



Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND
CLIMATE EMERGENCY SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

DATE: THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 5:30 pm

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

Members of the Committee

Councillor Waddington (Chair)

Councillor O'Neill (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Batool, Dawood, Osman, Porter, Rae Bhatia and Whittle

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

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Ed Brown (Senior Governance Support Officer)

Jessica Skidmore (Governance Support Officer),

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 18 October 2023 and 16 November 2023 are attached and Members will be asked to confirm them as correct record.

4. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer to report on any questions, representations and statements of case received in accordance with Council procedures.

5. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures.

6. ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR HOMES

Appendix B

The Director for Estates and Building Services submits a report on Energy efficiency schemes in private sector housing in the city.

7. DRAFT ADULT EDUCATION 'ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT'

Appendix C

The Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submits a report reviewing the 2019 Adult Education Service plan and to present the 2022-23 Adult Education self-assessment plan.

The Commission will also be consulted regarding the draft Accountability Agreement, which lays out planning priorities and targets for 2024-25 and will form the basis of the service's Adult Education Budget contract with the

Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

8. EV CHARGING

Appendix D

The Director for Planning, Development and Transportation submits a report providing the Commission with details and context on electric vehicles within Leicester and providing the Commission with information as to the progress on EV uptake and infrastructure delivery within Leicester.

9. INFORMAL SCRUTINY WORK - VERBAL UPDATE

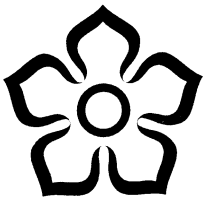
The Director for Planning, Development and Transportation gives a verbal update on progress with informal work.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix E

For Members' consideration, the work programme for the Commission is attached.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY
SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Waddington (Chair)

Councillor Batool
Councillor Whittle
Councillor Porter

Councillor Dawood
Councillor Osman
Councillor Rae-Bhatia

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22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received by Cllr O'Neill.

The City Mayor and Deputy City Mayor for climate, economy and culture also gave apologies.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked members of the commission to declare any interests in the proceedings. Cllr Porter declared that he actively campaigned against the introduction of 24/7 bus lanes in Aylestone ward.

24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair highlighted that there were no outstanding actions from previous meetings and that all information requested has been circulated to Members of the Commission.

It was also noted that the Cllr Osman had provided apologies for the meeting on 21 September and requested this be amended in the minutes.

AGREED:

- Subject to the above change, it was agreed that the minutes for the meeting on 21 September 2023 were a correct record.

25. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

26. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

27. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted that for procedural reasons, as the papers were not published five clear working days in advance, the items for discussion were classified as urgent.

28. BUS LANES UPDATE

The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation introduced the item highlighting that bus lanes have been a feature in the city for up to fifty years. It was noted that lots of cities have introduced bus lanes over many years as they are an integral part of strategies for public transport and in responding to climate change by way of reducing congestion and improving air quality.

The City Transport Director presented the item. It was noted that:

- Bus priority comprises of bus gates and bus lanes. The bus lane network comprises of thirteen key routes across the city serving all 44 main bus services.
- The purpose of bus priority measures is to improve punctuality and reduce journey time, therefore increasing patronage by becoming an attractive alternative for modal shift. This allows for more efficient usage of road space and the management of traffic flow on the network.
- Many improvements have been seen following the introduction of bus lanes as data included within the agenda pack indicates for Groby Road, Abbey Park Road, Aylestone Road and Melton Road.
- Leicester is the eleventh highest for bus journeys outside of London, with 33% of households not having access to a private vehicle.
- The majority of bus services in the city are commercially operated which enables the Authority to subsidise strategic routes such as Park and Ride, Hop and Orbital.
- Research by the Department for Transport suggests service reliability and cost are the key barriers to bus usage. Local surveys have also found that people want punctual buses, they believe bus lanes help reliability and want more frequent day time services. The £2 bus fare cap is helping with affordability and the role of the Authority is to improve service reliability.
- The Enhanced Leicester Bus Partnership was established with a

vision to improving five key service areas: electric, frequent, reliable, easy and great value. Bus lanes support the frequent and reliable areas. The Partnership has enabled strong investment from bus operators within the city.

- Increasing use of cars on the transport network is creating congestion and pollution. Modal shift is therefore important to encouraging bus use, preventing congestion, and improving pollution with carbonised buses.
- There is no evidence that bus lanes cause pollution, and the use of 24/7 bus lanes cause less confusion. Some existing bus lanes that operate during specific times will therefore require review.
- All monies received through enforcement of bus lanes is reinvested into the transport network. When new cameras are installed, contraventions of a bus lane will initially receive a warning before fines become operational. The appeals process follows national guidance.
- Conclusions by the Bus Lanes Scrutiny Review in April 2016 outlined within the presentation remain true today regarding increasing car usage, bus punctuality, journey time and patronage.
- Congestion is mainly caused at junctions reaching capacity and this is likely to worsen as car usage increased. Bus lanes end before junctions to allow vehicle to queue and traffic to flow which was demonstrated via a video.

The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation highlighted that further guidance is anticipated following the Government's recent announcement on the 'Plan for Drivers' which includes reference to bus lanes. It was noted however that the timeframe for additional guidance for transport authorities was unclear presently.

In response to questions and comments from Members, it was noted that:

- The use of 24/7 bus lanes provide clarity as they restrict unauthorised vehicles at all times. Signage can also be clearer and does not need to list additional information to avoid confusion and possible contravention.
- The infographic contained within the agenda pack shows that a full bus is equivalent to thirty vehicles using the transport network. This can be seen regularly during peak times but the average for Leicester is around 17, although some routes have less and others more.
- A comprehensive survey was conducted with bus users as part of developing the Leicester Bus Partnership where a large response was received identifying reliability, cost and frequency as key priorities. This is reflected in the overall vision to make the bus network electric, frequent, reliable, easy and great value.
- The 18% increase in bus usage on Aylestone Road is indicative of the years following installation in 2013. There has been changes following the pandemic that make it difficult to compare.

It was agreed that information will be circulated to Members on this.

- Sequencing of signals at junctions are not automatic but rely on various algorithms. This means junctions will not have a set time before changing but a time range depending on load of a junction. Area Traffic Control monitor traffic flow in the city and will manually adjust sequencing if congestion is increasing, for example if there has been an accident, roadworks or a junction is underperforming.
- Every street in Leicester is very different and each scheme is therefore unique and has a specific design as opposed to implementing a national standard approach. Each scheme is also subject to consultation with the public, stakeholders and scrutiny to understand the local context and consider possible changes before implementation.
- Over 95% households are within walking distance of a bus stop – defined as 400metres. The density of our city and bus network with bus stops enables good access to routes compared with other cities.
- The frequency of buses was a priority for most people when surveyed and therefore the base standard contained within the Bus Plan is to ensure 24 core corridors are served every 15 minutes during the day and 30 minutes during evenings and Sundays.
- Earlier services would be beneficial to some. More people need to use buses to become commercially viable for operators to increase services but to do that it is important to ensure they are reliable, punctual and attractive.
- Bus operators are commercially driven and do not receive subsidies on commercial services. They do however provide family tickets, costing £10 for a family all day on one operator or £12 all day for multiple operators, this is usually reduced to £10 during school holidays. This is deemed reasonable when compared with individual £2 fares per journey.
- Automated ticketing now involves less interaction with bus drivers, but the latest survey of bus satisfaction shown an increase in satisfaction associated to bus driver behaviour.
- Zebra funding was received for electric buses only and matched by commercial operators. No funding was attributed from the Authority. We bid and secured funding based on the plan for improving bus priority, including bus lanes, ticketing, real time information boards etc. Leicester has over 90 e-buses currently and expected to be over 150 by next summer. This is way ahead of most other cities and demonstrates the good partnership with operators.
- Bus lanes are designed and implemented where key pinch points are identified to ensure suitability of the network and not a matter of installing long lengths of bus lanes that are not required.
- During off-peak periods where buses may be ahead of time,

layovers are required to adhere to timetables which are legal requirement for bus registration. It can be difficult to calibrate timetables for different times throughout the day to match running times and traffic flow as congestion at junctions are variable.

- Bus lane enforcement data is contained on the open data platform, and it was agreed that this would be made available to Members. Monies received through enforcement are redirected on the network. The appeals process complies with national guidance and cases are considered.

Cllr Osman proposed the Commission establish a Task Group to look in further detail at 24/7 bus lanes. This was seconded by Cllr Porter and was carried following a vote. The Chair noted a discussion would take place with lead officers concerning inclusion of this in the annual work programme.

AGREED:

- The Commission noted the report.
- The Commission be provided with the additional information requested.
- The Commission recommended a Task Group be established to look in further detail at 24/7 bus lanes.

29. TRO - A6 CORRIDOR BUS LANE SCHEME REPORT

The Director for Planning, Development and Transportation introduced the item to highlight that the revised process enabled proposed TRO reports to be considered by the Commission instead of the Planning Committee. It was further highlighted that comments made by Members would be considered by the Director alongside consultation responses to determine whether to proceed or make changes.

The Team Leader for Central Area presented the item, and it was noted that:

- The proposal is to introduce a series of 24/7 bus lanes in both directions along the A6 corridor, between Burleys Way and Red Hill Circle. It is identified as a strategic route into the city whereby punctuality standards of the three main services are currently below the standard expected.
- Traffic modelling has taken place along with discussions with bus operators to identify where most congestion arises in order to locate sections of bus lane in the most beneficial locations to improve reliability and punctuality.
- The TRO was advertised in July 2023, leaflets were delivered directly to around three thousand homes and was publicised via social media and local news. Over 100 responses were received opposed to scheme along with some general support. Most

themes identified within comments opposing the scheme related to congestion, pollution and not requiring bus lanes out of peak hours.

In response to questions and comments from Members, it was noted that:

- There had been a larger response to the consultation in comparison with other schemes with most opposed to the proposal. However, each scheme is very different and the number of responses received was low compared with the number of users of the route.
- An objectors meeting could be a potential option for consideration for further engagement regarding the scheme. It could also address common themes outlined within objections.
- The scheme is identified to be funded through the Transforming Cities Fund for which funding is allocated to specific schemes although not ringfenced.
- Traffic modelling has been undertaken when developing the scheme and visual examples of how the flow of traffic will operate can be illustrated.

As part of the discussion Members comments included:

- Further objector engagement should be considered by the Director for Planning, Development and Transportation as decision maker of the TRO proposal.
- The proposed design of sections of bus lanes would have an overall negative impact on people choosing to come to Leicester city centre and is likely to lead to more congestion and therefore pollution.
- The funding required for the slight improvement in bus journey times would not be worthwhile given the impact to other road users.
- The implementation of 24/7 bus lanes do not in themselves provide an attractive offer to encourage members of the public to choose the bus as an alternative to the private vehicle.
- The proposal of a red route and associated enforcement would prevent private vehicles being able to drop off, pick up or load.
- Bus lanes should be implemented at specific times as opposed to 24/7.

The Chair noted that she had read each response and it was evident that individuals had provided detailed explanations to outline their concerns to the scheme which must be properly considered by the decision maker.

AGREED:

- Members comments be noted by the Director of Planning,

- Development and Transportation.
- The Commission believed further engagement be considered by the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation regarding objections to the proposed TRO – A6 Bus Lane Corridor Scheme.

30. RALLY PARK ACTIVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City Transport Director presented the item to outline the initial details of the Rally Park Scheme following a successful £1.8m bid as part of Round 4 of the Active Travel Fund. It was noted that:

- The grant includes a target for the scheme to be under construction by April 2024. The service is currently designing the scheme with the intention to consult later in the year with a target to be on site during spring.
- The successful bid has been allocated specifically for the Rally Park Active Improvement Project. It has been identified as a strategic priority to provide access with the existing Connecting Leicester network.
- Rally Park currently has no dedicated cycling provision. The pathway is a shared space and in poor condition. There is also poor visibility and crime concerns in the area. The intention of the scheme is to provide better surfacing, desire lines and improve the Park as a green space and travel corridor to increase use.

Members were supportive of the scheme and requested further details be shared once the design had been developed. Other comments were made to be considered in the design process including:

- For trees not to be removed unnecessarily and if appropriate consideration be given to raising the canopy line. If trees are required to be removed, that they be replaced.
- Sufficient security and lighting be promoted to ensure safety and visibility.
- To identify whether there are any voluntary organisations that could enable a biodiversity gain whilst also making it an improved destination.
- Clear routes and focus to ensure there is not a conflict between open space to be enjoyed and a cycle-way.

AGREED:

- The Commission noted the report.
- Members comments be noted for consideration as part of design process.
- The Commission be provided with further details of the designed scheme.

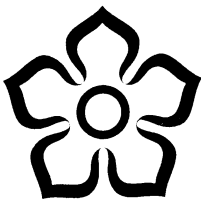
31. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair noted a special meeting has been arranged for 16 November 2023 to discuss the Climate Change Strategy Plan to ensure comments by the Commission can be considered during the consultation period.

It was further highlighted by the Chair that three meeting dates had been arranged for a Task Group, in which all Members of the Commission are invited as agreed at the previous meeting, to look in more detail at 20mph streets. The meetings intend to review the scope, gather evidence from stakeholders and conclude with findings and recommendations. All meetings are to take place via Teams.

Members of the Commission were invited to inform the Chair of any further items to be considered for the Work Programme.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.40.



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY
SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Waddington - Chair

Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Osman
Councillor Whittle

Councillor Dawood
Councillor Porter

* * * * *

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Batool and Cllr Rae Bhatia.

Councillor Rae Bhatia joined the meeting remotely in an informal capacity.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

34. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY PLAN CONSULTATION

The Director of Estates and Building Services submitted a report on the Leicester City Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Chair introduced the item noting that Climate Change was an ongoing priority for the Council.

An introduction to the Climate Emergency Action Plan was made by Cllr Clarke, Deputy Mayor- Climate, Economy and Culture. He thanked all involved for their work and bringing their expertise.

He noted that Leicester was demonstrably forward-thinking regarding climate action and was A-rated by the Climate Disclosure Project (CDP) and was in the

top 13% of over 900 cities globally reporting their progress to the CDP. This was a huge credit to officers. However, the city was still running behind where it wants to be and there was a need to up the pace of improvements if the necessary government support is forthcoming. The Commission now had the opportunity to help set the pace and help the Council lead the way and recognise where changes needed to be made and where others needed to be called upon to make changes.

