b>22,480</b>	<b>(3,772)</b>

**POLICY PROVISIONS****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As at Period 12, the following policy provisions were still awaiting formal approval for allocation to specific schemes.

<b>Department/ Division</b>	<b>Policy Provision</b>	<b>Amount £000</b>
CDN (PDT)	Economic Action Plan	1,000
CDN (PDT)	Ashton Green Infrastructure	400
CDN (PDT)	Strategic Acquisitions	4,000
CDN (EBS)	Commercial Property Acquisitions	1,933
CDN (TCII)	Tourism & Culture	550
CDN (TCII)	Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	3,364
CDN (Various)	People & Neighbourhoods	1,792
ECS	New School Places	14,569
ASC	Extra Care Schemes	6,700
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>		<b>34,308</b>
CDN (HRA)	Other HRA Schemes	1,000
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>1,000</b>
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>		<b>35,308</b>

- 1.2 Releases from policy provisions since the 2019/20 Outturn (reflected in the tables above) are listed below:

- £170k policy provision for Cossington Recreation Ground Access Improvements released 29/04/20.
- £500k policy provision for North West Leicester Regeneration Area released 10/06/20.
- £236k policy provision for Cank St Feasibility released 23/06/20.
- £250k policy provision for Pilot House released 29/06/2020.
- £10,030k policy provision for Additional Secondary School Places released 10/07/20.
- £8,122k policy provision for Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units) released 17/07/20.
- £920k policy provision for Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units) released 29/07/20.
- £500k policy provision for Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme released 29/07/20.
- £138k policy provision for Highways and Parks Public Toilet Refurbishment released 05/10/20.
- £3,200k policy provision for St Margaret's and Granby St/St George's Street Regeneration Gateways released 23/10/20.
- £232k policy provision for the Fashion Technology Academy released 24/03/21.

- 1.3 The Economic Action Plan Policy Provision includes £1,000k that has been committed for the Cultural Investment Programme, as per an executive decision taken on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. This money will not be formally committed until all of the other funding for the scheme is in place.



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# **Income Collection April 2020 – March 2021**

Decision to be taken by: N/A

Overview Select Committee: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Lead director: Colin Sharpe

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### **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Amy Oliver
- Author contact details: 37 5667
- Report version number: V1

## **1. Summary**

This report details progress made in collecting debts raised by the Council during 2020-21, together with debts outstanding and brought forward from the previous year. It also sets out details of debts written off under delegated authority that it has not been possible to collect after reasonable effort and expense.

This is a routine report made to members twice each year. Performance has been substantially affected by the pandemic, with most areas responsible for collection having to do more to support those struggling to pay.

Figures included in this report need to be seen in the context of the total amount of income collected by the Council from the public each year, which amounts to nearly £400m. Whilst some debt is difficult to collect, and some people find it difficult to pay, ultimately we collect nearly all of the money due to us. It is currently estimated less than 2% is eventually written off, although this is likely to be different this year.

Income collected by the organisation dropped off towards the end of 2019/20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has continued into 2020/21: the committee has been updated on this regularly through the usual budget monitoring reports.

## **2. Recommended actions/decision**

2.1 The OSC is recommended to:

- Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.

## **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

N/A



#### **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

Appendix A is a summary of all debt and a three year moving average of debt.

Appendix B provides more detailed information and narrative for each main category of debt.

Appendix C provides a summary of all the write-offs during the period.

Appendix D provides a summary of Write Offs Over £2k for 2020/21

#### **5. Detailed report**

See appendices

### **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

#### 6.1 Financial implications

The report details the Council's performance in collecting debts, and amounts which have had to be written off

Mark Noble, Head of Finance, Ext 37 4041

#### 6.2 Legal implications

Where appropriate debts are the subject of legal action through the courts.

Jeremy Rainbow – Principal Lawyer (Litigation) Ext 37 1435

#### 6.3 Equalities implications

The Council has to make every effort to collect its due debts. The Council adopted a debt policy in June 2016. The policy aims at ensuring that the Council collects debt in a fair, proportionate and respectful manner.

Copies of the policy are available on the Council's website

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/how-we-work/debt-enforcement/if-you-are-struggling-to-pay>

Recovery action needs to strike a fair balance between sensitivity to debtors who are struggling to pay and the interests of the public as a whole (the income expected is part of our budget). Significant efforts have been made to be fair during the pandemic.

#### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

No climate change implications.

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

No other implications are noted as this is an Income Collection report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

**7. Background information and other papers:**

Finance Procedure Rules

Debt Policy

**8. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A is a summary of all debt and a three year moving average of debt;

Appendix B provides more detailed information and narrative for each main category of debt;

Appendix C is a summary of all write offs;

Appendix D is a summary of Write Offs Over £2k for 2020/21;

