

Leicester
City Council

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

DATE: TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 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 Dawood (Chair)

Councillor Mohammed (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Agath, Aldred, Chauhan, Halford, Karavadra and Singh Johal

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

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Katie Jordan (Democratic Support Officer)

Anita Patel (Scrutiny Support Officer),

Tel: 0116 4546350, e-mail: committees@leicester.gov.uk

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

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of The Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission held on 16 August 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. 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.

6. PETITIONS

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

7. VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

Appendix B

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submits a report on Voluntary Community Sector Engagement (VCSE).

8. DRAFT CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES STRATEGY REPORT

Appendix C

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submits a report on the Draft Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy.

9. WARD FUNDING ANNUAL REPORT

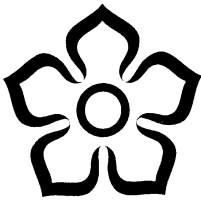
Appendix D

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report on the Ward Funding Policy and the Annual Ward Funding Report.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix E

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider items for the future work programme.



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Dawood - Chair

Councillor Agath
Councillor Chauhan
Councillor Karavadra

Councillor Aldred
Councillor Halford
Councillor Singh Johal

* * * * *

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

1. That the minutes of Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission held on 28 February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.
2. That the minutes of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 12 January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

The Membership of the Committee for 2023/24 was noted.

5. DATES OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

The dates of meetings for 2023/24 were noted.

6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations and

statements of case had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

7. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

8. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES UNDER CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO - SEAN ATTERBURY

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services, Sean Atterbury delivered a presentation to provide an overview of the key areas and services relating to the Neighbourhood and Environmental Services portfolio.

Members noted the presentation on the introduction in to Neighbourhood and Environmental Services portfolio and thanked officers. The work areas were noted, which would support the Commission's Work Programme for the forthcoming year.

Members discussed the presentation and the following points were noted:

- Work had been completed over the last 12 months looking at the Burial Policy and advance purchases of graves. This has helped extend the space within the city by two further years from 2028 to 2030. The current cemetery space in Leicester would need to be reviewed and a decision on a new cemetery location would need to be made by 2030.
- The Better Mental Health Funding is used for engagement sessions within libraries and community spaces to bring communities together.
- Trees in Leicester City are maintained on a 3-5 year cycle, depending on the species and size. When tree nuisance reports are received, each case is assessed in its own merit. The Councils Tree Strategy and Tree Policy is available on the website and can be viewed here - <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/my-vision/sustainable-leicester/tree-strategy/>
- Part of the Councils Tree Strategy is for every tree that has fell, 19 new trees have been planted.
- All CCTV installations were in line with regulations. 10 new cameras had been installed in Leicester East in the last 3 months.
- CCTV installation costs vary and range between £3 and £10 thousand pounds.
- Leicester City currently has one Taxi testing centre and they were meeting requirements in line with the Councils Taxi Strategy, with no cause for concern.
- Work would begin on the new Waste Strategy in 2024, before the current strategy would end in 2028 and the National Governments new requirements would have to be implemented by 2030.
- The Council currently have a public engagement consultation on Leicester's community services and libraries needs, more information can be found on the link below:

https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/libraries/cslna/?utm_campaign=2351826_Face%20-%205%20July%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Leicester%20City%20Council&dm_i=

- The Council maintain visibility displays to ensure the roads are safe for users. We now have a Grassland Strategy, where mowing regimes are relaxed to encourage biodiversity in the city and evidence has shown that this has a significant effect in helping us become a green biodiverse city and creates green highways for wildlife in the city.
- An active scheme is in place, where the roads were being signposted, where the mowing has been consciously relaxed mowing by putting a Bee Road Sign. They can be spotted all over the city and risk assessments have taken place to ensure safety for road users.

AGREED:

1. Members note the reports
2. Officers to look into seed and produce exchange in harvest season.
3. Officers to bring a report on CCTV to a future commission meeting.
4. Officers to circulate a list of the Councils current strategy and policy documents and when they would be up for renewal.

9. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES UNDER CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO - MIKE DALZELL

The Director of Tourism and Culture, Mike Dalzell delivered a presentation to provide an overview of the key areas and services relating to the Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment portfolio.

Members noted the presentation on the introduction to the Tourism, Culture and Investment Division s portfolio and thanked officers. The work areas were noted, which would support the Commission’s Work Programme for the forthcoming year.