A presentation was made by Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency) using the slides published with the agenda papers. The presentation covered the successes from the first action plan, the aims of the new plan and the approach to achieving the net zero ambition. The aim was to make Leicester a climate-ready city, meaning becoming net-zero by 2030 if possible, with the necessary government support, trying to reduce the impact we have outside the city as all goods and services brought into the city created carbon emissions in other places.

Other key points included:

- The plan looked at the wildlife in the city and the infrastructure in the city trying to adapt and make the city resilient as the climate changed.
- There was a need to try to link the climate change work to the wider goals of the City Council.
- Co-benefits from the climate work included improving people's health by improving the air quality in the city, making homes healthier, reducing issues in buildings with damp and mould, better insulating homes and helping the local economy to grow by helping businesses save energy.
- The Council aimed to lead by example.
- There was a need to reduce demand for fossil fuels and energy use, for example by insulating buildings and encouraging alternatives to car travel and also promoting switching from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric and switching from gas boilers to heat pumps as well as trying to make use of renewable energy sources.
- Round table discussions across different Council service areas were undertaken to identify actions which formed the basis of the consultation draft.
- A public consultation was being undertaken and a workshop had been conducted with young people.

The Committee were invited to ask questions and make comments. Key points included:

- With regard to the co-benefits of the plan it was possible that there could be scope for joint-work with Public Health.
- With regard to a suggestion about getting sports clubs in the city involved, it was relayed that since the document had been published, Active Leicester had joined the partnership. Active Leicester

coordinated a consortium of sports organisations across the city.

- In response to a suggestion that tiny forests be planted in places other than schools, the Commission were informed that six more had been planned and one of these would be in a park. Officers were considering where people would be keen to have further ones, although issues such as vandalism needed to be considered. It was noted that the Council had more than any other Local Authority in the country.
- It was clarified that the wording in the document explained that if tree-planting alone was used to neutralise carbon emissions then trees would need to be planted outside the city. There was no proposal to plant large numbers of trees outside the city. Additional measures as well as tree-planting would be used.
- Heat-pumps would not be effective in buildings that were not properly insulated. As such a retrofit process was being conducted, which included appropriate insulation measures, based on assessments made. Heat-pumps would only be installed in buildings where they worked effectively. Resource was an issue in this process. Whilst work was being done on Council house insulation, it was dependent on government grants. The Council were contributing money from rents into the process, but it was not enough.
- Concern was raised about energy efficiency in private rented homes and the need for it to be improved.
- In response to concern raised about lights being on in City Hall whilst it was empty, it was clarified that City Hall lighting was controlled by movement sensors, and as such lights would only be on if the building was occupied.
- Officers were asked to give consideration to extending the consultation period as it was suggested that many residents were unaware of the consultation and had not had a chance to participate in it. However, it was recognised that extending the consultation period would jeopardise the timescale of the Strategy Plan going to Full Council in March 2024.
- In relation to action number 1.09 Ways of Working and its target to reduce floorspace by at least 10% over 5 years, it was questioned whether this is likely to be achieved given that staff in some areas are being encouraged to return to offices. The importance of addressing the issues surrounding the climate impact caused by purchasing of products was raised.
- Concern was raised about the approval of planning applications which involved felling trees due to them being an 'inconvenience'. It was suggested that the Council needed to be more assertive about protecting what the city has.
- Referring to action number 4.02 Review of options to deliver the LTP vision via demand management and funding support, it was asked that the reasons for the references to workplace parking levies and road user charges in the strategy plan be clarified. It was clarified that, in common with a number of actions in the draft plan, this action formed a continuation of work undertaken as part of the first Climate Emergency

Action Plan between April 2020 and March 2023, during which a review of options had been started. This had included consideration of a workplace parking levy, which had been completed and concluded at the time.

- Speed limits were one of a suite of actions. Decisions would be taken separately on different actions.
- With regard to the retrofitting of private homes, government grants were administered through the Green Homes Grants scheme and the Home Upgrade Grants scheme, which were aimed at low-income and less energy efficient housing – with the HUG scheme focusing on homes which are not connected to the gas network. The Council's contractor for administering the schemes was EON, who then sub-contracted to installers to deliver the work.
- District Heating had been providing low cost, low carbon heating and hot water to many council tenants for many years and the heat metering project currently underway would ensure tenants paid only for the energy they used. Further ways that the district scheme could be decarbonised were being explored. This scheme saved the most carbon out of all the schemes in the city. As electricity from the grid became steadily decarbonised, the benefits of having the district heating on gas combined heat and power (CHP) would become lower and there would be a need to move it across to an electric or other low carbon fuel source.
- In terms of the involvement of businesses, the Council plan was based on what the Council could do to support and encourage them. Many private businesses would take action of their own accord. The Council sought resources to support businesses to take action, particularly those small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with less capacity to get started. If funding became available for a grant scheme the Council would be keen to look to support further business action in the city, following its very successful Green BELLE grant scheme. The Council also had a Social Value Charter for when it worked with businesses and undertaking procurement.
- Leicester Nirvana FC had worked towards reducing their carbon. They were working with the Council on this.
- It was important to have choices on transport and access to where people needed to go. Diesel was an ongoing issue on air quality.
- It was suggested that investment in infrastructure such as Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points had been made based on the anticipation of legislation on the phasing out of petrol and diesel vehicles in favour of EVs which now had an uncertain timetable. The issue of EV charging points would be considered at the next meeting of the Commission.
- It was commented that, while the action plan referred to the Council's Food Plan for actions to promote lower carbon food choices, there was very little action of that kind currently in the Food Plan. The possibility of Council catering becoming plant based was raised as plant-based food was more sustainable the rearing of cattle and associated deforestation

were a big contributor to climate change. It was also suggested that plant based catering was more cost-effective. The issue of diets and ingredients would be considered when updating the Food Plan.

- The impact of pension fund investments was highlighted and, while pension-fund divestment was not within the Council's direct control, it was noted that action by Leicestershire County Council to decarbonise pension fund investments had been actively encouraged by the City Council's representatives. This could be recognised in the new action plan.
- The merits of EV use were discussed. It was suggested that EV use could be encouraged by granting them free parking and allowing them to use bus lanes.
- It was suggested that improving the bus service, especially with regard to frequency, would encourage their use.

A presentation was made by Dr Andrew Reeves, Associate Professor, Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development at De Montfort University, representing the Climate Commission using the slides published with the agenda papers.

Key points in addition to those on the slides included:

- The Climate Commission had been convened to feed back on the Action Plan.
- The Action Plan was a commendable piece of work that demonstrated a clear understanding of the challenge. The overall focus was well-put and it had clearly set out what the scenario would look like if the goals were achieved.
- There was a good principle on how to develop climate actions, and the fairness of the actions had been considered.
- Challenges included the scale of the actions, and it was recognised that the Council was not near to what was needed. Another challenge was resourcing and how the Council could obtain the money and resources to make things happen on the scale needed.
- With regard to the recommendations (as set out on the slide), it was important to consider:
 - What the actions would look like.
 - How to quantify gaps – i.e. how to show what has been done and what needs to be done.
 - The co-benefits, linking to UN sustainability goals.
 - More systematic mapping of opportunities.
- With specific regard to the recommendation on Community Engagement, it was important to consider what overall outcomes were needed from the engagement plan and what success would look like.
- With specific regard to the recommendation on Co-benefits, a more systematic mapping of opportunities was needed.
- With specific regard to the recommendation on Capacity Building, it was

recognised that the Council Sustainability Team would not have the capacity to make all the necessary decisions, however, they could be consulted on them. There was a need to spread knowledge across different groups.

- With specific regard to the recommendation on the Circular Economy, the workings of businesses needed to be considered.
- The use of graphics in the presentation was praised and it was suggested that in comparison the draft strategy was very dense and could benefit from pictures and graphics and being more concise as this could encourage greater engagement.

The Chair thanked Dr Reeves for the presentation.

The Committee were invited to ask questions and make comments. Key points included:

- It was suggested that a 'Kite Mark' could be issued to businesses that were climate ready. Officers agreed to look into this.
- With regard to partners and getting involved with businesses, the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) had promoted the opportunity to join a network for businesses to look at how they could lower carbon.
- A concern was raised about the exclusion of most Scope 3 emissions from the scope of the net zero ambition for the city and the council. A reassurance was given by officers in response that it was not a question of them being concealed, and that the plan did aim to reduce them. However, it was highlighted that emissions caused by producing and transporting goods into the city were the joint responsibility of the suppliers as well as the council and others in Leicester purchasing them. It was therefore a reasonable approach for the Council to have a measurable net-zero ambition focusing on those emissions it could more significantly control while also trying to use its influence to reduce Scope 3 emissions in terms of what it bought. However, in the case of that latter it was recognised that the Council did not have as much control.
- Officers would review the report on a line-by-line basis in terms of how to respond to recommendations.
- Officers noted that there were already actions in the draft plan which addressed certain of the Commission's recommendations, notably: there was an action (7.07) in the draft plan to carry out a review of options on tackling residual carbon emissions. This could consider the merits of adopting the Oxford Principles.
- There was an action (1.18) in the plan looking at the next steps in decarbonising the council's supply chain.
- There was an action (7.06) in the draft plan for the Sustainability Team to look at updating the Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment.
- The Chair noted that the recommendations had already made a

difference to the work of the Council.

A presentation was made by Dr Jose Hernandez, Director, Head of Sustainability and Energy at Pick Everard, representing the Climate Emergency Partnership using the slides published with the agenda papers.

Key points in addition to those on the slides included:

- There had been significant engagement with the organisations involved on how to align with the Council.
- When discussing targets, it was important to focus not just on the end result but on how quickly it could be moved towards.
- There were significant challenges including the level of investment and resources required, but it was necessary to see this as an opportunity.
- There had been discussion on what could be controlled and influenced through the action plan.
- Changes announced such as EV charging and issues with private housing had been discussed and it was important to see certainty and direction.
- The five-year plan aimed to provide direction. In some cases, this would be difficult to achieve.
- Highlighted areas included:
 - Refurbishments – Consideration of new construction and the need to reduce energy and carbon in doing so. It was highlighted that refurbishment was an important option to consider before making any decision to build from scratch, as it could save a lot of ‘embodied carbon’ from being wasted by demolishing existing buildings and using new materials to build new ones. However, it was acknowledged that refurbishment was not always possible.
 - Social Value, Whole Life Carbon and Cost Analysis and Circular Economy – It was important to understand long-term impacts of proposals on carbon and cost before making decisions.
 - Reinforcement of partnerships – The Council needed to look at what had been done elsewhere and also look at the possibility of undertaking a Local Area Energy Planning project.
 - Businesses – it was important that the members of the partnership were involved and committed to mitigating climate change. It was very difficult for companies, so support would be useful.
- It was important to consider that assets might become ‘stranded’ as a result of climate change i.e. they might not be usable or adaptable in future.
- Partnership members were showcasing their commitment.
- DeMontfort University was committed to climate action, generating heat renewably and supporting public engagement activity. Staff at the University were working on ‘net-zero fashion’, work was ongoing.

- Other organisations that had made commitments included the NHS and the National Space Centre, as outlined on the slides.
- Pick Everard recognised that it was their moral duty to do their utmost. They were looking at net-zero in the city and were committed to social value.

The Chair thanked Dr Hernandez for the presentation.

The Committee were invited to ask questions and make comments. Key points included:

- The Building and Construction sector made up around 30-40% of global carbon emissions in terms of both building and the inhabiting of buildings. Operational carbon would diminish. What came from the building process was important.
- Refurbishment was key due to the lower embodied carbon content. It was recognised that this depended on how much was being done. The importance of improving existing buildings was highlighted. The reconstruction of St Margaret's Bus Station was used as an example as it had re-used the foundations and structure.

AGREED:

That the Draft City Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan be NOTED.

35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other items of urgent business, the meeting ended at 19:45.



Energy Efficiency in Private sector homes:

For consideration by:
EDTCE Scrutiny Commission
Date: 7th December 2023
Lead director: Matthew Wallace

Useful information

- Ward(s) All

■ Report author: Lucy Birch (slides) Anna Dodd(report)

■ Author contact details: lucy.birch@leicester.gov.uk anna.dodd@leicester.gov.uk

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The Economic Development Transport and Climate Emergency (EDTCE) scrutiny committee meeting will receive a presentation on the 7th December on Energy efficiency schemes in private sector housing in the city.

2. Recommended action

2.1 Members of EDTCE scrutiny committee are asked to comment on the programme of work and the issues and challenges in delivering this work within the restrictions that apply.

3. Detailed report

3.1 The presentation will focus on the following areas:

- Typical Leicester housing stock
- The co-benefits of delivering energy efficiency in homes
- What good retrofit looks like
- Barriers to retrofit delivery
- Projects achieved to date
- Projects in progress
- Links and joined up working

The presentation will outline the key programmes that have already been delivered and the programmes that are currently live. It will demonstrate the joined up working across the authority and with other partners. It will also set out the challenges and demands going forward for the city.

4. Financial, Legal and other implications

Financial implications

Central Government typically uses local authorities to channel grant funding for the purpose of improving the energy efficiency of private sector homes. As an overview of overview of the key delivery programmes, there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

Legal implications

This report provides an overview of the work relating to energy efficiency in private housing being undertaken in Leicester and as such there are no direct legal implications. Should any legal assistance be required the Legal team should be contacted.

Tracey Wakelam

Principal Lawyer

Commercial, Property and Planning

Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Housing is responsible for a third of Leicester's overall carbon emissions. The city council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has set an aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the city and council by 2030. Addressing these emissions is vital to meeting our ambition, including within private sector housing, which makes up a significant majority of the stock in Leicester.

This report provides details on a number of schemes being undertaken by the council to improve the energy efficiency and reduce the carbon emissions of Leicester's private homes through measures including insulation, low carbon heating and solar PV panels. As detailed within the attached slides, improving the energy efficiency of these homes will also deliver a range of co-benefits including warmer and healthier homes which are less expensive to run.