**9. 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)?**

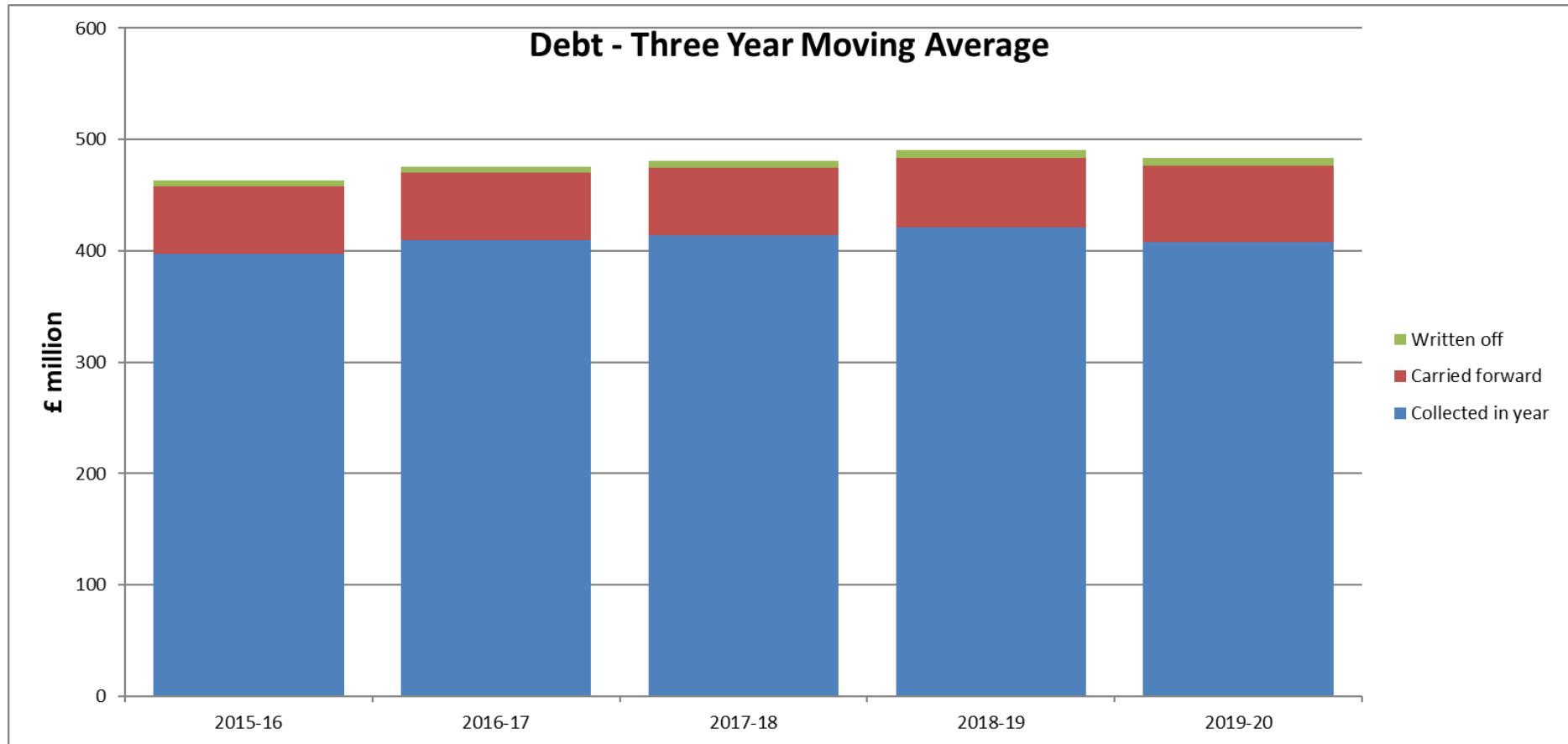
No

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

No

**Summary of all Debt**

<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Debts brought forward @ 1/4/2020 £m</b>	<b>Amounts raised 2020-21 £m</b>	<b>Amounts collected 2020-21 £m</b>	<b>Amounts written off/back 2020-21 £m</b>	<b>Debts outstanding @ 31/03/2021 £m</b>
Non Domestic Rates (including Costs)	<b>12.07</b>	64.01	(57.36)	(1.42)	<b>17.30</b>
Council Tax (including Costs)	<b>18.52</b>	143.06	(134.12)	(1.78)	<b>25.68</b>
Housing Benefit Overpayments	<b>13.11</b>	2.42	(3.63)	(0.28)	<b>11.62</b>
Council House Rents	<b>3.62</b>	78.57	(78.71)	(0.25)	<b>3.23</b>
On and Off-Street Car Parking fines	<b>1.97</b>	1.86	(0.95)	(1.12)	<b>1.76</b>
Bus Lane Enforcement	<b>0.91</b>	1.14	(0.82)	(0.28)	<b>0.95</b>
Other Income	<b>17.31</b>	104.18	(106.58)	(0.40)	<b>14.51</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>67.51</b>	<b>395.24</b>	<b>(382.17)</b>	<b>(5.53)</b>	<b>75.05</b>



Note: This chart is a moving average (e.g. 2016/17 is the average of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18). This treatment smooths anomalies in individual years and highlights trends. Consequently, 2019/20 is the latest year we can report.

## 1. Business Rates

### 1.1 Headline Figures for period under review including costs

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
12.07	64.01	(57.36)	(1.42)	17.30

### 1.2 Background and comparator information

#### Background Information

Business Rates are a national tax normally paid by approximately 12,800 businesses in Leicester.

#### Comparator Information

Debt collection has been substantially affected by the pandemic. The table shows the effect on collection of the current year's debt:

- Collection 2019/20 – 95.68%
- Collection 2020/21 – 89.66%

It should be noted that unpaid debt on 31<sup>st</sup> March continues to be collected in the following year, and is usually substantially caught up, but in these exceptional circumstances it is unlikely we will reach the same ultimate collection rate.

Other authorities, of course, share our predicament. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, our collection performance places us 9<sup>th</sup> out of 12 authorities with comparable populations.

### 1.3 Debt write-off

Reason for Write Off ↓	No.	Value £000
Unable to Trace	42	446
Deceased – No Assets	0	0
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	163	1,023
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	26	(50)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1,419</b>

#### 1.4 Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

##### Changes

For 2020/21 the Government introduced 100% business rate relief for retail, hospitality and leisure properties, as part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council is compensated for this loss of income through government grants.

Whilst collection performance has suffered due to the pandemic, around 40% of our usual collectible rates has been paid by the Government. This of course has been paid in full which has offset losses due to ratepayers struggling to pay.

#### 1.5 Summary of measures taken to recover debt

##### Debt recovery measures

Due to the pandemic, recovery action was paused in April 2020. Due to the local lockdown this was not restarted until September 2020 with the issue of non-statutory prompts in order to re-engage with ratepayers.

Our normal recovery process is:

- A reminder will be sent if an instalment is missed;
- If the instalment is paid within 7 days of the reminder, the right to pay by instalments is maintained; if a subsequent instalment is missed a final notice will be issued stating that the right to pay by instalments has been lost and the full charge has become payable;
- If the instalment is not paid within 7 days of the reminder, the full charge becomes payable.
- If the full charge becomes payable and is not paid within 7 days, a summons will be issued and a liability order sought at the Magistrates' Court. Costs become payable at this stage.

All recovery action, including reminders and summonses were suspended from April 2020. Court hearings for liability order applications were also suspended by the Magistrates court from April 2020. Non-statutory ("soft") reminders were issued in September 2020 and statutory reminders and final notices resumed from October, but no summonses were issued.

## 2. Council Tax

### 2.1 Headline Figures for period under review including costs

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
18.52	143.06	(134.12)	(1.78)	25.68

### 2.2 Background and comparator information

#### Background information

Council tax is a national tax, charged to 141,300 properties in Leicester. The amount we collect includes sums charged by the fire authority and police commissioner.

#### Comparator information

Like rates, collection has been affected by the pandemic. Percentage of debt collected in the year it is raised: -

- Collection 2019/20 – 94.64%
- Collection 2020/21 – 91.59%

It should be noted that unpaid debt on 31st March continues to be collected in the following year. As with rates, we will inevitably end up writing off more than usual however.

As at 31st March 2021, we are 11th out of 12 authorities with comparable populations. However, we are relatively deprived and have suffered lockdown for longer than any other authority in the country.

## 2.3 Debt write-off

<b>Reason for Write Off</b> ↓	<b>No.</b>	<b>Value £000</b>
Unable to Trace	1,187	909
Deceased – No Assets	290	106
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	197	151
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	2,525	616
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,199</b>	<b>1,782</b>

## 2.4 Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

Changes

This year due to COVID-19 pandemic, council tax support claims have increased more than in any year since its introduction. The total number of live claims at 31/03/2021 were 28,099, (£28.7m paid), this compares to 27,272 (£24.7m paid) claims at 1/4/2020.

Additional support has also been provided by the government for council tax claimants in the form of the Council Tax Support Hardship Fund, which has provided an additional £150 for CTS recipients. We were given £3.7m by the government and as at 31/03/21, £3.1m has been paid (or, more correctly, set off against tax bills).



## 2.5 Summary of measures taken to recover debt

### Debt recovery measures

As with rates, recovery action was paused in April 2020. Due to the local lockdown this was not restarted until September 2020 with the issue of non-statutory reminders, in order to re-engage with council tax payers.

The usual process after a reminder instalment has been missed is:

- if the instalment is paid within 7 days of the reminder, the right to pay by instalments is maintained; if a further instalment is missed, another reminder can be issued; if a third instalment is missed, a final notice will be issued stating that the right to pay by instalments is lost and the full balance becomes payable;
- If the instalment is not paid within 7 days of the first /second reminder, the right to pay by instalments is lost and the full balance becomes payable;
- if the full balance becomes payable and is not paid within 7 days, a summons will be issued and a liability order sought at the Magistrates Court.