Members discussed the presentation and the following points were noted:

- A fundamental review would take place on the cities Festival Programme in 2024. Officers noted suggestions to spread them out across the city to reach a wider audience.
- Inward Investments reports would usually be taken to Economic Development Scrutiny Commission, though some areas do overlap into Culture and Neighbourhoods. The city had been very successful with investment that has created new leisure facilities such as two new bowling Alleys opening in the city. The Inward Investment team had been keen to focus on technology and innovation businesses. This has helped Space Park, which had received a lot of international interest.
- Events are very important for the City. Feedback and data help us know which events are successful.
- Festivals had become increasingly popular, within two days of the BBC Radio 2 event being announced, all hotels in the city were booked.

AGREED:

1. Officers to update a future Commission meeting on the findings of the Festival review.
2. Officers to update a future Commission meeting on Leicester Cities national visitor statistics.
3. The Culture and Creative Industries Strategy to be added to the work programme of a future commission meeting.
4. Members note the presentation.

10. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES UNDER CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO - MIRANDA CANNON

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance Miranda Cannon introduced herself to the commission and gave an introduction to the services in her portfolio. She then invited Andrew Beddow and Andrew Shilliam to deliver a presentation to provide an overview of the key areas and services relating to the Sports and VCSE areas of the service, that would be a part of the commission's work programme for the forthcoming year.

Members noted the presentation on the introduction in to Sports and VCSE and thanked officers. The work areas were noted, which would support the Commission's Work Programme for the forthcoming year.

Members discussed the presentation and the following points were noted:

- Charities and Community groups are able to use the Crowdfund Leicester platform once they have completed the verification process. The crowdfunding approach can then be used for a range of things and has included examples such as events, restoration of buildings and community activities in schools that they may not have the funding for.
- One of the pledges of the VCSE groups relates to infrastructure support. Previously a third party organisation was used to provide direct support to community organisations, charities and VCSE groups. The support has now been brought in house. A small needs assessment is completed online and their needs are identified, so that the correct support and guidance can be provided.
- As part of the VCSE Strategy, work would take place to improve the Councils expertise to be able to provide more support and assistance for fundraising and bid writing. Feedback from groups and organisations stated this was one of the more important things for them.
- Leicester City Council currently had no plans to increase the leisure centre facilities that were currently provided. 50% of Leicester residents are currently able to walk to their nearest leisure centre, which not many other cities would be able to compare too.
- Weed killer is no longer used by the Council on sports pitches as policy and many Councils have the same stance.

AGREED:

1. Members note the presentation.
2. VCSE Strategy report be presented at the next Commission meeting in September.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

Neighbourhoods & Culture Commission

Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector Engagement Strategy Update

Date of Commission meeting: 7th September 2023

**Assistant City Mayor for Communities, Adult
Learning, Jobs & Skills**

Lead officer: Andrew Shilliam, Head of the City Mayor's
Office and Customer Support Transformation

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All Wards
- Report author: Andrew Shilliam, Head of the City Mayor's Office
- Author contact details: 0116 454 0131 / andrew.shilliam@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: V1



1. Summary

- 1.1. Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations play an increasingly vital role in our city. The sector has long been a valued partner of the City Council as well as many other public sector organisations in Leicester. Likewise, the VCSE in Leicester also benefit from closer working relationships with the private sector and some long-standing arrangements exist in that regard.
- 1.2. The groups and organisations that make up the VCSE in the city provide support to the some of the most deprived and underserved people, families, communities, and neighbourhoods. They also enrich our lives through their promotion of the arts, culture, education, the environment, festivals and events, heritage, sport, and tourism.
- 1.3. The VCSE sector provides a great deal of the energy, impetus, and momentum to our social capital – helping make Leicester an attractive, dynamic, and progressive place to live, work, study, and visit.
- 1.4. As Local Government budgets and resources continue to shrink, residents will inevitably look elsewhere for support. VCSE and other agencies/organisations will undoubtedly continue to play an important and perhaps more enhanced role within peoples' lives as a result.
- 1.5. We saw some very localised examples of this when VCSE groups and organisations of all sizes came to the fore during the pandemic to work in partnership with the Council and others.
- 1.6. The relationship between the Council and the sector has changed over the last decade or so. Because of the cuts to our budgets and therefore our services, we can no longer be called upon by the VCSE to be the funder of first choice in the same way that we once were, and therefore we must cultivate a new, mutually beneficial relationship with the sector.
- 1.7. The need to recognise the value of the impact of VCSE organisations, together with the need to reset our relationship is clear. So much so that the Council is committed to establishing a strategy to engage with our local VCSE in a more coordinated and meaningful manner.
- 1.8. The strategy is intended to make clear how the Council intends to engage with the VCSE, what role the Council can play in ensuring that Leicester has a vibrant, strong, and sustainable VCSE sector, and how that can be achieved within the current environment. Developing and maintaining a better understanding of the sector is fundamental to that goal.
- 1.9. This report provides an overview of the work so far to establish that improved understanding, provides an outline of the likely key priority themes for the strategy, and outlines each of the draft pledges related to each of these priority themes as they are drafted right now.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny

- 2.1. That the Neighbourhoods and Culture Scrutiny panel review and comment on the draft pledges as they are currently proposed.
- 2.2. That the Neighbourhoods and Culture Scrutiny panel note the proposed timeline for the launch of the strategy.