Whilst progress is being made, it should be noted that meeting the council's net zero ambition will require additional action at a huge scale, supported by national government, to deliver the level of carbon savings required.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

Equalities implications

This report relates to a presentation on energy efficiency schemes in private sector housing in the city which provides an overview of the work relating to energy efficiency in private housing being undertaken in Leicester and as such there are no direct equality implications. However, initiatives that aim to improve the energy efficiency of homes will lead to positive impacts for people from across all protected characteristics. Improved energy efficiency can potentially reduce energy consumption, and thus energy costs.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

6. 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

7. Is this a “key decision”?

No

Energy & Sustainability

Leicester City Housing Stock

What good retrofit looks like

Barriers to Retrofit

Energy efficiency in Leicester homes

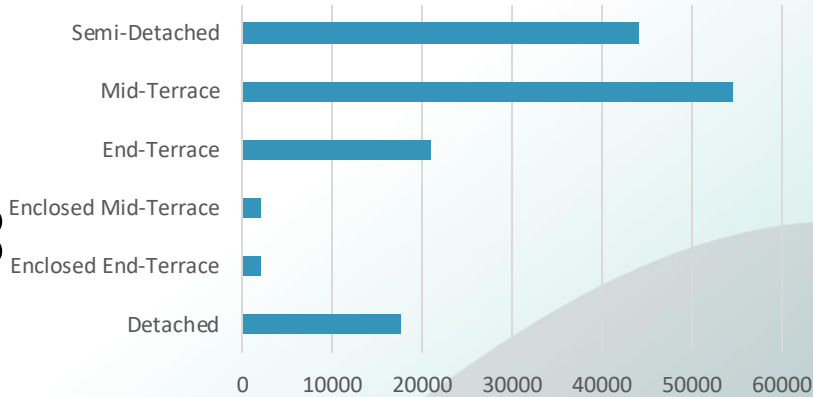
Private Sector Energy Projects and their achievements to date

Private Sector Energy Projects in progress

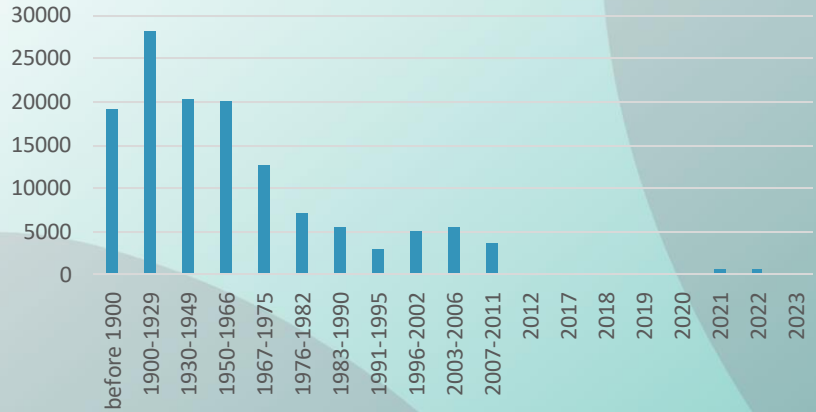


Leicester City Housing Stock

ARCHETYPES



CONSTRUCTION AGE



22

Majority of Leicester's housing stock is early 1900's red brick semi-detached or mid terraced



Co-benefits of retrofitting Leicester's homes

- Reducing fuel poverty and addressing the cost of living crisis
- Reducing damp and mould and improving internal air quality
- Health benefits to residents
- Climate justice – supporting vulnerable groups as climate change mitigation moves forward
- Creating local jobs in retrofit installation
- Improving the local economic buying power of residents

23

What does good retrofit look like?

Step 1 – Assess the property



What improvements are needed?



- Consider who lives in the property and their needs.

Step 2 – Prepare a Whole House plan

A bespoke plan and design for the whole of home, detailing all the measures possible to make the home as energy efficient as possible.



The plan also includes recommendations on which measures are the most cost-effective, have the most impact and in which order to carry them out.

Step 3 – Upgrade the fabric first



Improvements to the fabric of the property should be considered first. This includes insulation improvements as well as windows and external doors.

- Next the heating can be considered with improvements such as upgrading heating controls or opting for low carbon heating.



Step 4 – Renewable Technologies



Once the fabric of the building is well insulated and the heating is upgraded, you can consider renewable technologies such as solar PV panels or solar thermal to supplement the home's fuel costs.



At this point you can also consider battery storage for any power you generate or exporting excess power to the grid for SEG payments.

Step 5 – Energy Tariffs

- Consider a smart meter and compare energy tariffs to ensure you are on the one that's most suitable for you.



What is Retrofit?

Retrofit improves existing buildings with the aim to increase its energy efficiency, making them easier to heat, able to retain heat for longer, and replaces fossil fuels with renewable energy

Fabric Measures:

- Loft/Roof insulation
- Wall Insulation
- Floor Insulation
- External Doors
- Windows
- Draught proofing
- Hot water cylinder insulation

Low Carbon Heating Measures:

- Heating Controls (smart/digital)
- Heat Pumps (air to water, air to air, ground to water)
- High heat retention storage heaters

Renewable technologies:

- Solar PV Panels
- Solar Thermal (hot water)
- Battery Storage



Leicester
City Council

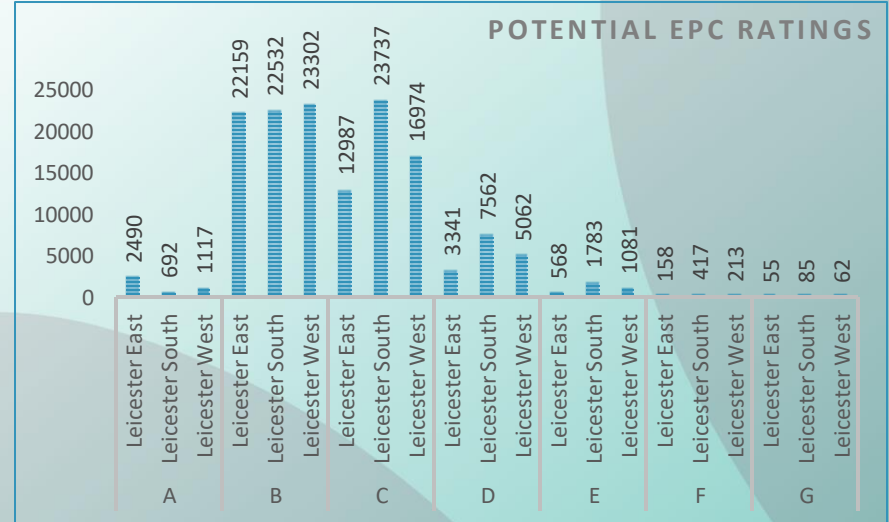
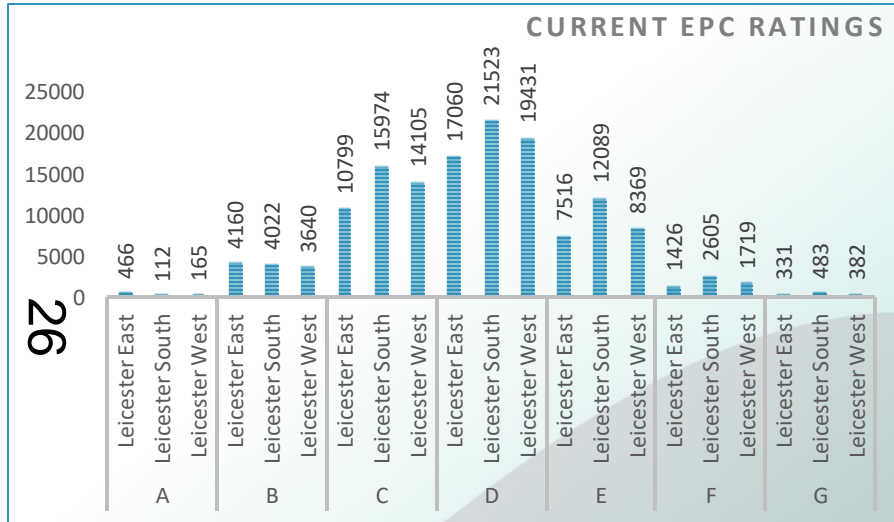
Barriers to retrofit

- Solid wall properties
- Inaccessible loft spaces (full of belongings, small loft hatch)
- Homes in a state of disrepair
- Homes off the gas grid
- Homes in a conservation area, or grade listed homes
- Planning requirements to retain street scene/character of homes
- Occupant's cost of redecoration after intervention
- Occupant's values/preferences
- Occupant upheaval/disruption to life
- Cost
- Trained and reliable supply chain

25



Energy efficiency of homes in Leicester



Current

- 36% of Leicester homes are EPC C or above
- 40% of Leicester homes are EPC D
- 24% of Leicester homes are EPC E or below

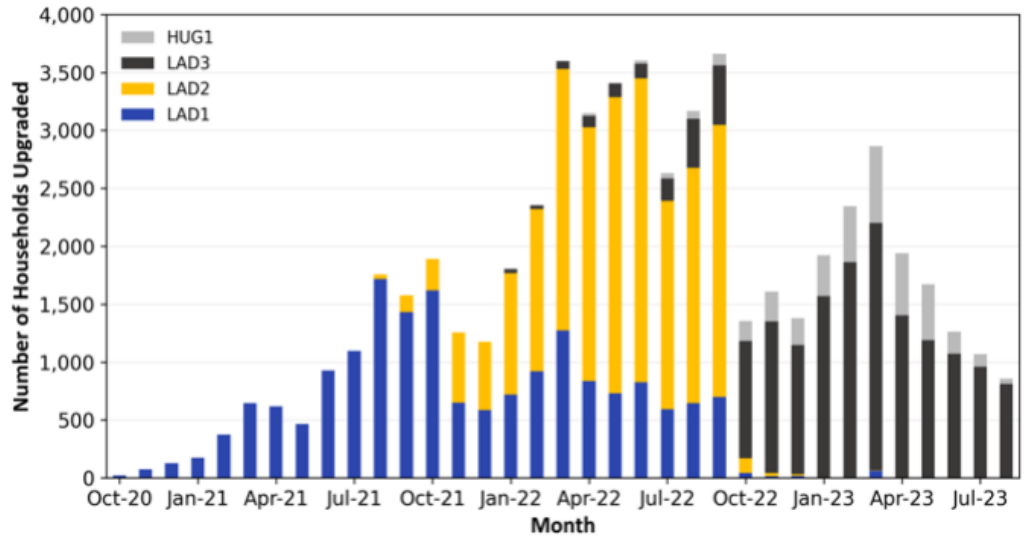
Potential

- 86% of Leicester homes are EPC C or above
- 11% of Leicester homes are EPC D
- 3% of Leicester homes are EPC E or below

Green Homes Grants Local Authority Delivery Scheme & Home Upgrade Grants

The LAD/HUG scheme aims to raise the energy efficiency of low income and low energy performance homes with a focus on energy performance certificate (EPC) ratings of E, F or G.

There were 4 phases of the scheme delivered since 2020.

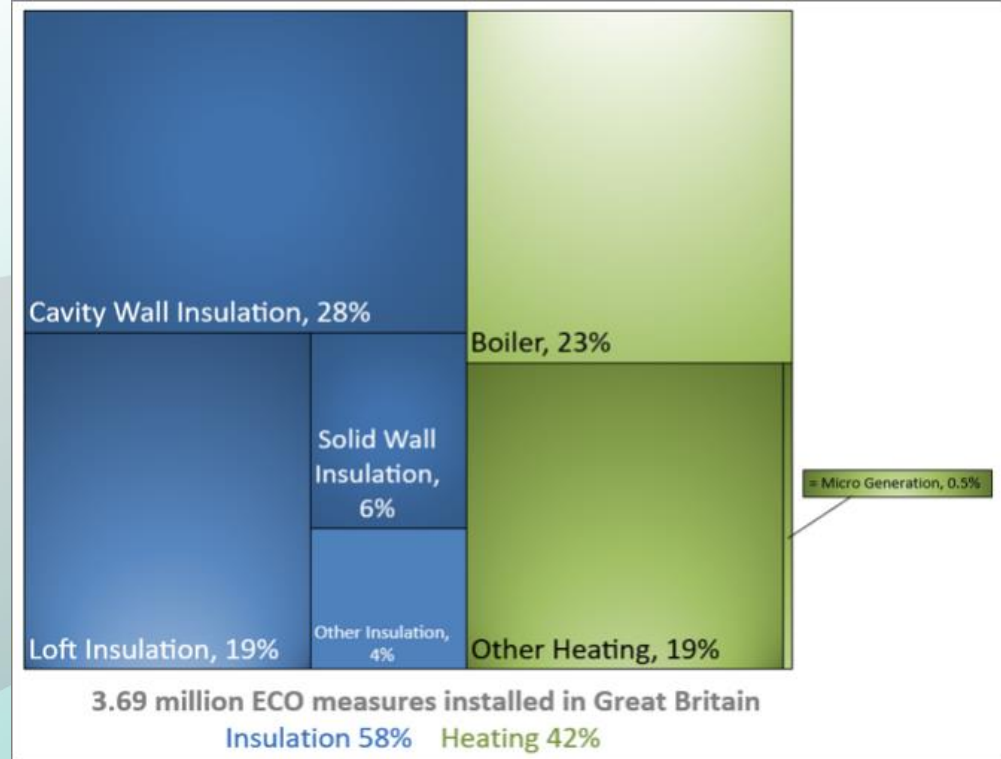


Cumulative Number of Households Upgraded Nationally by Month, for households upgraded to the end of August 2023

- ECO is a government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
- The scheme began in January 2013, and over time it has been amended.
- The scheme obligates major energy suppliers to promote energy efficiency initiatives benefiting low-income and vulnerable households (through insulation or heating system upgrades).
- Targets are allocated among suppliers based on their market share in domestic gas and electricity.
- Local Authorities can determine eligible homes under the 'flexible eligibility' mechanism.
- Up to June 2023, 238 local authorities had seen 50 or more measures installed through Flexible Eligibility, 94 of which had over 500 measures installed.
- Scotland and the East Midlands had the joint highest number of flex measures installed of any region, with around 18 per cent each of the flex measures in Great Britain.

28.

ECO & ECO Flex



Achievements to date

Project	Outcome	Value
Green Homes Grant LAD 1A (2020 to 2021)	50 homes upgraded (35 to EPC C or above)	£499,187
Green Homes Grant LAD 1B (2021 to 2022)	162 homes upgraded (109 to EPC C or above)	£1,993,809
Green Homes Grant LAD 2 (2021 to 2022)	129 homes upgraded (51 to EPC C or above)	£772,454
Green Homes Grant LAD 3 (2021 to 2023)	340 homes upgraded (253 to EPC C or above)	£3,964,706
Home Upgrade Grant 1 (2022 to 2023)	38 homes upgraded (6 to EPC C or above)	£317,460
ECO3 Flex (2018 to 2022)	12,917 homes confirmed as eligible for home upgrades	£34.4m approx.