At every stage of the recovery process, the council tax payer is offered a formal payment arrangement. Within the recovery process, safeguards have been put in to protect the most vulnerable.

As with business rates, all recovery action was suspended for council tax from April 2020, including reminders and summonses. Court hearings for liability order applications were also suspended by the Magistrates court from April 2020. Non-statutory (“soft”) reminders were issued in September 2020 and statutory reminders and final notices resumed from October but no summonses were issued.

### 3. Overpaid Housing Benefit

#### 3.1 Headline Figures for period under review including costs

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
13.11	2.42	(3.63)	(0.28)	11.62

#### 3.2 Background and comparator information

##### Background information

The main cause of housing benefit overpayments is delays in recipients telling the Council of changes in their circumstances, resulting in too much benefit being paid. By its nature overpaid housing benefit is difficult to collect. Of the £11.62m, we have outstanding, there are processes in place to recover debt wherever possible. Overall, housing benefit debt continues to reduce, from £13.11m at 31/03/2020 to £11.62m as at 31/03/2021:

- 31/03/2019 £15.50m
- 31/03/2020 £13.11m
- 31/03/2021 £11.62m

This is a good achievement given the context of the pandemic.

##### Comparator information

There is no like for like comparator information available

## 3.3 Debt write-off

<b>Reason for Write Off</b> ↓	<b>No.</b>	<b>Value £000</b>
Unable to Trace	59	27
Deceased – No Assets	8	3
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	62	23
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	1,129	226
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>279</b>

## 3.4 Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

Changes

The migration to Universal Credit continues to impact on our ability to collect debt from ongoing benefit. Any claimant moving onto UC is notified of any outstanding balance immediately and given a range of options to make repayment.

The HB Debt Service Project allows LCC to submit cases to HMRC to gain details of any employment so that subsequent applications can be made to employers for Direct Earnings Attachments. This obligates employers to recover any overpayments from their employees' earnings. Currently, £0.71m is being collected from earnings.

### 3.5 Summary of measures taken to recover debt

#### Debt recovery measures

Debt is collected by means of deduction from ongoing benefit payments, if there is current entitlement;

- If there is no current housing benefit entitlement, payment is requested from the customer in the first instance before it is referred to the Business Services Centre and an invoice raised.
- Legislation permits us to deduct overpayments from other state benefits. DWP temporarily paused Council's collecting payments via this method due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These deductions recommenced on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Where no benefits are in payment, but the debtor is in employment, we seek to obtain a Direct Earnings Attachment.

The Council continues to work with those struggling to pay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on a case by case basis, offering moratoriums on payment and payment arrangements.

## 4. Housing Rent

### 4.1. Headline Figures for period under review

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
3.62	78.57	(78.71)	(0.25)	3.23

### 4.2 Background and comparator information

#### Background information

The authority currently collects rent from approximately 19,700 tenancies across the City. 8,500 of our tenants (43%) are on full or partial Housing Benefit and 5,400 (27%) on Universal Credit. The debt raised & collected includes the element paid by Housing Benefit.

### 4.3. Debt write-off

Reason for Write Off ↓	No.	Value £000
Unable to Trace	0	0
Deceased – No Assets	0	0
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	0	0
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	650	252
<b>Totals</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>252</b>

#### 4.4. Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

##### Changes

Whilst the figures look like they have improved, this was due to arrears as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 being artificially high. This was as a result of uncertainty for tenants surrounding rent holidays and other potential financial support. This position has stabilised during the year, although it should be noted that if furlough support is reduced we may see a rise in arrears again. Nonetheless, the final position is very creditable given the pandemic.

It is now nearly 3 years since the implementation of Universal Credit (UC) and it is anticipated that the full UC migration will be completed by 2024. However, due to COVID-19, full UC migration and roll-out may be further delayed.

Tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit can have it paid directly into their rent account. However, under UC money is paid directly to the claimant rather than the Council. Vulnerable tenants and those with a history of rent arrears or homelessness may be able to have their rent paid directly to the Council, as landlord, by applying for an Alternative Payment Arrangement (APA).

It's a year since the start of the pandemic and its impact on rent collection. The ongoing Government guidance is that tenants should continue paying rent and abide by all terms of their tenancy agreement to the best of their ability and have encouraged tenants and landlords to work together in these unprecedented circumstances. Various support is available to assist tenants to pay their rent as normal.

The government placed a ban on all rental possession and eviction cases since the first national lockdown in March 2020. This came to an end in September 2020. On 4th May 2021 the Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space) legislation will be enforced and will impact on rent collection. This will give tenants the right to legal protections from landlord action, with a standard breathing space giving legal protections from creditor action for up to 60 days. The protections include pausing most enforcement action and contact from creditors and freezing most interest and charges on debts.

#### 4.5 Summary of measures taken to recover debt

##### Debt recovery measures

The Income Management Team are working collaboratively with the DWP and work coaches from the local Job Centre Plus to minimise any impact of UC roll out. Tenants continue to be supported with income maximisation and claims for HB and UC, which can assist with rent payments. The team also provide support to claim Discretionary Housing funds.

An increase in the number of Rent Management Advisors (RMA) was approved in the summer to deal with potential surges in UC claims; these are now in post and have started to support our tenants.

The ultimate sanction for rent arrears is eviction as option of last choice, however the team works with tenants to prevent this.

## 5. Parking Fines (Penalty Charge Notice)

### 5.1 Headline Figures for period under review

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
1.97	1.86	(0.95)	(1.12)	1.76

### 5.2 Background and comparator information

#### Background information

The Council issues penalty notices for both on-street and off-street parking charge evasion, as well as illegal parking. There are two nationally set rates based on the seriousness of the offence, details below;

- (a) £25 or £35 if paid with 14 days;  
£50 or £70 if paid after 14 days.

#### Comparator information

The percentage of tickets issued during the year, paid at 31<sup>st</sup> March

- 2019/20 - 73%
- 2020/21 - 68%

### 5.3. Debt write-off

Reason for Write Off ↓	No.	Value £000
Unable to Trace	7,648	657
Deceased – No Assets	2	0
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	72	7
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	4,686	452
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,408</b>	<b>1,116</b>



#### 5.4 Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

##### Changes

Parking enforcement was suspended in Leicester from 24th March 2020. However, tickets continued to be issued if a vehicle was considered to be dangerously parked or contravening disabled bay requirements. A resumption of on- and off-street parking enforcement commenced on 1st June 2020 issuing warning tickets for the first few weeks. Routine deployment and enforcement has continued since.

The number of tickets issued during 2020/21 was 33% lower than the previous year (38,600 compared with 58,100). March saw a recovery against this shortfall of 19.2% on the same period last year.

Like most local authorities we have continued to provide free parking (both on street and off street) for NHS staff and care workers.

Payments and processing of Penalty Charge Notices has been impacted, with enforcement agencies recovery at reduced levels; the service is continuing to operate at statutory levels. However, it will take time for partner organisations and contractors to fully resume their operations.