LAD3 EWI Successes – New Parks Area

30



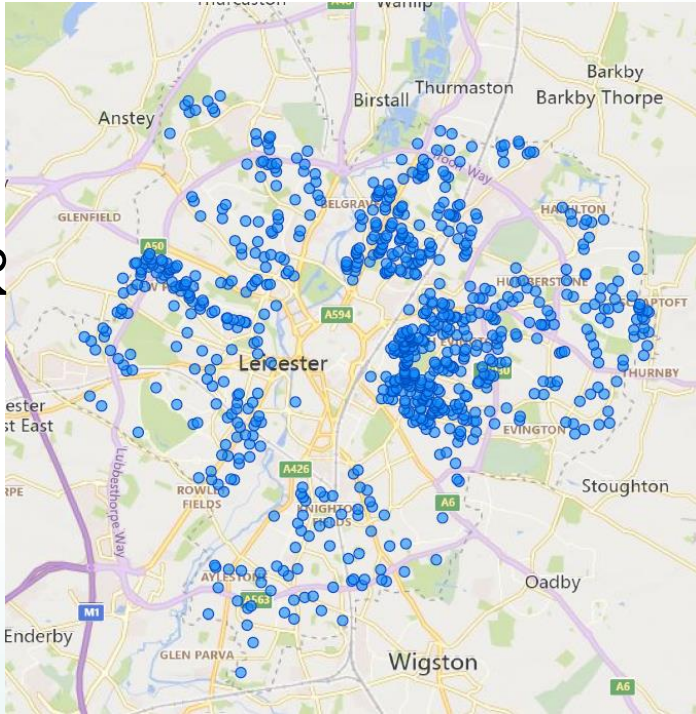
"Still a lot more homes to upgrade"



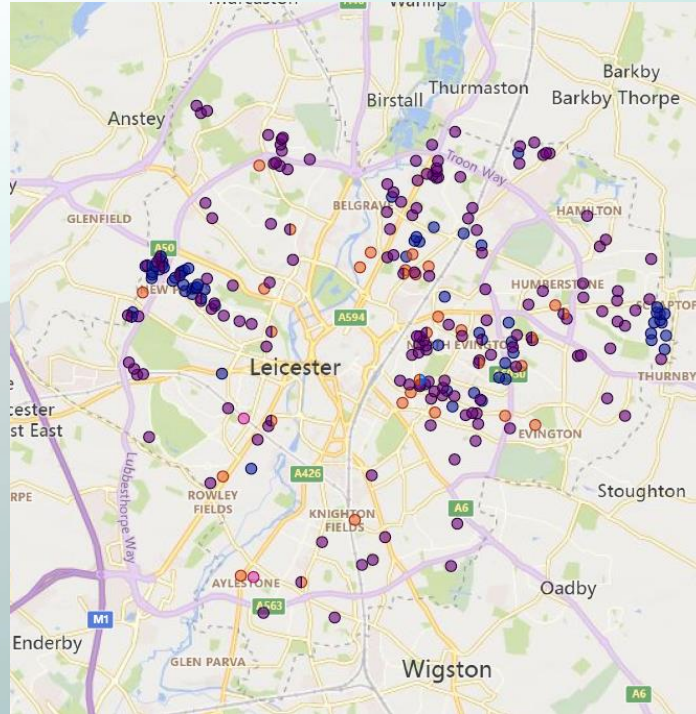
"Largest EWI programme in the midlands area"

LAD3 Overall Success

Applications Map – 1086 homes applied



Installs Map – 340 homes upgraded



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Home Upgrade Grants 2 (HUG2)

Purpose

- Aim is to raise the energy efficiency of **hard to treat (Off-Gas)** low income and low energy performance homes with a focus on energy performance certificate (EPC) ratings of D, E, F or G.
- Provide a package of improvements such as insulation, low carbon heating and solar PV panels.
- Aims to upgrade 159 off-gas Leicester homes over 2 years

32

Marketing plan:

- Promote to landlords via PRS teams email distribution list, national PRS Exemptions Register and landlord forums
- Promote the use of DESNZ's online GOV.UK eligibility checker tool
- Receive referrals from Warm Home Surveys scheme



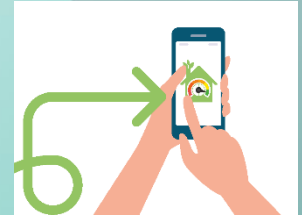
Warm Home Surveys

Purpose:

- Free in person guidance via home EPC/retrofit survey
 - An EPC tells you how energy efficient your property is and gives it a rating from A (very efficient) to G (inefficient).
 - An EPC also includes information on what the energy efficiency rating could be if you made the improvements that are recommended
 - A physical survey of the property needs to be carried out by an accredited Domestic Energy Assessor in order to obtain the information. We have 2 fully qualified DEA's on the team.
 - The retrofit assessment will breakdown suitable improvements for the property taking the occupants and any special property characteristics into account.
- Referral/signposting onto grant schemes where identified
- Digital or printed survey report for householders' future reference and guidance

Marketing plan:

- Promote to hard to reach consumers via multiple channels and referral network of community & health support/charitable workers and Local community radio advert to reach non-native English speakers
- Fuel Poverty Awareness Day event in partnership with Leicester Energy Action
- Promote via “Your Leicester” email newsletter & digital screens in all LCC buildings open to the public



LCC/EON's ECO4 community scheme

Purpose of project:

- Area based approach to target a collection of low-income streets to offer interventions under the national ECO4 scheme
- Dual branding with well know supplier who will fund and install the improvements, with the backing of LCC to encourage uptake of grants
- Community events to allow residents to ask questions and gain knowledge and confidence about interventions leading to peace of mind
- Partnership provides assurances that installs will be completed in accordance with local planning policies
- Identified areas will be expanded, with new areas chosen as scheme takes off, with the intention of eventually reaching the entire city.

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Projects in progress

Project	Status	Budget
Home Upgrade Grant 2 (2023 to 2025)	52 homes applied to date	£3,291,300
Climate Ready Leicester Warm Home Surveys (2023 to 2025)	10 homes applied to date	£194,228
ECO4 Flex (2022 to 2026)	647 homes confirmed as eligible for home upgrades to date	£4 billion nationally
LCC/EON's ECO4 community scheme (2023 to 2024)	Mobilisation phase	N/A

35

Links and Joined up working

- **Private Rented Sector Team**, Housing – Engagement with Private landlords, attending landlord forums, MEES and training we have received via MNZH funding
- **Fuel Poverty Advisory Board**, Public Health - Leicester Energy Action project (cross referrals to each other's services)
- **Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group**, NHS – Access to Better Care Funds to keep vulnerable homeowners warm in their own homes
- **Damp and Mould Action Group**, Neighbourhood & Environmental Services – Input and knowledge sharing around affordable warmth retrofit and links to damp/mould
- **Planning Department**– working together to combat unauthorised retrofit, especially with external wall insulation
- **Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT – Policy in Practice)**, Revenues and Customer Support – use of data to target homes in need of retrofit interventions



In practical terms, Leicester aligning with the most ambitious net zero scenario would involve

37



Minimum 65,000 buildings to undergo energy efficiency retrofits



Approx. 12,000 heat pumps installed per year
Current total: <1000



Approx. 6,000 solar panel installations each year
Current total: 4,600

... and no further increase in energy demand or GHG emissions from any source



Leicester City Council



Adult Education

Lead director: Mike Dalzell

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kerry Gray
- Author contact details: Kerry.gray@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database:

Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is:

- To provide a review of the 2019-2023 Adult Education service plan
- To present the 2022-23 Adult Education self-assessment plan
- To consult on the draft Accountability Agreement which lays out planning priorities and targets for 2024-25 and will form the basis of the service's Adult Education Budget contract with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

2. Summary

Despite the impact of the pandemic the service delivered well on the majority of the objectives set out in the **2019-23 Service Plan** (Appendix 1)

The **Self-Assessment Report for the 2022-23** Academic year (Appendix 2) indicates that the service remains Good and continued to rebuild. Good progress was made the areas for improvement set the previous year:

- Learner numbers have increased by 28%,
- Achievement rates have increased by 4.9%
- There has been good development of new initiatives and diversification of funding to secure the long-term viability of the Service.

Key strengths

- The broad and diverse Community Learning curriculum provides accessible learning opportunities including those with severe mental health difficulties, impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and/or digitally excluded.
- Learner retention and achievement are excellent.
- Staff work effectively with learners, employers and other partners and provide a diverse range of enrichment activities to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment enable learners to develop personal, social and employability skills that prepare them well for their intended job role, career aims and/or personal goals.
- Partnership working is outstanding. Effective and innovative partnerships are developed with a wide range of local stakeholders.

Key Areas for Improvement

- In some areas attendance is below expectations.
- In a few curriculum areas a shortage of tutors limited the programme delivered.

The service is required to produce an **Annual Accountability Agreement** (Appendix 3) to inform planning for the 2024-25 academic year. Comments and suggestions are invited from the committee on the draft document which includes a set of proposed new commitments.

3. Recommendations

To note

- the achievements of the service over the last 5 years and in rebuilding participation following the disruption of COVID.

Members are invited to comment and make suggestions on the Accountability Agreement to inform curriculum developments in 2024-25 and beyond, in particular in relation to the development of the Skills Bootcamp programme.

4. Report/Supporting information including options considered:

4.1 ESFA Accountability Agreement

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) accountability agreements are part of a wider system of quality assurance in FE, and they are designed to help ensure that public funding is being used effectively to support high-quality education and training. They also provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance of FE providers, which helps to identify areas for improvement and support further development.

The Adult Education service is required to submit an Accountability Agreement for 2024-25 by the end of May 2024 and the targets identified in it will form part of the annual contract. This replaces the previous Service Plan.

The draft objectives and associated targets laid out in the agreement are based on the seven purposes of Adult and Community Learning:

1. improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning.
2. acquisition of skills preparing people for training and further learning
3. acquisition of skills preparing people for employment or self-employment
4. improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills - includes English (including English for speakers of Other Languages), maths, and digital provision.
5. parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning.
6. improved/maintained health and/or social well-being.
7. develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected, and pro-active citizens, leading to increased volunteering, civic engagement, and social integration; reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour;

increased online learning and self-organised learning; the lives of our most troubled families being turned around.

These objectives align well with the needs of the city and the recommendations of the Leicester and Leicestershire Learning and Skills Improvement Plan, produced by the East Midlands Chamber, which identifies the knowledge, skills and behaviours local employers identify as priorities for growth. These are embedded in all Adult Education courses and include:

Knowledge - Across all sectors, technical and vocational knowledge areas are the most important to a business's success. The next four top areas are: Basic literacy; Basic numeracy; Health & Safety; Basic IT.

Skills - Team working is the most important skill across all sectors, followed by, verbal communication, specific occupational skills, written communication, and time management.

Behaviour - Being a team player is the most important behaviour, followed by; being hard working, reliable, resilient, and honest.

In 2024-25 the service proposes to use its Adult Skills Funding to:

- Review curriculum design and delivery in line with the local Knowledge, Skills and Behaviour requirements of businesses as evidenced in the LSIP.
- Offer easy access, short courses for Digital Skills in business, with a specific focus on digital marketing, social media, cloud computing and data analytics.
- The development of green skills and support of the Council's Net Zero strategy through the development of new community and family learning courses.
- Increase the provision of English Language training, including more advanced and technical language skills.
- Contribute to the development of the Local Skills Accountability Board
- Support for the continuation of the work of the Fashion Technology Academy and the Construction Hub through Skills Bootcamps and, if permitted, the subcontracting of ESFA Adult Education Budget for specialist and technical skills delivery.

4.2 Skills Bootcamps

The Authority has recently signed a contract with the Department for Education to manage a pilot programme of Skills Bootcamps previously presented to the committee.

Three programmes will be delivered by the end of March 2023:

- Level 5 Digital Marketing
- Level 3 Cyber Security
- Level 2 Construction

We have now been invited to submit a proposal for a larger 2024-25 programme and invite committee members to make suggestions for priority sectors and skills needs in the city, to be considered in the development of the programme.

A [skills bootcamp](#) is an intensive programme of learning for adults age 19+ (at least 60 hours delivered over a maximum of 16 weeks) Programmes are designed in partnership with employers, in order upskills new or existing staff and fill existing vacancies.

5. Financial, legal, and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

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

Advice may be sought from legal Services as required in relation to the negotiation and of the ESFA Accountability Agreement for 2024-25.

Emma Young
Qualified Lawyer
28/11/23

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

As noted within the report, within the 2024-25 programme it is proposed to enable the development of green skills, which will have a positive climate impact through supporting the council's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions for the city and the council. Further climate implications are expected to be limited. In general, however, as the provision of services by the council and partners contributes to council carbon emissions any potential impacts can be managed through service delivery. This could include measures such as enabling sustainable staff and service user travel options, providing remote participation options for services and ensuring buildings are utilised efficiently, as appropriate and applicable to the service.

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 making decisions and carrying out their activities 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 update for stakeholders on the key achievements of the Adult Education Service, Skills Bootcamps are developed in partnership with local employers, providers and authorities to help fill skills gaps and vacancies in local areas, there are no direct equalities implications arising from the report.

Leicester City Council Adult Education provides learning opportunities that aim to engage and support the most disadvantaged in our diverse communities while remaining open to all and supporting wellbeing and prosperity in the city whilst fostering good relations and advancing equality of opportunity.

Adult learning is particularly powerful in bringing together people from different walks and stages of life, in developing mutual understanding and respect, and in contributing to personal development and well-being. Collection of equalities data, will better enable us to understand the experiences of learners from different protected characteristics. The Education and Skills Funding Agency provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance of FE providers, which helps to identify areas for improvement and support further development.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

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

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1: Review of the 2019-13 Adult Education service plan

Appendix 2: 2022-23 Adult Education self-assessment plan

Appendix 3: 2024-25 Draft Annual Accountability Agreement

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

In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:

- to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City*.

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

- (a) In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.;
- (b) In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved;
- (c) In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

- Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic, or environmental risk.
- The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the City.
- The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest
- The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.

Accountability Agreement 2024/25



Statement of Purpose

Leicester City Council Adult Education provides learning opportunities that engage and support the most disadvantaged in our communities while remaining open to all and supporting growth, wellbeing and prosperity in the city.

Service Vision

We anticipate and respond to the needs of individuals, communities, employers and Leicester's economy through the delivery of outstanding, inspirational and highly flexible learning opportunities.

Strategic Aims

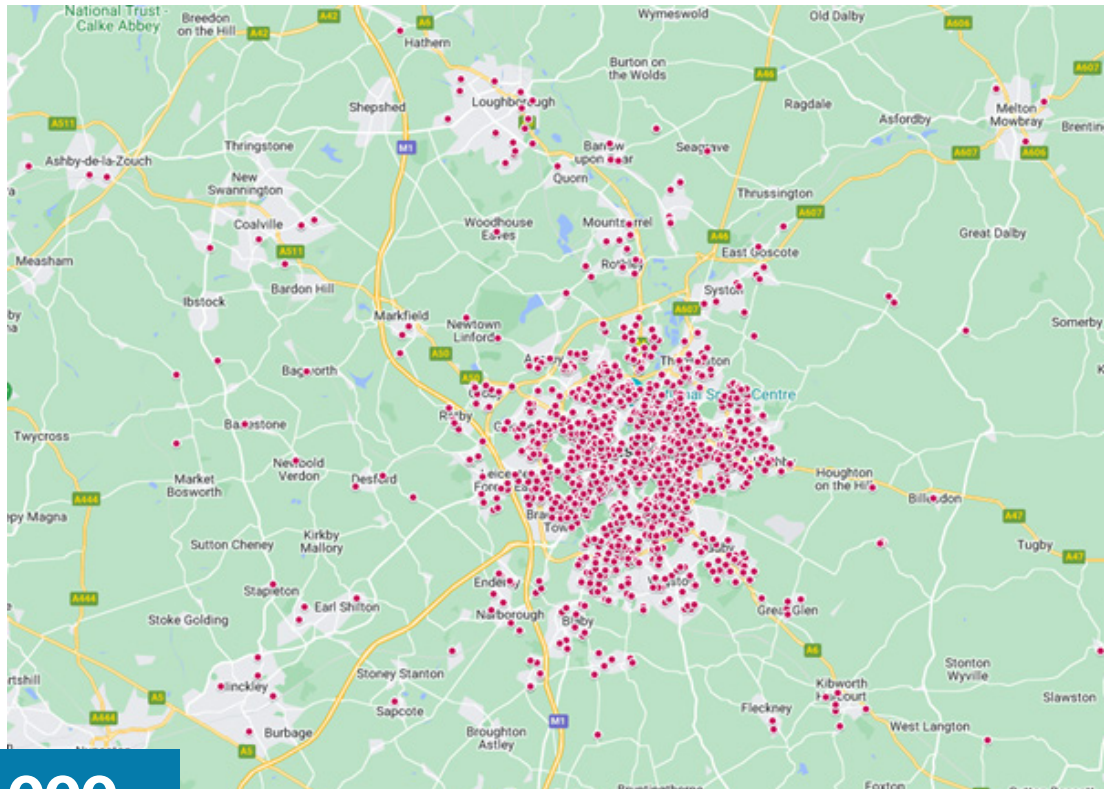
We have adopted The Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) seven purposes of Adult and Community Learning as our strategic aims:

1. improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning
2. acquisition of skills preparing people for training and further learning
3. acquisition of skills preparing people for employment or self-employment
4. improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills - includes English (including English for speakers of Other Languages), maths, and digital provision
5. parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning
6. improved/maintained health and/or social well-being
7. develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens, leading to: increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration; reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour; increased online learning and self-organised learning; the lives of our most troubled families being turned around

“The experience of learning with other adult learners was enjoyable and positive. It was interesting getting to know them and learning about the business and interests for which they were building their websites. Everyone was learning at a different pace but that wasn't a problem, and we actually learned a lot from each other. Having company while learning was really nice.”

Context and Place

Leicester Adult Education serves the residents of Leicester and the surrounding area reaching around 3400 learners (9000 enrolments) each academic year. The map below highlights the distribution of learners across the city and surrounding area.



More than 32,000 residents do not speak English well

At the 2021 census,

■ 151,492 Leicester residents were born outside of the UK. This represents 41% of Leicester's population and an increase of 7% in the last decade. Excluding the UK, the most common countries of birth were: India (59,842); Other South and East Africa inc Uganda* (12,674); Poland (8,924); Kenya (6,417); Pakistan (4,989); Romania (4,698) India, Romania and Italy saw the largest increases. There are 15 times more Leicester residents who were born in Romania than 2011.

■ 2% (7499) of residents do not speak English at all, 7% (24,541) do not speak English well.

■ 61% of Leicester households have at least one dimension of deprivation compared to 52% for England overall. By this measure Leicester is the fourth most deprived upper-tier local authority in England, behind Blackpool (62%).

■ A significantly larger proportion of Leicester's 16+ population have no qualifications (26.7%) compared to England (18.1%). Leicester has the second highest percentage of its 16+ population of all English UTLAs with no qualifications at 26.7%. (Sandwell, highest – 28.9%). A smaller proportion of Leicester residents have a Level 4 qualification or higher (26.8%) compared to England (33.9%). Leicester has one of the highest percentages of its population with 'Other' qualifications, including those obtained outside of the UK (4.3%) of all English UTLAs.

■ Areas to the East of the city centre generally had higher proportions of their population with no qualifications, as would be expected for an area with large numbers of international migrants. Spinney Hill Road MSOA has the highest percentage of its 16+ population of all English MSOAs with no qualifications at 45%. Other areas of the city such as Braunstone and New Parks also have relatively high percentages of the population with no qualifications (c.30%-35%).

27% of the 16+ population have no qualifications

Leicester Household Survey.

In 2021, Leicester City Council undertook the Leicester Household Survey. This survey indicates that 2 in 5 households in the city speak more than one language, with Gujarati (24%) and Hindi (12%) the most widely spoken after English. The survey asked a wide range of questions which are not covered by census data, including aspects of health and wellbeing, financial health and digital access and skills.

- Nearly half of respondents felt isolated from others some of the time (37%) or often (12%)
- 35% are slightly or much worse off compared to before COVID

17% of households have someone who would benefit from training in accessing services online

- 95% have access to the internet at home
- 80% are confident or very confident at online learning
- 17% of households have someone who would benefit from support or training in how to access services or carry out transactions online.

The Leicester and Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) is produced by East Midlands Chamber. The 22-23 report focuses on the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviour areas that businesses identified as priorities to meet growth aspirations.

Knowledge - Across all sectors, technical and vocational knowledge areas are the most important to a business's success. The next four top areas are: Basic literacy; Basic numeracy; Health & Safety; Basic IT.

Skills - Team working is the most important skill across all sectors, followed by; verbal communication, specific occupational skills, written communication and time management

Behaviour - Being a team player is the most important behaviour, followed by; being hard working, reliable, resilient, and honest

The Planning cycle

The core planning cycle begins in the autumn and concludes in the late spring of the previous academic year. However, a dynamic and responsive approach allows the service to respond agilely to emerging needs and changing demands throughout the year. In future, the Accountability agreement will be updated in the autumn to inform planning for the following academic year.

Step 1 – review of current enrolment patterns, performance, feedback from learners and partners and viability of programmes as part of self assessment.

Step 2 – research and analysis of national and local needs and priorities, taking account of government policy and funding regimes, changes to qualifications and new and emerging opportunities and threats.

Step 3 – consultation with internal and external partners and the Economic Development, Transport and the Climate Emergency scrutiny commission.

Step 4 - accountability agreement approved by the Assistant City Mayor for Skills and Jobs

Step 5 – planning of the curriculum with clear outcome and impact measures aligned with the accountability agreement.

Stakeholders and Partners

A wide range of stakeholders and partners contribute to the development of the plan. The nature of the involvement ranges from ongoing, informal networking and collaboration through to formal consultation, partnerships and co-production of learning opportunities.

- Learners and potential learners
- Elected members
- Economic Development Team / Leicester Employment Hub
- Public Health
- Arts and Museums
- Housing and support services
- Libraries and Neighbourhood services
- DWP/ Job centre Plus
- Connexions
- VCS organisations
- Local employers & LLEP, Work & Skills Forum
- Schools & Early Years providers
- Other education providers – DMU, Leicester Uni, LC, WEA, Training Providers

Our contribution to national, regional and local priorities

Strategic Aim	Contribution to National and Local Learning and Skills Priorities (SMART target)	Priorities addressed and reason for objective
ACL 1: improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning	Through our outreach and engagement activity we will engage 2000 new learners in 2024/25..	Health Leicester Strategy - -'Increase the number of people with basic level skills by promoting our adult and family education services to improve employment and earning potential' To address the city's low qualification levels identified in the Census
ACL 2 : acquisition of skills preparing people for training and further learning	We will support at least 50% of 2022/23 learners to progress to further learning in 2024/25. We will contribute to the development of the Local Skills Accountability Board and ensure new funding and development opportunities are aligned to the LSIP priorities and objectives.	To address the city's low qualification levels identified in the Census

<p>ACL 3: acquisition of skills preparing people for employment or self-employment</p>	<p>We will review curriculum design and delivery in line with the local Knowledge, Skills and Behaviour requirements of businesses as evidenced in the LSIP</p> <p>200 learners will achieve vocational or professional qualifications to help them progress in/into work or self employment</p> <p>We will support for the continuation of the work of the Fashion Technology Academy and the Construction Hub through Skills Bootcamps and explore the subcontracting of ESFA Adult Education Budget for specialist and technical skills delivery</p> <p>We will Offer 10 easy access, short courses for Digital Skills in business, with a specific focus on digital marketing, social media, cloud computing and data analytics.</p> <p>We will support the development of green skills and the Council's Net Zero strategy through the development of new community and family learning courses.</p>	<p>To address employer's needs for improved Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours as identified in the LSIP To address the high levels of deprivation identified in the census</p> <p>LSIP sector priorities and Council objective to improve the quality of local jobs in the manufacturing sector.</p> <p>LSIP Digital Skills objective</p> <p>LSIP Green Skills objective</p> <p>Council Net Zero strategy</p>
<p>ACL 4: improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills - includes English (including English for speakers of Other Languages), maths, and digital provision</p>	<p>We will deliver English (including ESOL), maths and digital skills to 1750 people, preparing them better for employment, independent living, further training and learning.</p> <p>Increase the provision of English Language training, including more advanced and technical language skills.</p>	<p>LSIP ESOL objective</p>
<p>ACL 5: parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning</p>	<p>In partnership with our schools and childcare settings we will provide Family Learning to at least 400 parents and carers in 35 locations across the city.</p>	
<p>ACL 6: improved/maintained health and/or social well-being</p>	<p>Through participation in our community learning programme we will improve / maintain the health and/or social wellbeing of 1500 older people (60+), reducing social isolation and inactivity.</p>	<p>Healthy Leicester Strategy – encourage older people to access leisure and cultural spaces in their local communities to overcome social isolation and improve mental and physical health</p>
<p>ACL 7: develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens, leading to: increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration; reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour; increased online learning and self-organised learning; the lives of our most troubled families being turned around</p>	<p>We will work with our partners in public health and other Council departments to develop and deliver courses to support 150 residents with digital inclusion, the cost of living and to improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We will deliver a programme of ESOL with community orientation courses for 150 new arrivals in the city. This will improve social integration, reduced costs on welfare, health and council support services.</p>	<p>Leicester City Council Anti Poverty Strategy</p>

Corporation Statement

Corporation statement

On behalf of Leicester City Council, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the City Mayor on Date TBC

The plan will be published on the Leicester Adult Education Website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link:
TBC

Links to key supporting documents

[Levelling Up the United Kingdom: Executive Summary \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Learning and Skills for Economic Recovery, The Labour party WR-16813 22-Labour-Skills-Council-report-Edit-19-10-22.pdf](#)

[Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Partnership LLEP Skills Plan 2022-24](#)

[Healthy Leicester The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

[Leicester & Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan , East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, https://www.emc-dnl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/LSIP-full-report.pdf](https://www.emc-dnl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/LSIP-full-report.pdf)

[Home — Leicester Open Data](#)

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different form we will do our best to help

Contact us on 0116 4541900 or adult.ed@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester Adult Education

Leicester Adult Education College, Belvoir Street, Leicester LE1 6QL

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Self-Assessment Report 2022-23

UKPRN: 10003866

The Adult Education service supports Leicester City Council’s ambition to re-engage more adults on the margins of the labour market and to further develop suitable skills progression pathways that can effectively respond to local labour market needs. It provides learning opportunities that enable all adults, irrespective of background, to develop their skills and improve their wellbeing for themselves, their families and their communities. It also actively targets learners who are low skilled; have no or low qualification levels; are living in poverty; unemployed, workless, or vulnerable to social exclusion; and adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and mental ill health. Courses are shaped by learners’ needs which are identified through working with learners and effective networking and partnership arrangements across the city.

According to the 2021 Census, the Leicester population size has increased by 11.8%, from around 329,800 in 2011 to 368,600 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for the East Midlands (7.7%) and for England (6.6%). Leicester is now ranked 19th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England and is the most densely populated area in the East Midlands. (ONS, 2022)

At the 2021 census, 151,492 Leicester residents were born outside of the UK. This represents 41% of Leicester’s population.

- The number of Leicester residents born outside of the UK has increased since the 2011 census, when there were 110,843 residents born outside of the UK, representing 34% of the city’s population
- 217,079 residents were born in the UK, representing 59% of the city’s population. The number of Leicester residents born in the UK has not changed substantially since 1981.
- Excluding the UK, the most common countries of birth were: India (59,842); Other South and East Africa inc Uganda* (12,674); Poland (8,924); Kenya (6,417); Pakistan (4,989); Romania (4,698)
- India, Romania and Italy saw the largest increases. There are 15 times more Leicester residents who were born in Romania than 2011.
- The number of Chinese-born residents fell to 1,386 from 2,401 in 2011. This is likely related to overseas students returning to, or remaining in, their home country as a result of COVID-19.
- Leicester now has the largest proportion of residents with Portuguese passports in England at 5.1%. It is likely most Portuguese passport holders are descendants of people born in former Portuguese colonial areas of India.
- The increase in the number of residents born overseas and their countries of origin is broadly consistent with England overall, although more pronounced in Leicester.
- Leicester is the fourth most deprived upper-tier local authority by proportion of households with at least one deprivation domain. It should be noted that this is a different and less comprehensive, form of classification than the IMD.