#### 5.5. Summary of measures taken to recover debt

##### Usual Debt recovery measures

- Reminder letters
- Legal action

## 6. Bus Lane Enforcement Fines

### 6.1 Headline Figures for period under review

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
0.91	1.14	(0.82)	(0.28)	0.95

### 6.2 Background and comparator information

#### Background information

The Council issues fines for driving in bus lanes with enforcement schemes. Fines are levied at the rate of £60, which is discounted to £30 if paid within 14 days.

The clearways outside London Road Train Station are levied at the rate of £75, which is discounted to £35 if paid within 14 days.

The debt collection for bus lane enforcement debt is collected on our behalf by Nottingham City Council.

#### Comparator information

The percentage of tickets issued during the year, paid at March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- 2019/20 - 59%
- 2020/21 - 63%

### 6.3 Debt write-off

Reason for Write Off ↓	No.	Value £000
Unable to Trace	1,334	121
Deceased – No Assets	1,293	39
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	0	0
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	1,581	117
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>277</b>

## 6.4 Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

### Changes

Since the lockdown announcement on March 23rd 2020, LCC switched off all 16 cameras. This was due to traffic levels being low due to the national lockdown and also due to less use of public transport. Further to this, guidelines provided by the British Parking Association stated that it would be best practice to stop all traffic enforcement due to the pandemic and it would not be in the public interest to carry out traffic enforcement due to the reduction of traffic on the roads.

LCC resumed CCTV enforcement on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, and have issued nearly 27,000 PCNs to the end of March. The current traffic levels are still low due to partial lockdown and the continued restrictions on travel.

Legislation commencing on 4th May 2021 (Breathing Space Moratorium and Mental Health Crisis Moratorium (England and Wales) Reg 2020) provides a debt respite for someone who is in debt. Those who have multiple PCNs and are unable to make payment can make an application through a debt advisor to place their case on hold for 60 days. The impact on collection rates of this legislation is mitigated by the fact that the bus lane enforcement team engage at an early stage to arrange a payment plan with debtors. We currently offer an early payment discount if people are struggling financially, especially if they have more than one fine. We continue to review each case on its own merits and to work with the clients.

## 6.5 Summary of measures taken to recover debt

### Usual Debt recovery measures

- Reminder letters
- Legal action

## 7. Other Income

### 7.1 Headline Figures for period under review including costs\*

Uncollected debt b/f £m	Debt raised £m	Debt collected £m	Debt written off/back £m	Uncollected debt c/f £m
17.31	104.18	(106.58)	(0.40)	14.51

### 7.2 Background and comparator information

#### Background information

“Other Income” includes all income other than the sources described above and is collected by the Business Service Centre. It covers a wide variety of income from various individuals and organisations. Examples include commercial rent, adult social care costs relating to residential and non-residential care, and repairs & maintenance charges relating to council property.

Unlike other sources of debt, we are never too concerned about the actual amount outstanding, this is because debt can be raised at any time of the year. Consequently, we focus on aged debt as the main measure of performance.

#### Comparator information

Debt over 12 months old (aged debt) has increased for the first time in 5 years:

- 31/03/2018 £3.83m
- 31/03/2019 £3.59m
- 31/03/2020 £3.48m
- 31/03/2021 £4.33m

The level of debt over 12 months old is believed to have increased due to the Council suspending its debt recovery processes. The Council is now actively engaging to collect this outstanding debt.

## 7.3 Debt write-off

Reason for Write Off ↓	No.	Value £000
Unable to Trace	116	15
Deceased – No Assets	201	80
Insolvent / Bankrupt/ Liquidated	45	208
All recovery options exhausted / irrecoverable at reasonable expense, including adjustments for costs and write ons	808	97
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>400</b>

## 7.4 Volume/policy/statutory changes that have occurred during the period and their impact

Changes

Policy changes in non-residential care resulted in a review of all service users' contributions, and an increase in the level of invoiced charges. In March 2020 central government introduced emergency changes to the charging regulations, due to the pandemic, and for those being discharged from hospital, care has been provided for free locally for approx. 700 service users. This temporary change has now ceased.

At the beginning of the pandemic central government also introduced legislation which gave protections to business premises when they were not able to pay commercial rent. These protections remain in place until the 30 June 2021. We are restricted as a commercial landlord from forfeiting a commercial lease for non-payment of rent or taking Commercial Rent Arrears Recovery until the total number of days' outstanding rent is 554 days in certain circumstances.

Locally, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to support business and individuals affected, on a case by case basis we have offered support to those struggling to pay;

- pausing the need to make payments or
- agreeing instalment arrangements, or
- suspending debt enforcement.

## 7.5 Summary of measures taken to recover debt

### Debt recovery measures

The debt recovery measures detailed below are part of our normal process, but the Council has continued during 2020-2021 to offer support where required for those suffering financial hardship.

Normally:

A first reminder is issued at 14 days when an invoice remains unpaid. Seven days later a second reminder is issued.

A letter before action, known as a letter of claim, follows if the case is suitable for enforcement in the county court. If the Council obtains a judgment or an order for recovery of an award and if payment is still not forthcoming the next actions we can take include;

- Referral to an enforcement agent
- Third party debt order
- Attachment to earnings
- Charging Order

Cases not suitable for enforcement through county court procedures are referred to enforcement agents for collection.

**Summary of all Write Offs**

The table below provides detail on the reasons why debt is written off during the year.

<b>Income Type</b>	<b>Unable to trace £000</b>	<b>Deceased - no assets £000</b>	<b>Insolvent/ Bankrupt/ Liquidated £000</b>	<b>Irrecoverable at reasonable expense £000</b>	<b>Total Write Offs @ 31/03/2021 £000</b>
Non Domestic Rates (including Costs)	446	0	1,023	(50)	<b>1,419</b>
Council Tax (including Costs)	909	106	151	616	<b>1,782</b>
Housing Benefit Overpayments	27	3	23	226	<b>279</b>
Council House Rents	0	0	0	252	<b>252</b>
On and Off-Street Car Parking fines	657	0	7	452	<b>1,116</b>
Bus Lane Enforcement	121	39	0	117	<b>277</b>
Other Income	15	80	208	97	<b>400</b>
Haymarket Consortium	0	0	664	0	<b>664</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2,076</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>6,189</b>

**Write Offs Over £2k for 2020/21**

<b>Income Type</b>	<b>No. of Write Offs</b>	<b>Value £000</b>
Non Domestic Rates (including Costs)	109	1,356
Council Tax (including Costs)	70	208
Housing Benefit Overpayments	22	88
Council House Rents	12	41
On and Off-Street Car Parking fines	8	35
Bus Lane Enforcement	0	0
Other Income	25	340
Haymarket Consortium	1	664
<b>Totals</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>2,732</b>



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## **Overview Select Committee**

### **Review of Treasury Management Activities**

### **2020/21**

Overview Select Committee: 27th May 2021

Lead director: Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance

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## Useful information:

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- Report version number

## 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report reviews how the Council conducted its borrowing and investments during 2020/21.
- 1.2 2020/21 saw unprecedented disruption throughout the world due to the emergence of coronavirus with lockdowns for many parts of the economy and huge injections of cash from the government and the Bank of England required to prevent parts of the economy from collapsing. However, towards the end of the year, there has been increased optimism (though tentative) regarding recovery with the roll out of various vaccines in the UK and throughout the world.
- 1.3 However, the outlook regarding coronavirus although encouraging is not yet assured. Experts don't expect the virus to be completely eradicated; and until the whole world has access to vaccines, it will remain a serious concern.
- 1.4 After the emergence of coronavirus, the focus of treasury management changed initially to ensuring the ready availability of cash rather than maximising income. Nevertheless, income generated has exceeded budget despite record low interest rates mainly because the Council entered into a number of 2 year loans with other local authorities at the end of 2019/20 at good rates. Income has also held up due to high levels of grant income on which interest was earned.
- 1.5 We continue to monitor the impact of the "bail in" requirements whereby major depositors could be forced to inject funds into banks which are running into trouble, introduced earlier in the year. This is further discussed below.

## 2. **Background**

- 2.1 Treasury management is the process by which our borrowing is managed, and our cash balances are invested. Whilst there are links to the budget, the sums in this report do not form part of the budget. Cash balances reported here cannot be spent, except to the extent shown in the budget report and revenue outturn report (elsewhere on your agenda).
- 2.2 The Council has incurred debt to pay for past capital expenditure
- 2.3 The Council also has cash balances. These are needed for day to day expenditure (e.g. to pay wages when they are due). A substantial proportion can only be used to repay debt but (because of Government rules) it is prohibitively expensive to repay debt. Thus, they are held in investments.
- 2.4 The report commences with an overview of treasury management, including loans and investments at key dates. It then reviews the credit worthiness of investments and implementation of our strategy, provides outcomes on key performance measures and concludes by reviewing compliance against limits set by the Council.
- 2.5 Reports reviewing treasury management activities are submitted twice a year. The previous report was presented to your committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

### 3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1 Members of the Overview Select Committee are recommended to note the report and make comments to the Director of Finance and the Executive as they wish.

### 4. **Overview of Treasury Management**

#### Main elements of Treasury Management

- 4.1 There are two main elements to treasury management. The first is managing our borrowings which have been taken out to finance capital expenditure. Most capital schemes are now financed by grant, and only a limited number of schemes are financed by borrowing (generally those which pay for themselves). In the past the Government expected us to borrow but allowed for the cost of borrowing in our grant settlement, and we still have a lot of debt which was taken to meet this capital expenditure.
- 4.2 Historic debt can sometimes be restructured to save money (i.e. repaying one loan and replacing it with another) and this is always given active consideration. In recent years, Government rule changes have normally made it prohibitively expensive to repay loans borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board.
- 4.3 The revenue budget approved by the Council for each financial year includes provision for the interest payable on this borrowing. It also includes a provision for repaying the borrowing over a number of years (broadly speaking over the economic life of the assets acquired).
- 4.4 The second element is cash management which involves managing the Council's investments to ensure the optimum amount of money is in the bank account on a day-to-day basis – so that there is enough money in the account to cover the payments made on the day but no more (cash held in the bank account earns negligible interest). The focus of this activity changed dramatically during March. The concept of liquidity – being able to get our money when we need it – is fundamental to cash management.
- 4.5 The Council has substantial investments but this is not “spare cash”. There are four reasons for the level of investments:-
- (a) Whilst the Government no longer supports capital spending with borrowing allocations, we are still required to raise money in the budget each year to repay debt. Because of the punitive rules described above, we are not usually able to repay any long-term debt, and therefore have to invest the cash;
  - (b) We have working balances arising from our day to day business (e.g. council tax received before we have to pay wages, and capital grants received in advance of capital spending);
  - (c) We have reserves, which are held in cash until we need to spend them.
  - (d) This year, investments have been bolstered by sums received for the pandemic prior to need to spend.

## Treasury Management Policy and Monitoring

- 4.6 The activities to which this report relates were governed by the Treasury Strategy for 2020/21 which was approved by the Council on 19th February 2020. This establishes an outline plan for borrowing and investment. The strategy for 2021/22 was approved by the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and governs the treasury strategy from that point. The Treasury Strategy is drawn up in the light of the Council's expected borrowing requirements, its expected cash balances, the outlook for interest rates and the credit worthiness of the banks with whom the Council might invest its cash balances.
- 4.7 A twice-yearly report is submitted to your Committee reviewing the treasury activity undertaken in the year. This report is the final report for 2020/21

## Loans and Investments at Key Dates

- 4.8 Table 1 below shows the loans (money borrowed by the Council) and investments (money invested by the Council) as at 01/10/2020 and at 31/03/2021. The rates shown are the averages paid and received during 2020/21.
- 4.9 The level of gross debt (total loans borrowed) has remained unchanged. No new long-term loans have been borrowed and no debt restructuring has taken place in the second half of the year.
- 4.10 Investments have decreased by £57m from £332m to £275m. This change is within the range of what is normal (for example if grant income has been spent) and reflects the usual pattern of balances declining towards the end of the financial year.
- 4.11 There was a deliberate shift since the second half of the 2019/20 financial year to increase investments held by other local authorities and reduce investments held by banks. This was in part to take advantage of some good rates offered by local authorities for fixed periods up to 2 years and in part to reduce exposure to individual banks. At the end of the 2020/21 financial year, the only exposure we had to any bank was to Barclays who act as our bankers.

**Table 1- Loans & Investments**

	<b>Position at 01/10/2020 Principal £M</b>	<b>Position at 31/03/2021 Principal £M</b>	<b>Average Rate</b>
<b>Long Term Fixed Rate Loans</b>			
Public Works	134	134	4.2%
Loan Board (PWLB)	25	25	4.5%
Bank Loans			
<b>LOBO Loans</b>			
Bank Loans	20	20	4.5%
<b>Short Term (less than 6 months) Loans</b>			
Local Authority Loans	NIL	NIL	N/A _
<b>Gross Debt</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>Treasury Investments</b>			
Banks and Build Soc	0 200	0 198	
Other Local Authorities	124 8	69 8	
Money Market Funds			
Property Funds			
<b>Total Treasury Investments</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>NET INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>96</b>	

- 4.12 The investments include £8m in property unit trusts. These are unit trusts which invest in property (as opposed to more traditional unit trusts that invest in shares). At present political and economic uncertainties are impacting on the property markets and if we had surrendered the units to the fund managers at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 then we would have made an estimated loss of at least 5% on the principal sum. This is not reflected in the table above because our strategy is to hold the investments long term; it should also be noted that any loss will not be a cost to our revenue account.
- 4.13 The dividends received on the units in the year totalled £291,000 which have held up remarkably well during the covid lockdown.

- 4.14 The treasury strategy permits investments in property funds up to a total value of £30M but no further such investments have been made during the last year with the uncertainty around Brexit and coronavirus. However, we shall continue to review this position.
- 4.15 The Council's (Non-Treasury) Investment Strategy also allows the authority to spend capital or make loans to a third party where it is intended to (at least partly) achieve a return. Since 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Council has made no further loans to third parties. The Council has now incurred expenditure totalling £15.5m on the Haymarket Shopping Centre and Pioneer Park. These schemes are nearly complete and expected to open in the summer and thus not receiving any income yet. A summary of loans and investments made under the Investment Strategy is shown in table 2 below.