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2022-23		Ethnicity
Total Enrolments	9024	
Total Learners	3395	
Retention	98%	
Attendance	83%	
Achievement	93%	
Male	22%	
Female	78%	
Disabled	20%	

SAR Grades

Whole Service	SAR Grade
Overall effectiveness of provision	Good
Quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good

Curriculum Areas	Overall Effectiveness of provision
ESOL	Good
English and Maths	Good
Employability and Digital	Requires Improvement
Vocational and Professional	Good
Family Learning	Good
Arts	Good
Languages and Humanities	Good
Community Inclusion	Good
Remit	Good

Progress made since last SAR

Key Areas for improvement in 21-22 SAR	Progress made
<p>Rebuilding participation to pre-COVID levels: 11317</p> <p>Ensuring that all qualifications are planned, managed and administrated effectively, in order to secure timely achievement.</p> <p>Review of curriculum offer to ensure it continues to meet funder, community and employer needs and is financially sustainable.</p>	<p>Good progress made: Learner numbers have increased by 28%, from 2657 to 3395 and enrolment numbers have increased by 47% from 6125 to 9024.</p> <p>Achievement rates have increased by 4.9% from 88.2% to 93.1%</p> <p>Good development of new initiatives and diversification of funding to secure the long-term viability of the Service.</p> <p>New processes implemented to ensure the viability of individual courses.</p>

Key strengths

- The broad and diverse Community Learning curriculum provides accessible learning opportunities including those with severe mental health difficulties, impacted by the cost of living crisis and/or digitally excluded.
- Learner retention and achievement are excellent.
- Staff work effectively with learners, employers and other partners and provide a diverse range of enrichment activities to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment enable learners to develop personal, social and employability skills that prepare them well for their intended job role, career aims and/or personal goals.
- Partnership working is outstanding. Effective and innovative partnerships are developed with a wide range of local stakeholders.

Key Areas for Improvement

- In some areas attendance is below expectations.
- In a few curriculum areas a shortage of tutors limited the programme delivered.

EIF ref	Strengths	Evidence	AFI	Evidence
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Quality of Education					
1	Leaders take on or construct a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all learners, particularly the most disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or high needs, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.	Each strand of the adult learning programme has a clearly defined purpose that is relevant to the education and training needs and interests of learners, and to local employment opportunities, and supports local and national priorities.	Service Plan Accountability Agreement Outcomes and Impact Review data Programme Plan Individual Learning Plans	In a few curriculum areas a shortage of tutors limited the programme delivered.	Tutor vacancies list, Course closures.
		The broad and diverse Community Learning curriculum provides accessible learning opportunities including those with severe mental health difficulties, impacted by the cost of living crisis and/or digitally excluded.		Underdeveloped Wellbeing curriculum Further develop an arts curriculum that reflects the diversity of the city.	Lack of courses/enrolments Curriculum offer
2	The provider's curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.	Each curriculum area is coherently planned and sequenced to provide flexible routeways and enables learners to accumulate the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need for progression in learning, employment and life.	Programme plans and course information sheets. Schemes of work Lesson Plans, OTLAs Learning walks Outcomes and Impact Review data	Detailed needs analysis is required for the development of the IT curriculum to ensure courses, equipment and staff skills meet the current and future needs of learners.	Achievement of qualifications, programme plan and course information sheets, schemes of work,
3	Teachers and leaders use assessment well, for example to help learners embed and use knowledge fluently or to check understanding and inform teaching. Leaders understand the limitations of assessment and do not use it in a way that creates unnecessary burdens for staff or learners	Assessment is used extremely well in most areas.	EQA reports, OTLAs, assessment materials, results.	Setting smart learning outcomes, efficient assessment and evidence collection on some Arts, Languages and Wellbeing courses could be improved and burdens on staff reduced.	RARPA moderation, ILPS, Tutor feedback on workload, Learners' feedback, OTLAs
4	Learners develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well. Where relevant, this is reflected in results from national tests and examinations that meet government expectations, or in the qualifications obtained	Learners achieve well on vocational courses and English, maths and ESOL full qualifications	Outcomes and Impact Review data	Essential Digital Skills and L2 Functional Skills Maths results require improvement. Achievement on some English and Maths units is below expectation.	Outcomes and Impact Review data
5	Teachers having expert knowledge of the subjects that they teach. If they do not, they are supported to address gaps so that learners are not disadvantaged by ineffective teaching	Tutors are recruited with high levels of subject knowledge and supported to develop and diversify their skills.	OTLAs, Staff Qualifications and CPD records, Learner Feedback, recruitment requirements	Tutors on IT courses require ongoing upskilling in new technologies.	CPD and Quals records
6	Teachers encourage learners to use subject-specific, professional and technical vocabulary well. Over the course of study, teachers design and use activities to help learners remember long term the content they have been taught, to integrate new knowledge into larger concepts and to apply skills fluently and independently.	Learners, including many for whom English is a second language, use subject-specific, professional and technical vocabulary well. Teachers design and use effective activities to support the application of skills and language.	OTLAs, Learning Walks, Learners' work, ILPs		
Behaviour & Attitudes					

7	The provider has high expectations for learners' behaviour and conduct and applies these expectations consistently and fairly. This is reflected in learners' behaviour and conduct Relationships among learners and staff reflect a positive and respectful culture.	Learners' behaviour and conduct is excellent. Expectations are high and any complaints, issues or concerns are managed consistently and effectively.	Safeguarding and Exclusion Log Outcomes and Impact Review data - Course Evaluation		
8	Learners' attitudes to their education or training are positive. They are committed to their learning, know how to study effectively and do so, are resilient to setbacks and take pride in their achievements.	Learners are very diligent and resilient, overcoming challenges and barriers to learning.	Group profiles, case studies, achievement and progression.		
9	learners have high attendance and are punctual.			In some areas attendance is below expectations (80%)	Attendance 22-23 Overall 83%
Personal development					
10	The curriculum extends beyond the academic, technical or vocational. It provides for learners' broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents. at each stage of education, the provider prepares learners for future success in their next steps.	Staff work effectively with learners, employers and other partners such as Jobcentre Plus, to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment enable learners to develop personal, social and employability skills that prepare them well for their intended job role, career aims and/or personal goals	Volunteers, partnerships, exhibitions and performances, enrichment programme, jobs fairs, careers strategy.	More consistent communication of enrichment and progression opportunities.	Currently dependent on Tutor diligence.
11	The provider prepares learners for life in modern Britain by: equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society; developing their understanding of fundamental British values; developing their understanding and appreciation of diversity; celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.	Tutors actively promote British values and celebrate the diversity of the city which equips learners with the necessary knowledge and language to play an active role in society and challenge discrimination and assert their rights.	No of learners seeking welfare support, in particular in relation to domestic violence. Lesson plans, resources, learner feedback.	Resources and materials for the promotion of British values, Sustainability and EDI need refreshing	In some areas resources have not been updated recently.
12	Providing an effective careers programme that offers advice, experience and contact with employers.	A much improved careers programme offers 1:1 advice from a well-qualified Careers Leaders, class visits and support to access online resources.	Data and tracking, feedback, padlet and classroom resources, information corner.	Contact with employers requires further development	Missed opportunities to work more closely with The Council's Employment Hub to maximise opportunities for learners.
				Promotion of careers programme to further increase engagement	Access to the careers programme largely driven by tutors rather than independent access by learners.
Leadership & Management					
13	Leaders have a clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality, inclusive education and training to all. This	A strong vision and purpose which is aligned with the Council's priorities and values	Clear service plan with objectives focussed on the		

	is realised through strong, shared values, policies and practice		quality of teaching and learning. Policies and procedures and Tutor Handbook which articulate shared values and practice.		
14	Leaders focus on improving staff's subject, pedagogical and pedagogical content knowledge to enhance the teaching of the curriculum and the appropriate use of assessment. The practice and subject knowledge of staff are built up and improve over time.	Leaders focus on and invest in supporting and improving tutors' subject and pedagogical skills through individual and group professional development and peer support.	CPD investment, CPD records, OTLAs, Induction,	Strategic, service level monitoring of CPD needs and participation is underdeveloped.	Overview of CPD needs and completion was not available to senior managers.
15	Leaders engage effectively with learners and others in their community, including – where relevant – parents, carers, employers and local services	Partnership working is outstanding. Effective and innovative partnerships are developed with a wide range of local stakeholders.	Range of partners, project reports, successful partnership bids, increase in approaches from new partners.	Learner engagement with the Learner Forum requires improvement and a new approach to ensure it is representative.	Attendance and lack of representation of all curriculum areas.
16	Those responsible for governance understand their role and carry this out effectively. They ensure that the provider has a clear vision and strategy and that resources are managed well. They hold leaders to account for the quality of education or training.	Local democratic arrangements provide robust accountability to local people. The Lead Member for Jobs and Skills and the Chair of Scrutiny have a background in Adult Education.	Lead Member Briefing, Scrutiny, City Mayor Briefing,		
17	Leaders have created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first and actively seek and listen to the views and experiences of learners, staff and parents, taking prompt but proportionate action to address any concerns, where needed.	Safeguarding arrangements are robust and responsive. Staff and students understand their responsibilities and report safeguarding and welfare concerns promptly. Proportionate actions are taken. Support for staff with safeguarding responsibilities is effective.	Safeguarding records and follow up, Safeguarding case review meetings. Individual Risk Assessments. CPD records. Stay Safe card and Google classroom section.	E-safety learning content requires continual refreshing to ensure it is up to date with current risks, scams etc.	In some areas resources have not been updated recently.

Supporting Evidence:

- Curriculum Areas' SARs

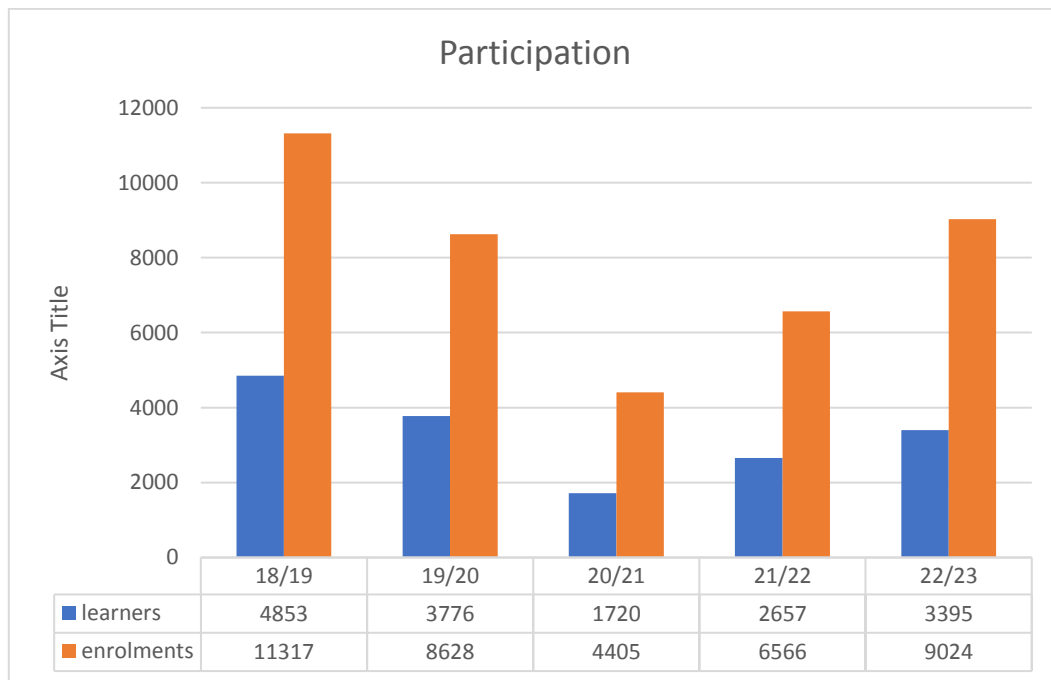
- ESOL
- English and Maths
- Employability and Digital
- Vocational and Professional
- Family Learning
- Arts
- Languages and Humanities
- Community Inclusion
- Remit

- Outcomes and Impact Review: Data includes achievement, retention, summary of course evaluations, progression and destinations for the whole service and for each curriculum area.
- Safeguarding and Prevent supporting report
- Observations of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Moderation reports/ Learning Walks- a brief summary
- Tutor Handbook
- Policies and Procedures site

Review of the 2019-2023 Adult Education Service Plan

In January 2019 the service produced a revised service plan setting out priorities and performance indicators for the following 5 years. In spite of the unexpected impact of COVID 19, the plan has served the service well and the majority of the outcomes and priorities have been successfully delivered.

Overall participation during the period of the plan was significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic and post pandemic there have been changes to patterns of attendance and demands for learning. For example, participation by older learners from outside of the city has significantly reduced.



Strategic Aims

The service plan identified 6 strategic aims and associated performance indicators.

1 Achieve Curriculum Excellence

Performance Indicator by 2023	RAG	Outcome
Ensure 1000 more people will have achieved a qualification at Level 2 or above		1051 qualifications at L2 or above were awarded.
Ensure all qualification achievement rates will be at or above national benchmarks		National benchmarks are not currently available due to COVID disruption distorting the available data. However, qualification achievement rates for 22-23 are 91% and in line with pre-pandemic average national benchmarks for those qualifications (86%)

Achieve outstanding teaching, learning and assessment against Ofsted standards		The service has not been subject to a graded Ofsted Inspection during this period, however, a non-graded visit during COVID provided positive feedback. The 2021-22 Self-Assessment report graded the service as ' Good '.
Plan all new courses in line with the 21 st Century Skills framework		New course approval systems ensure all new courses are robustly assessed for financial viability and alignment with priorities. Clear outcome and impact measures have been established for each subject area. These incorporate the transferable skills and attitudes articulated in the 21 st Century Skills framework and will be carried forward through the knowledge, skills and behaviours priorities set out in the new Local Skills Improvement Plan

2 Put the learner first.

Performance Indicator by 2023	RAG	Outcome
Provide 1000 people with individual careers advice or mid-life career reviews		598 individual Careers sessions Advice were provided. However, in 2022/23 alone, through events and class visits, 1669 Careers Guidance interventions were provided to 453 people.
Maintain 'sustained positive destinations in the top quintile nationally for learners on work related benefits		The measures for this outcome are no longer provided as quintiles. However positive destinations for the latest cohort to be tracked (2019-20) show 66% had a sustained positive destination. This was 9% down on pre-pandemic, in line with other local providers.
Have an active learner forum through which all curriculum areas are appropriately represented		The learner forum successfully moved online during COVID and was very helpful in developing or online offer in that period. However, to broaden the reach and ensure learner voices are heard more consistently, a new approach of curriculum-based learner forums will be introduced from 2023.
Have 200 ex-offenders completing community learning courses		The 'Out for Good' programme resulted in 49 ex-offenders completing courses in 2019-20. The programme was closed due to changes in funding for ex-offender learning, which now sits at a sub-regional level with a private training provider.