**Table 2- Loans & Investments under the Investment Strategy**

<b>Investment</b>	<b>Total Capital Expenditure or loans outstanding £m</b>	<b>Percentage Return 2020/2021</b>
<b><u>Loans</u></b>		
Ethically Sourced Products	£1.3m	4%
Leicestershire County Cricket Club	£2.4m	5%
<b><u>Other Investments</u></b>		
Haymarket Centre Redevelopment	£10.26m	0%
Pioneer Park	£5.26m	0%
Total All Loans & Investments	£19.22m	

- 4.16 The repayments of loans to Ethically Sourced Products and Leicestershire County Cricket Club are up to date.
- 4.17 Also governed by the Investment Strategy is the Council's investment property portfolio. The performance of the Corporate Estate at the time of writing was expected to be reported separately to scrutiny committee.
- 4.18 The total amount of treasury investments made during 2020/21 was significantly higher than originally expected mainly because of various additional government grants received during the covid crisis. However, these grants are short-term and fewer investments are anticipated in 2021/22.

**5. Credit Worthiness of Investments & Interest Rate Outlook**

- 5.1 Coronavirus has eclipsed other factors affecting the world economy such as tensions between the USA and trading partners and even the impact of the UK's exit from the EU. The pandemic did not see the sort of meltdown in the financial system that was feared in the financial crisis of 2008.
- 5.2 The core expectations of the Council's treasury advisors, Arlingclose, prior to the advent of the pandemic was for Bank Rate to remain at 0.75% in 2020, reflecting sluggish growth. The bank rate has since been reduced to 0.1%, where Arlingclose expect it to remain. Although negative

base interest rates have been seen in parts of Europe, these are on balance not seen as likely in the UK.

- 5.3 The governments of the largest world economies, including the UK, have implemented measures to make banks less likely to fail but also to reduce the impact on the financial system and on tax payers if they do fail. The measures for dealing with a failing bank see investors who have lent or deposited money (which includes us) taking significant losses before there is any tax payer support (“bail in”). Our assessment of risk is based both on the risk that banks fail (as measured by credit ratings) and also on the level of losses that we might face should the banks require capital support to prevent failure.
- 5.4 These developments are reflected in the Council’s approach to managing credit risk in its treasury strategies for 2020/21 and 2021/22. It has adopted a cautious stance over the whole period covered by this report and has only directly lent to strong UK banks, other local authorities and the UK Government. Other lending has been part of pooled funds (see 5.7 below).
- 5.5 The position is continually under review. One factor is that other regulatory developments are continuing to require or push banks towards greater financial robustness. One change has been that banks are now required to “ring fence” bank deposits from other riskier activities.
- 5.6 At the start of the coronavirus outbreak, we sought to reduce our exposure to bank deposits, partly to reduce risk, and partly to increase liquidity. In practice, the Government took steps to assist authorities’ cashflow principally by paying grants early. The monies withdrawn from banks have mostly been placed in money market funds and are readily accessible but pay little interest. This switch has reduced income, but that was more than outweighed by the extra income we received from other Local Authorities in 2020-21.
- 5.7 The Council has an indirect exposure to non-UK banks through its investment in money market funds. Money market funds are like “unit trusts” but rather than investing in company shares these funds invest in interest bearing investments such as bank deposits. When we open such funds, they are vetted to ensure that they have strong investment and risk management processes, and we receive advice from our treasury advisor, Arlingclose. Investing in this way helps manage credit risk by having a high level of diversification amongst the underlying banks and institutions to whom money is lent. Interest rates on these funds are low, because we have immediate access to the funds.
- 5.8 The Treasury Strategy for 2020/21 permits investment in property funds. Investments of £8m are held in two funds, the Lothbury Property Trust and the Threadneedle Property Unit Trust.

## **6. Implementation of Borrowing & Investment Strategy**

- 6.1 The strategy approved by Council for 2020/21 envisaged using cash balances instead of borrowing. This strategy has been adhered to.
- 6.2 Total investment income during 2020/21 was £2.85 million. This was significantly better than originally budgeted due to entering into a number of investments with other local authorities at preferential interest rates, and because cashflow proved to be greater than anticipated due to a large number of grants from the government for the coronavirus pandemic.
- 6.3 Given that the Council continues to have a high level of investments, active consideration is given to the possible early redemption of a limited amount of debt. This, however, is not straightforward as debt repayment usually involves the payment of a premium. The level of

such premia is generally high and premature debt redemption is usually not financially viable. Recently, we have also had to ensure a high level of investments in liquid funds.

- 6.4 As at 31/03/2021 we held £20m of “LOBO” loans. These are fixed rate, but permit the lender to ask for a rate rise. We have the option to repay if they do. Members may be aware of some criticism of LOBOs nationally, principally in respect of authorities which have complex mechanisms for calculating interest rates (we do not). We do not expect the lender to ask us for a rate rise, though we would be pleased to receive a request as we would then take the opportunity to repay. To all intents and purposes, they are simply fixed rate loans.
- 6.5 At the end of December 2020, there was considerable uncertainty as to whether or not there would be a no deal Brexit. Although there was little risk to the security of the Council’s investments, there was a concern regarding the liquidity of foreign domiciled Money Market Funds. Accordingly, the Council greatly reduced its holdings in foreign domiciled funds and increased them in UK domiciled funds and with the Debt Management Office in December and January until the uncertainty abated. This resulted in slightly lower returns, but ensuring liquidity was more important at the time.

## 7. Key Performance Measures

- 7.1 The most important performance measures are the rate of interest on the Council’s borrowings, the timing of borrowing decisions, the timing of decisions to prematurely repay debt and the return on investments. No new long-term loans have been borrowed and no further loans have been prematurely repaid.
- 7.2 The Council benchmarks its investments and the latest data for the investment portfolio as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 7.3 Treasury investments comprise internally managed investments, and longer maturity externally managed funds.
- 7.4 The following table compares our performance against that of participating authorities. This information is available for internally managed investments (including money market funds) and externally managed funds. It is a “snapshot” of investments held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (table 2 above shows the average for the year).

**Table 2 – Key Performance Data**

<b>Investment</b>	<b>Leicester City Council Revenue return</b>	<b>All Authorities’ Revenue return(1)</b>
Internally managed	0.80%	0.15%
Longer term investments	1.89%	3.85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.83%</b>	<b>0.90%</b>

1. per Arlingclose

- 7.5 The average rate of interest on all investments for participating authorities at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is 0.9% whilst the Council’s own rate is 0.83%. This is mainly explained by differences on income from longer term investments. It should also be noted that the average for all authorities is skewed by a few that have generated average income of around 4% p.a. Whilst 4% is quite an impressive income return, it could only be achieved by taking greater risk of capital losses.
- 7.6 The Council has a lower proportion of longer-term investments than the average authority. Whilst this will reduce income returns, it also reduces our risk from capital losses which is particularly important following recent events.



7.7 As at 31<sup>st</sup> March the Council's own investments comprised units in property unit trusts. These carry less risk than some other investment types and the lower risk equates to a lower investment return. In addition, we selected property fund managers that invested in good quality properties with reliable tenants and such funds have a lower rate of return than more adventurous property funds or (for example) funds that invest in the shares of companies.

7.8 Higher investment returns are always available if higher risk is accepted. Risk can take the form of credit risk (money due is not paid) or market risk (the value of investments fall). However, the trade-off between risk and reward was considered when investment strategies were set for 2020/21 and in the current economic climate continues to be a most important consideration.

7.9 In practice, there is no such thing as a representative "average" authority. The benchmarking data shows a division between the authorities that use longer term and more risky assets (about half of all authorities) and those adopting a more cautious approach. We fall between the two as we have only a small proportion of longer-term assets.

## 8. **Use of Treasury Advisors**

8.1 The Council are advised by Arlingclose Ltd. They advise on all aspects of treasury management but their main focus is on providing advice on the following matters:

- the creditworthiness of banks
- the most cost effective ways of borrowing
- appropriate responses to Government initiatives
- technical and accounting matters.

## 9. **Compliance with the Council's Treasury Strategy**

9.1 As required by the statutory borrowing framework, the Council is required to set a number of prudential limits and indicators. These limits are set annually and can be found within the budget and treasury strategy.

9.2 For the operational implementation of the Council's treasury management strategy the most important limits and indicators that need to be monitored throughout the year are:

- The authorised limit – the maximum amount of borrowing that the Council permits itself to have outstanding at any one time
- The operational limit – a lower limit to trigger management action if borrowing is higher than expected.
- The maximum proportion of debt that is fixed rate.
- The maximum proportion of debt that is variable rate.
- Limits on the proportion of debt maturing in a number of specified time bands
- Limits on sums to be invested for more than 364 days

9.3 These limits are monitored and have been complied with. However, over the end of December to early January the Council did breach its limit on one individual Money Market Fund (Federated) by investing £30 million rather than £20 million as outlined in the Treasury Strategy. This £20m limit is not set in law but is self-imposed by the Council. The breach occurred because there was uncertainty at the end of December regarding Brexit and therefore it was felt prudent to put more in Federated as this was UK domiciled. This breach was exceptional and followed advice from our Treasury Advisors that it was safe to do so.

## 10. **Financial and Legal Implications**

10.1 This report is solely concerned with financial issues. Kamal Adatia, Legal Services, has been consulted as Legal Advisor and there are no legal issues.

11. **Other Issues**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		
Corporate Parenting	No		
Health Inequalities Impact	No		

12. **Background Papers**

12.1 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy - "Treasury Strategy 2019/20" (Council 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019) and Treasury Management Strategy 2020/2021" (Council 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and The Council's Treasury Policy Document – "Framework for Treasury Decisions" – Council 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and Council 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

13. **Consultation**

13.1 Arlingclose Ltd (the Council's Treasury Management advisers).

14. **Author**

14.1 The author of this report is Nick Booth, Treasury Manager, on extension 37 4063.

Colin Sharpe  
Deputy Director of Finance.



**CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**  
**Connecting Leicester Aylestone Road – Putney Road**  
**- Welford Road**

OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE - 27 May 2021

COUNCIL - 17 June 2021

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

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### Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Graham Carey
- Author contact details: graham.carey@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: V1

## 1. Summary

An Executive decision taken by the Deputy City Mayor Environment and Transport on 14 April 2021 relating to Connecting Leicester: Aylestone Road – Putney Road - Welford Road has been the subject of a five-member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The procedure rules state that a scrutiny committee or any five councillors may request formally that the decision be called-in for a further review by giving notice in writing to the Monitoring Officer within five working days of the decision.

The five Councillors who signed the call in were: Councillor Kitterick (proposer), Councillor Nangreave (seconder), Councillor Broadwell, Councillor Sangster and Councillor Willmott.

## 2. Recommended actions/decision

The Overview Select Committee is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. *(If the report is noted the process continues and the call in will be considered at Council on 17 June 2021); or*
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. *(If comments are made the process continues and the comments and call in will be considered at Council on 17 June 2021); or*
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at Council on 17 June 2021 and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment).*

Council is recommended to either:

- a) Support the Deputy City Mayor's decision, and thus confirming the decision with immediate effect; or
- b) Recommend a different decision to the Deputy City Mayor. (The original decision will still stand, unless the Deputy City Mayor takes a further decision to amend the original.)

### **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

Consultation has been carried out with the council's cycling and walking special independent advisor on options for improving cycling and walking links in this area. Discussions have taken place with key stakeholders including Leicester City Football Club and University of Leicester to ensure cycling and walking links can be made with their current and emerging development schemes.

### **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

The Executive Decision Report and Decision Notice are attached at Appendix A and Appendix B.

### **5. Detailed report**

The call-in submitted to the Monitoring Officer was in the following terms:

*"We wish to call in the following decision "Executive Decision: Connecting Leicester: Aylestone Road - Putney Road - Welford Road" as we believe this matter needs to have further scrutiny. This is as the cost of the project has increased substantially and calls into question the value of the Putney Road project to the city compared to other transport schemes.*

*The benefits of the re-opening of Putney Road to through traffic was debatable prior to the cost increases proposed but now this is due to increase by £2.9 million, a fundamental re-examination of the choice of spending on this road project compared to more environmentally sustainable transport project needs to be debated."*

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the call-in satisfies the requirements of the procedure rules and it has therefore proceeded as per the process set out at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

Where a call-in has been made, officers are to take no further legally binding action and the matter shall be referred to a meeting of the full Council. Prior to this it shall be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee if one is programmed or a special scrutiny committee if one is convened.

The call-in may however be withdrawn if:

The decision maker and the relevant scrutiny committee (or via the Monitoring Officer, the scrutiny committee chair and vice chair unanimously) come to an agreement;

The relevant scrutiny committee makes a resolution to withdraw; or

The sponsor and seconder of the call-in inform the Monitoring Officer that they wish the call-in to be withdrawn.

Following consideration of a call-in by full Council, the original decision will be deemed to be revived in its entirety. Any agreement by the decision maker to change the original decision will require a further formal Executive Decision.

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### 6.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the call-in.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, Ext. 37 4081

### 6.2 Legal implications

The legal implications arising from the call-in are explained in section 2 above.

Two Executive Decisions have been made in relation to Putney Road. A £4.9m link road scheme was approved in November 2017 and subsequently added to the Council's Capital Programme, as explained in section 3.1 of the Executive Decision Report attached. That matter cannot be subject to call-in as time has lapsed.

The matter presently subject to call-in is the expenditure of £2.9m on the matters highlighted in section 3.4 to 3.6 of the Executive Decision Report.

Kamal Adatia, Monitoring Officer, Extn 371401

### 6.3 Equalities implications

There are no equality comments arising from this report.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Extn 374148

### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no climate change implications in addition to those in the decision report associated with this report, as it is solely concerned with financial issues.

*Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372284*

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

None

## **7. Background information and other papers:**

None



**8. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A Executive Decision Report – Connecting Leicester Aylestone Road – Putney Road - Welford Road dated 14 April 2021.

Appendix B Decision Notice - Connecting Leicester Aylestone Road – Putney Road - Welford Road dated 14 April 2021.