3 Secure the long-term financial viability of the service.

Performance Indicator by 2023	RAG	Outcome
Deliver 10 sector-based work academies or redundancy support packages per year in partnership with local businesses.	Yellow	Successful sector-based work academies were delivered pre-pandemic in Business Admin, Social Care, Catering and Retail. However, there were consistently very high levels of 'no shows' of individuals referred from the DWP, which makes the model unviable financially.
Rename and rebrand the service resulting in increased public awareness	Green	The service was renamed 'Leicester Adult Education' in 2022 with new branding and a new website. This has been positively received by learners and stakeholders. The service has seen an increase in approaches from internal and external partners and secured additional funding as a result.
Have held a year of activities and events in 2020 to celebrate 70 years of the Adult Education College	Red	Due to COVID this was postponed to 2025 (75 years)
Work with 25 organisations to offer social prescriptions for learning	Green	In 2022-23 52 organisations formally referred clients for learning on account of health or disability. From September 2023 some social prescribing staff in the Beaumont Leys area will work out of the service's Bishopdale Adult Learning Hub.

4 Provide a great place to learn and work.

Performance Indicator by 2023	RAG	Outcome
Have sufficient, appropriately located and well-equipped venues for the appropriate and effective delivery of service	Green	Since 2019 there have been several changes to the venues used. Bishopdale Adult Learning hub was created in Beaumont Leys in early 2020 and following the closure due to COVID lockdowns it has become well established and from 2023 will incorporate the Construction Hub. The Adult Education College has seen increased usage over the period and operates at or near capacity most days in term time. The college operates 5 days and 4 evenings a week. For efficiency reasons, Saturday courses have been focussed on Bishopdale, with the college used for 2 or 3 Saturdays each term.

		<p>There has been ongoing investment in repairs, improving fixtures and fittings and digital connectivity across the venues. However, several Neighbourhood Service venues traditionally used by the service were subject to community asset transfer, often resulting in the need to find alternative venues and as a result there continues to be a shortage of availability in the East of the city.</p> <p>EFIF and Multiply funding has been used to develop provision in partnership with voluntary organisations in a diverse range of additional community venues.</p>
Provide 48 Studyzone spaces and promote them in partnership with the Central Library		6 PCs and 48 table spaces with free WiFi are available. These are regularly used and currently meet demand.
Establish a more effective learner achievement and recognition process.		<p>An annual graduation ceremony has been implemented for learners on substantive courses.</p> <p>An annual summer exhibition and Private view event has been instigated for Arts and creative courses. An annual exhibition of work from the REMIT Mental Health programme in the café. Performances at the end of all music and performing arts courses.</p>

5 Create a culture of innovation and inspiration.

Performance Indicator by 2023	RAG	Outcome
Implement an effective and efficient online enrolment service with high levels of customer satisfaction		<p>New website has been implemented with the potential for online enrolment but is not yet fully implemented.</p> <p>Over the last 18 months the use of Power Automate has been developed to further improve the efficiency and accuracy of course management and reduce the administrative burden on curriculum staff. This frees them up to respond to more complex learner needs.</p>
Ensure 30 students per year complete the Access to HE programme with 70% or higher progression on to a higher-level course or apprenticeship		<p>Places on Access courses have been capped by a cut in Student Loan allocation which has restricted growth. In 2022-23 9 learners completed the course and while all have secured University places, 3 have deferred their places due to the cost of living. The first two cohorts of Access students have now graduated, more than 50%</p>

		achieved a first-class degree and the rest secured 2:1s
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6 Make a positive contribution to the wider community.

Performance Indicator by 2023	RAG	Outcome
Support 2500 more people to use digital technology and improve digital inclusion.		2543 people completed on Computing courses. In addition, all learners are supported to use technology through our learning platform as part of their course and this was particularly the case during the pandemic when all classes moved online.
Have held practitioner research and innovation training events and conferences for the sector		Some regional events have been hosted at the Adult Education College; however, the advent of online training and conferences has reduced the need for this objective. Nonetheless, staff are very active in peer support networks at regional and national level.
Provide an online portal so adult education opportunities across the city are easier to find.		The national 'Course finder' portal has reduced the need for this objective. The new service website provides much improved access to information about our own courses.
Have supported 300 more refugees and asylum seekers to learn English.		The service secured additional funding to provide 455 refugees and asylum seekers with English Language tuition. This includes working closely with STAR AMAL team to support the integration of people on formal resettlement schemes from Syria, Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine.

Future Planning

The service is now required to produce an annual Accountability Agreement for the ESFA which takes account of the priorities laid out in the Learning and Skills Improvement Plan. This sits alongside the annual self-assessment report and quality improvement plan to provide a robust framework for planning and service development.

A draft Accountability Agreement for the 2024-25 programme is currently being prepared and will include:

- Review curriculum design and delivery in line with the local Knowledge, Skills and Behaviour requirements of businesses as evidenced in the LSIP.
- Offer easy access, short courses for Digital Skills in business, with a specific focus on digital marketing, social media, cloud computing and data analytics.
- The development of green skills and support of the Council's Net Zero strategy through the development of new community and family learning courses.

- Increase the provision of English Language training, including more advanced and technical language skills.
- Contribute to the development of the Local Skills Accountability Boards
- Support for the continuation of the work of the Fashion Technology Academy and the Construction Hub through Skills Bootcamps and the subcontracting of ESFA Adult Education Budget for specialist and technical skills delivery

EV CHARGING

EDTCE Scrutiny

Date of meeting: 07 December 2023

Lead director/officer: Daniel Pearman

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All Wards
- Report author: Daniel Pearman
- Author contact details: Daniel.pearman@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 01

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Commission with details and context on electric vehicles within Leicester.
- 1.2 To provide the Commission with information as to the progress on EV uptake and infrastructure delivery within Leicester.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Full details are provided in the accompanying PowerPoint slide deck.
- 2.2 As of June 2023, there were 3,802 electric cars (including plug in hybrids) registered to addresses in Leicester – around 2% of total registered cars across all fuel types. 16% of all new cars registered in 2022 were EVs, and the pace has been gradually accelerating.
- 2.3 Including chargers in private car parks, there were 117 chargers available for members of the public to use across the city as of October 2023.
- 2.4 The provision of charging infrastructure in support of Electric Vehicles is key to various plans and strategies, including the Carbon Neutral Roadmap and the Local Plan.
- 2.5 The City Council has more recently delivered schemes to provide on street charging options using available grants. This has included the On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, which allowed for a trial of 22 chargers to be installed and the European Regional Development Fund which has allowed us to begin a programme of delivering 35 fast and rapid chargers across the city centre.
- 2.6 Whilst continuing to deliver infrastructure as funding allows, the city council has additionally been developing its approach to Electric Vehicles/charging. This will help us understand the future demand for EV charging and opportunities for delivery of charging infrastructure in support. Development work has followed multiple paths, including the suitability of electric infrastructure across the city; the availability of private, off-street parking; and social or environmental factors that may drive uptake of electric vehicles.
- 2.7 We have additionally considered the type of infrastructure that can be supported and how to best ensure that the provision of electric vehicle charging does not disadvantage other users, such as pedestrians, nor create potential legal complications over rights of access or parking.
- 2.8 We have recently submitted a business case under the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (LEVI). Leicester has an indicative allocation of £3.38m. The fund is targeted towards relatively low powered charge points that would be found in residential streets, rather than rapid charging hubs.
- 2.9 There is an expectation from government that the majority of public charging need will, nationally, be met by private enterprise either at the kerb or within car parks and private businesses. As battery capacity increases, and charging speed decreases, this is likely to result in the growth of destination charging at shops, tourist attractions, car parks, and other similar facilities.
- 2.10 The government has recently delayed the requirement for all new cars to be zero emission to 2035, though retains a target of ensuring 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans are zero emission by 2030.
- 2.11 The automotive market has continued to develop and release new models of electric vehicles, though they retain a price premium, and the second-hand market is continuing to grow. Range of vehicles is increasing steadily, with most new vehicles having a standard quoted range in excess of 300 miles per full charge.

2.12 The council's role in supporting the delivery of EV charging is dynamic, as the market develops and will follow government policy and changes within the industry

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

3.1 Financial

N/A

3.2 Legal

N/A

3.3 Equalities

N/A

3.4 Climate Emergency

N/A

3.5 Other

No other implications of this report

4. Background information and other papers

4.1 EDTCE – EVs PowerPoint document

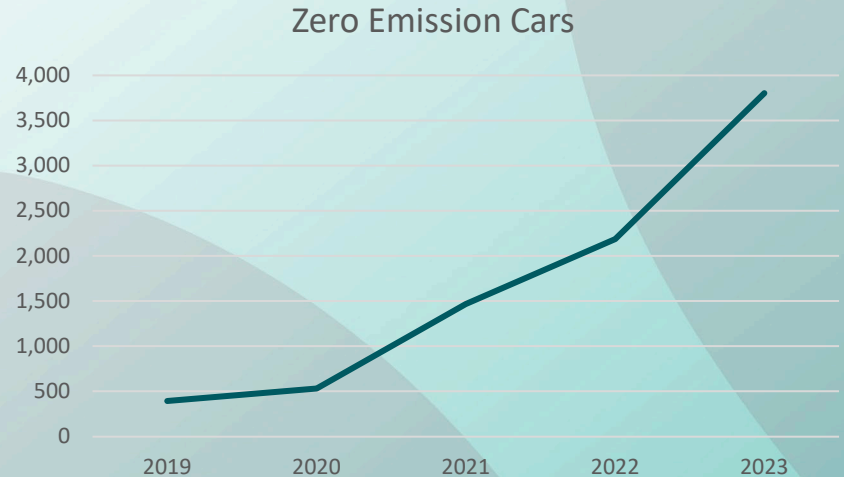
Electric Vehicle Charging Points

EDTCE Scrutiny – 7 December

Electric Vehicles in Leicester

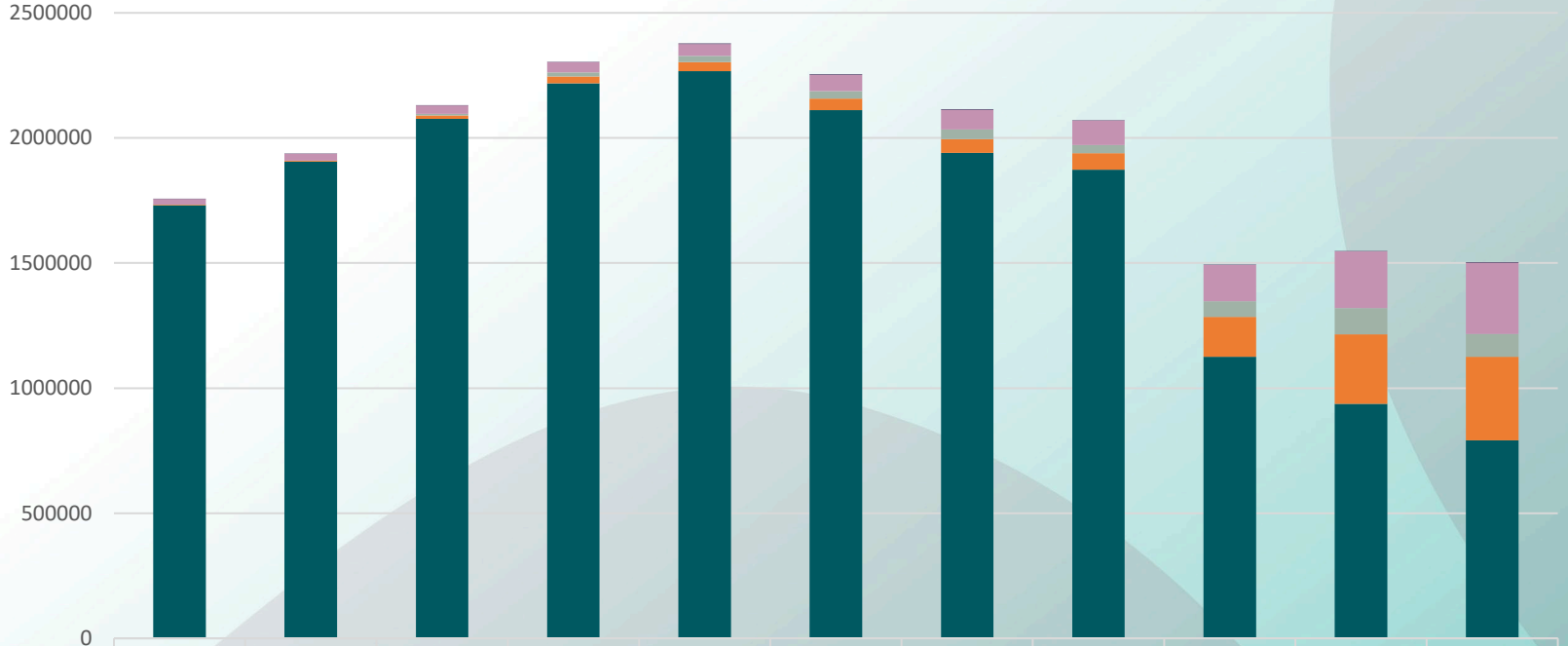
- 3,802 battery electric and plug in hybrids in Leicester as of June 2023.
- 2% of total cars registered in Leicester

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New Vehicle Registrations by Fuel Type (National)

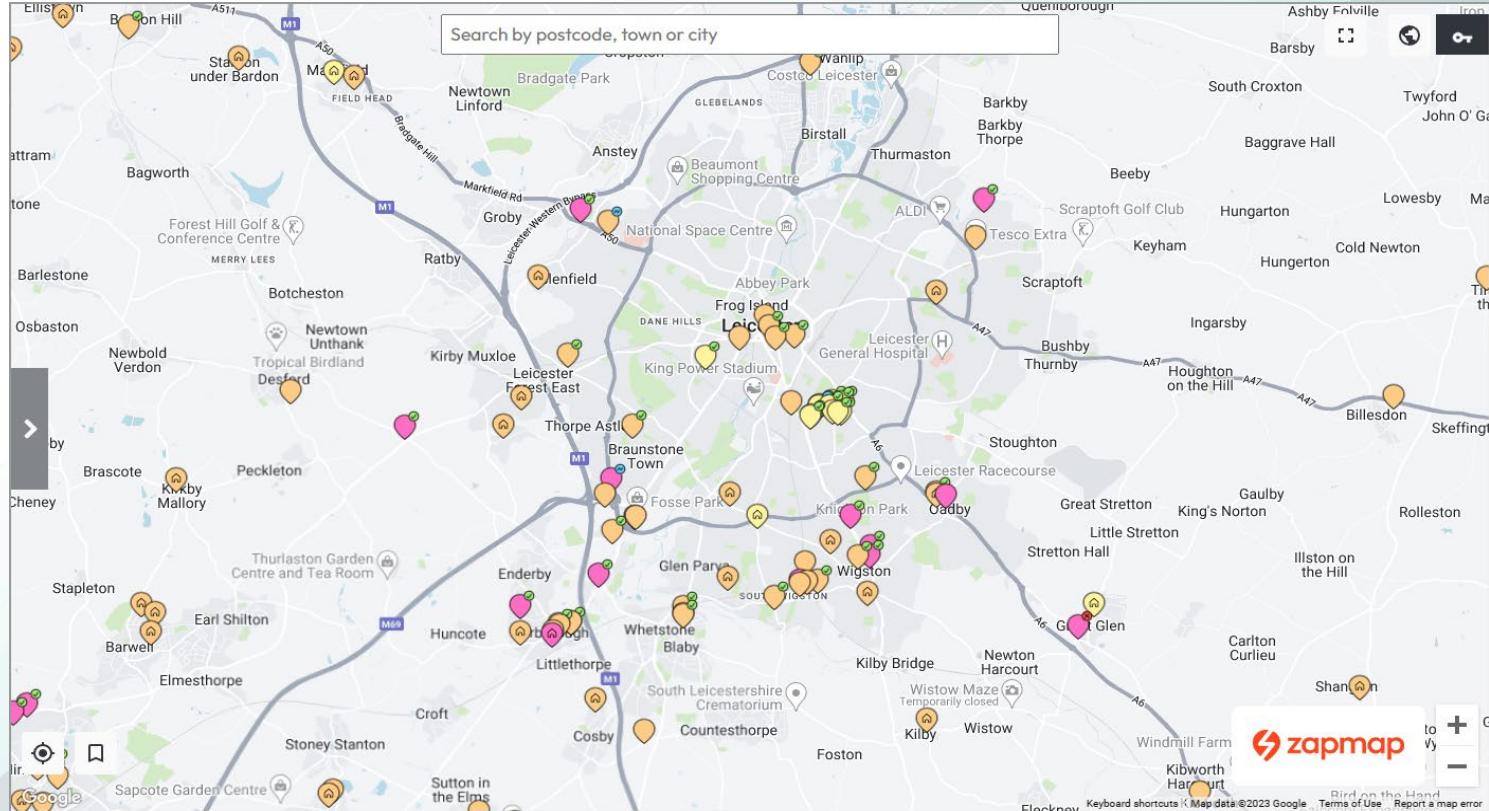
73



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Other	558	387	1291	1704	1905	2381	2166	352	769	1847	2639
Hybrids	22840	26782	34112	40856	47264	64737	78060	98108	145888	226253	284744
Plug In Hybrid	526	629	6070	16256	25247	30582	38935	32151	61733	104407	90753
EV	2532	3402	13279	26837	36459	45336	55166	66613	158882	278119	333566
Fossil Fuel	1730329	1905009	2076098	2218129	2265954	2111311	1939835	1872584	1125930	937558	791564

Public Charger Availability (117)

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Charger Types and Speeds

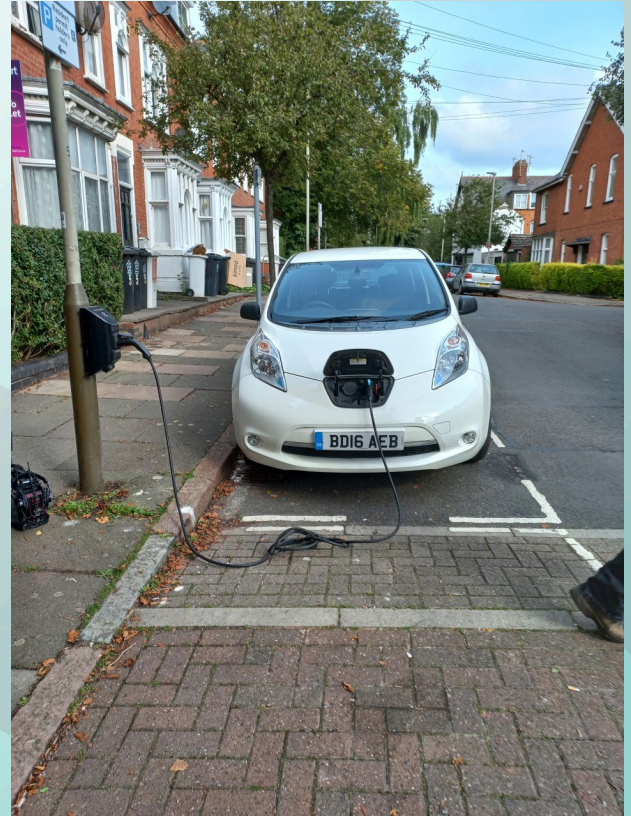
Slow	Standard	Fast	Rapid
<7.1kW	7.1kW – 22kW	22kW – 50 kW	50kW – 150kW
<5:29 hours	5:29 – 1:46 hours	1:46 – 0:46 hours	0:46 – 0:15 hours

Charging times based on a new Nissan Leaf, 39kWh battery. Not all vehicles will support all charger types

Delivery Streams

- On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) – **22** (slow) chargers - **Delivered**
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – **5** rapid and **30** fast chargers – **Being delivered**
- Local Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (LEVI) – indicative allocation of £3.38m – **Planned Delivery**

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Types of charging solutions

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Hyper-Local

- Off street parking
- Kerb channels and fitments

Local

- Lamp column chargers
- On street charging docks

Destination

- Charging hubs
- Car park charging



National Policy

- Decarbonisation of road transport a key part of the government Net Zero Strategy and Transport Decarbonisation Plan.
- 78 • All new cars are to be zero emission by 2035.
- 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans to be zero emission by 2030.
- Most of the demand for EV charging to be provided by the private sector.

Local Objectives and Policy

- Transitioning vehicles to zero emission a key part of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap – largest possible impact on transport related emissions.
- Also a key feature of the Local Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan, and Air Quality Action Plan, recognising the benefits to local air quality as well as decarbonisation.

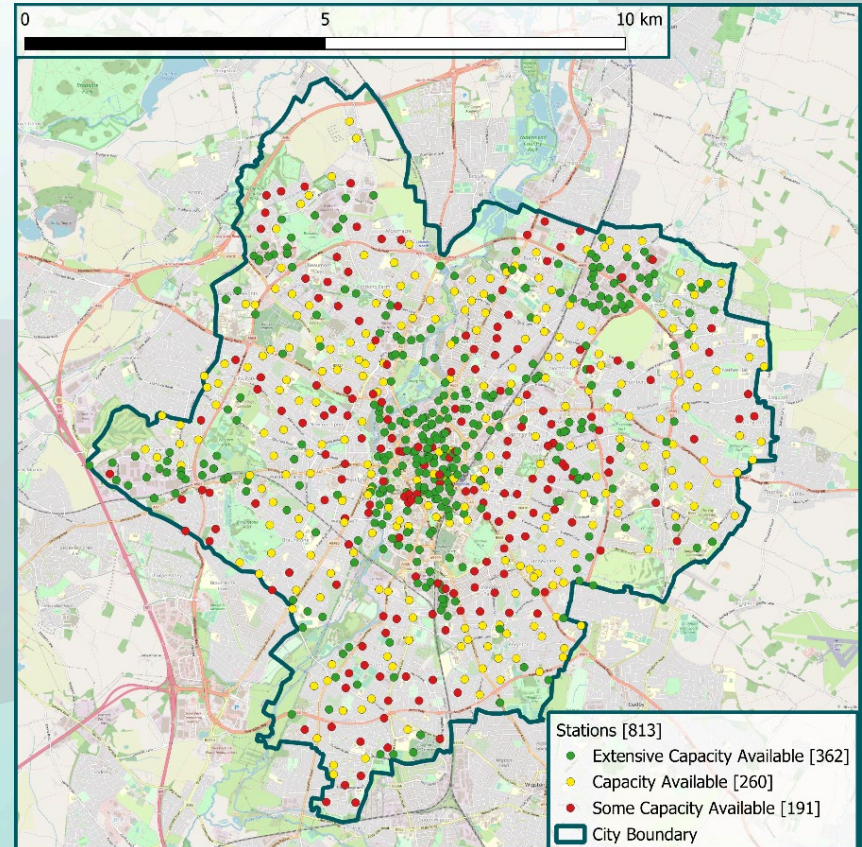
Challenges

- Grid capacity
- Cost
- ∞• Highway space/constraints
- EV uptake
- Market development for chargers

Grid Capacity

- Grid capacity a primary barrier to the volume and type of chargers that can be deployed
- Grid capacity can be an issue at various levels, from substations through to transformers.
- Not always logical where streets are grid connected, each site requires engagement with National Grid.
- In discussions with National Grid

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Cost

- Electrical vehicle chargers can range from £22,000 - £57,000 dependent on type. This does not include potential upgrades to the power network.
- Upgrades to electrical grid expensive, but within scope of LEVI grant – though this will reduce the number of chargepoints that can be installed.
- Expectation is that LEVI grant will provide around a fifth of the necessary level of support, nationwide, with the private sector to provide the remainder.

Highway Space and Capacity

- In many areas of the city, there is limited space for the necessary infrastructure without sacrificing some amount of utility e.g. general parking.
- Solution such as kerb channels and cables create expectation of reserved parking outside of homes, and in many locations will only support one side of the street.
- Insufficient highway space to provide one charger for every formal or informal parking space in the city.

EV Uptake

- Most electric vehicles continue to come at a higher price premium compared to ICE counterparts. Second hand market still growing.
- Increase in electricity costs reduces value benefits over conventional fuels for those without private charging options.
- Lingering concerns over driving range, battery life, fire safety, and viability continue – government information campaign promised to begin to challenge myths around EVs.

Market Development

- Charger suppliers, systems, and solutions are entering the market rapidly – confusing market.
- Advances in battery technology are leading to new vehicles having over 300m of range, and being suitable for charging within 30 minutes – approaching ICE vehicle utility.
- Charging solutions standards still being developed and risk of installations not supporting new generations of vehicles.

**Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission (EDTCE)
Work Programme 2023 – 2024**

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
27 July 2023	An overview presentation of EDTCE services and key issues.		
21st September 2023	1) Flooding update Report 2) Sector Skills 'Bootcamps' 3) 20 mph Streets topic, informal scrutiny proposal report.	3) To set up an informal 'task group' to focus on this work	3) A programme of meetings for members has now been set up. A final report/recommendations will be brought to EDTCE in early 2024.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
18 October 2023	1) Bus Lanes Progress Report 2) A6 Bus Lanes/Red Routes TRO Report 3) Rally Park Active Travel Scheme Report	1a) Data to be provided on usage of buses since implementation of bus lane on Aylestone Road. 1b) Data to be provided on income collected through enforcement and where/how this has been spent. 1c) Data to be provided on breakdown of appeals regarding enforcement. 1d) Officers to liaise with Members on possible timeframe for Task Group on 24/7 Bus Lanes informal scrutiny. 2) Officers to consider further public engagement with objections received to scheme. 3a) Officers to consider best approach to retain trees and improve visibility/safety as part of design process. 3b) Officers to consider liaising with Parks about possibility of voluntary group in area for biodiversity gain and enjoyable space. 3c) Further details to be shared with the Commission once scheme designed for comment.	1a) Document shared with Commission members. 1d) Presentation on EV Charging to be given to determine if that or 24hr bus lanes is next informal scrutiny work. 2) Arrangements for meeting with objectors under way. 3a) Will be included in design work. 3b) Will be carried out as part of scheme. 3c) Need to await final design.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
16 November 2023 - special meeting	Climate Change Strategy Plan – consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) List of members of the Leicester Climate Emergency Partnership to be updated to include Active Leicester and to update the NHS representation. 2) Climate impact of the pension fund and the Council's previous urging of the County Council / support for the County Council to address the issue to be acknowledged in the document. 3) Consider lengthening the time-frame for the consultation and making the consultation documents more accessible and easier to engage with (it is acknowledged that this might be difficult due to time constraints). 4) Consider more venues other than schools for Tiny Forests. 5) Consider adding an appendix on how Leicester could be 'greened'. 6) Consider options on the Food Plan such as diets and ingredients. 7) Consider use of a 'Kite Mark' for businesses to show that they are climate ready. 8) Consider scope for joint work with Public Health. 9) Clarify in report why parking levy and road use charges were referred to. 	

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
7 December 2023	1) Energy Efficiency for homes – including green homes scheme, solar panels, insulation of private homes and LCC offer/grants. 2) Draft Adult Education ‘Accountability Agreement’ 3) EV Charging Points Presentation 4) Informal Scrutiny Work – Verbal Update		
31 January 2024	1) TROs – standing item (if any) 2) Annual Council Budget reports re: EDTCE budget position 3) Air Quality Strategy Progress report 4) Labour market - jobs and skills; barriers; access to ESOL; (invite appointed SPF partners to present and discuss these issues). -To Include Shared prosperity Fund. 5) Invitation to Waterside visit		
20 March 2024	1) TROs – standing item (if any) 2) Major Regeneration Site Update (Waterside, Ashton Green, Railway Station, Pioneer Park) 3) Brownfield Land development approach 4) Labour market - workers that might be exploited; outside the hosiery sector; access to workers’ rights <i>(of interest to other scrutiny areas e.g. community safety; culture & n/hoods scrutiny).</i> 5) LLEP Arrangements		

Forward Plan items (suggested topics)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
EV Strategy consultation	Likely to form part of informal scrutiny work in 2024.	tbc
Bio-Diversity Net Gain		tbc
Connecting Leicester programme		tbc
Local Transport Plan		tbc
Inward investment and place marketing		tbc
20mph Streets – Informal Work – scrutiny report/recommendations		Early 2024
Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Overview Presentation/Report		tbc - ASAP