**9. 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



# Executive Decision Report

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## **Connecting Leicester Aylestone Road – Putney Road - Welford Road**

Decision to be taken by: Deputy City Mayor Environment  
and Transport

Decision to be taken on: 14 April 2021

Lead Director: Andrew L Smith

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**City Mayor**  
123

## Useful information

- Ward affected: Saffron and Castle
- Report author: Andrew Smith
- Author contact details: [andrewl.smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:andrewl.smith@leicester.gov.uk)
- Report version number: v1

### 1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for delivery of Connecting Leicester cycle and walking infrastructure at Aylestone Road and Putney Road, linking to Welford Road.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Deputy City Mayor Environment and Transport is recommended to:
- a) Approve implementation of Connecting Leicester cycle and walking infrastructure at Aylestone Road and Putney Road, linking to Welford Road.
  - b) Note the cost will be met from the current Transport Improvement Works budget, funded from government grants.

### 3 Supporting information:

#### Background

- 3.1 Approval was given in November 2017 for a £4.9m link road to open up a highway link between Putney Road and Aylestone Road and this was subsequently included in the council's capital programme. Subsequently consultation and review has been carried out which has taken into account new and planned developments and opportunities to provide high quality cycle and pedestrian linkages that were not included in the original scheme bid.
- 3.2 New developments and cycling and walking scheme proposals have since come forward that should be considered alongside the Putney Road link road scheme. A new major development scheme is being delivered at the junction of Putney Road and Welford Road to construct new student accommodation and academic space for the University of Leicester (UoL). Leicester City Football Club (LCFC) is working on development proposals for the stadium area. The council has also been successful in securing Transforming Cities Fund to improve cycling access along Aylestone Road, adjacent to Leicester Tigers and Leicester College sites, and also on Saffron Lane. More recently the first Covid19 Key Worker pop up corridor was created on Aylestone Road by the council.
- 3.3 Consultation has been carried out with the council's cycling and walking special independent advisor on options for improving cycling and walking links in this

area. Discussions have taken place with key stakeholders including LCFC and UoL to ensure cycling and walking links can be made with their current and emerging development schemes.

### **Scheme proposals**

3.4 Following design review to take into account emerging developments and consultation the following schemes have been identified:

- Two-way segregated cycleway on Putney Road to improve links to the Freeman's Common UoL campus development which includes cycling and walking provision east of the Knighton Tunnel.
- A high capacity supercrossing at the Aylestone Road/Putney Road West junction to link to LCFC stadium to carry high volumes of pedestrians/cyclists on match days.
- A new signalised toucan crossing for pedestrians and cyclists on Commercial Square.
- Provision will be made to connect the upgraded Putney Road junction to the Transforming Cities Programme cycleway schemes to be constructed on the Aylestone Road/ Saffron Lane corridor.

3.5 For cost efficiency and convenience of delivery to minimise disruption, these schemes would be carried out at the same time as the Putney Road link road works between summer 2021 and summer 2022.

3.6 The works have been costed and inclusive of contingencies it is proposed that an allocation of up to £2.9m is made to cover these items. These works are able to be fully funded through Government DfT grants held in the council's Transport Improvement Works Programme.

## **5 Financial, legal and other implications**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

This report proposes to use £2.9m of the current approved Transport Improvement Works budget towards cycle and walking infrastructure at Aylestone Road and Putney Road, linking to Welford Road. This budget is funded by DfT grants.

The Putney Road link road project is in the current approved Capital Programme as an immediate start with an allocated budget of £4.9m, partly funded from the National Productivity Investment Fund (£3.4m).

Amy Oliver, Head of Finance

**5.2 Legal implications**

The Council has a general power to improve highways pursuant to Part V of the Highways Act 1985 (as amended), and under s.65 a highway authority may, in or by the side of a highway maintainable at the public expense by them which consists of or comprises a made-up carriageway, construct a cycle track as part of the highway; and they may light any cycle track constructed by them. In order to carry out these improvements, the Council should ensure it has the necessary statutory consents in place, and has carried out appropriate consultation with the principal stakeholders who are likely to be affected by the proposed works, as mentioned in Section 3 above.

John McIvor, Principal Lawyer, ext. 37-1409

**5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications**

Transport is responsible for around 25% of carbon emissions in Leicester. Following the city council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019, and its aim to achieve carbon neutrality, addressing transport-related emissions is a vital part of the council's work. The schemes to provide cycleways, cycle and pedestrian crossings and a link to the existing cycle network detailed in this report therefore represent an important part of wider works to enable and increase the share of journeys undertaken by low carbon transport within the city.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

**5.4 Other Implications**

NA

**6 Summary of appendices:**

NA

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

No


**8 Is this a "key decision"?**

No

**9 If a key decision please explain reason**

N/A

**RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Decision title</b>	Connecting Leicester: Aylestone Road – Putney Road - Welford Road
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	None
<b>3.</b>	<b>Date of decision</b>	14 April 2021
<b>4.</b>	<b>Decision maker</b>	Deputy City Mayor Environment and Transport
<b>5.</b>	<b>Decision taken</b>	<p>a) Approve implementation of Connecting Leicester cycle and walking infrastructure at Aylestone Road and Putney Road, linking to Welford Road.</p> <p>b) Note the cost will be met from the current Transport Improvement Works budget, funded from government grants.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Reason for decision</b>	To provide sustainable cycling and walking transport improvements in the area and for these to be delivered at the same time as highway works at Putney Road to minimise disruption in the future.
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>A) KEY DECISION Yes/No?</b></p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no</p>	No
<b>8.</b>	<b>Options considered</b>	Not to deliver sustainable transport cycling and walking improvements in this area.
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Deadline for call-in</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in.</li> <li>• Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer</li> </ul>	21 April 2021
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Signature of decision maker</b> (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)</p>	





## Overview Select Committee

### Draft Work Programme 2021 – 2022 (work in progress)

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising	Progress
27 May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Covid-19 Update on position</li> <li>2) Women’s Safety update report</li> <li>3) Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020-21 outturn</li> <li>4) Capital Budget Monitoring 2020 -21 Outturn</li> <li>5) Income Collection April 2020 – March 2021</li> <li>6) Review of Treasury Management Activities 2020/21</li> <li>7) Call-In of Executive Decision – Connecting Leicester: Aylestone Road / Putney Road / Welford Road</li> <li>8) Questions to City Mayor</li> <li>9) Work Programme 2021/22 – draft planning</li> </ul>		
July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Covid-19 Update</li> <li>2) Living Wage Procurement</li> <li>3) Financial reports</li> <li>4) Questions to City Mayor</li> <li>5) Work Programme</li> </ul> Other items tbc		
16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Revenue Monitoring Period 3</li> <li>2) Capital Monitoring Period 3</li> </ul> Other items tbc		
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Revenue Monitoring Period 6</li> <li>2) Capital Monitoring Period 6</li> <li>3) Income Collection Apr-Sept 21</li> <li>4) Treasury Mid-Year</li> </ul> Other items tbc		
24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Revenue Monitoring Period 9</li> <li>2) Capital Monitoring Period 9</li> </ul> Other items tbc		

Updated May 2021

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising	Progress
Tbc			

**Forward Plan Items (suggested)**

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-21		
Equalities update including updated equalities action plan		
Smart Cities Update		
Tackling Racism, Race Inequality and Disadvantage – update on plans and progress		
Health and Wellbeing Strategy		
Prevent Strategy		
Homelessness Strategy		
Customer Services		
Revenue Budget Monitoring Outturn		
Capital Budget Monitoring Outturn		
Income Collection		
Review of Treasury Management Activities		