3. Supporting Information

- 3.1 The medium-term financial outlook for the Council is the most severe we have known in our time as a unitary authority. We are facing restricted Government funding at a time of increasing costs, which will continue to result in painful spending cuts. A decade of austerity and reduced Government grant, between 2010 and 2020, has seen Council services other than Social Care reduced by 50% in real terms.
- 3.2 Despite this, the Council continues to directly commission VCSE organisations for the delivery of a variety of different services and activities across a number of Council departments.
- 3.3 That said, our ability to provide grants and other financial assistance to VCSE organisations has changed, in part because of our diminished budgets but also due to the need for transparency, for more equal and fair access to funding opportunities, and the responsibility to demonstrate value for money.
- 3.4 Until recently the Council commissioned Voluntary Action Leicestershire to provide infrastructure support to VCSE organisations operating in Leicester. This arrangement had three elements to it – (1) generic infrastructure support, (2) support to enable Adventure Play based VCSE organisations to become self-sufficient, and (3) support to health based VCSE organisations (on behalf of the Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group).
- 3.5 This was a mature arrangement to extend non-statutory support to the sector, cost £140k annually, was in place for a number of years, and was extended more than once. This support was available to all VCSE organisations in Leicester and was not based on any assessment of need.
- 3.6 However, as part of the spending review process at the Council, this commissioned arrangement was always considered to be time-limited and one that was always intended to end. Once so, any financial savings resulting from the end of the contract contributed to the Council departmental savings required to balance the Councils overall budget.
- 3.7 As we have moved away from this generic and more blanket based approach to providing infrastructure support, we've looked more closely at how we might enable VCSE groups and organisations to help themselves by accessing support and information that is increasingly much more freely available.

- 3.8 In recent years, our experience is certainly that more ‘self-serve’ information has become available and free to access, so that VCSE groups or organisations can help themselves. Some of that can be found through the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).
- 3.9 Of course, some organisations may need more expert, detailed, or specific advice and assistance, particularly those fledgling organisations (by age, size, or experience). If that is the case, rather than directing organisations elsewhere for support, we have put in place a needs assessment process that we would work through with each organisation as they approach us. That way we can assess and then tailor that support accordingly.

VCSE Engagement Strategy - Research Approach

- 3.10 Given the various changes that have occurred over the years, especially regarding the context within which we operate, the Council made a commitment to develop a strategy that would refresh our relationship with the sector and make clear the basis upon which we would work in future.
- 3.11 In progressing the development of the VCSE Engagement Strategy, we’ve attempted to speak with a range of different stakeholders and interested parties to get a fuller understanding of the sector nationally, regionally, and more locally.
- 3.12 Though this work was disrupted by the COVID pandemic, we’ve now completed this information gathering stage and the information, evidence, knowledge and opinions that were gathered been reviewed and assessed.
- 3.13 We used a mixed methods approach to this work, using primary and secondary methods, a wide variety of sources, and engaged with internal and external stakeholders. Crucial to this is the voice of the sector and as such VCSE organisations have been actively engaged in several ways.

Dialogue sessions

- 3.14 More than a dozen “open dialogue sessions” were held in public venues around the city. Every ward was included, and invitations were sent to every VCSE group and organisation in those wards whose contact details we held. If the invitee had no email listed, we contacted them by phone. If they were not contactable by phone, we sent an invitation by post – sometimes hand-delivered.
- 3.15 The meetings were promoted by other means, such as Voluntary Action Leicestershire’s (VAL) regular e-newsletter. As well as allowing us to meet many individuals face-to-face, this activity allowed us to verify contact information for every VCSE sector group and organisation possible, which helped deepen and strengthen all other parts of this process.

Internal stakeholders

- 3.16 We made efforts to gather as much information as available about our current relations with VCSE sector groups and organisations across the authority, in part through an officer reference group, in part through direct conversations with colleagues at the level of Directors and Heads of Service.

3.17 The information included details of commissioned services; service level agreements; grant-aided work and other forms of engagement and support. This process allowed us to start to get a better understanding of the total spend of the city council on the sector and which service areas this involves.

One-to-One interviews

3.18 A series of one-to-one interviews took place with individuals from thirteen groups and organisations, considered to be some of the larger and more prominent VCSE organisations in Leicester, seeking their views regarding the potential benefits, outputs, and outcome of our intended strategy.

3.19 Recurring themes from these interviews included: infrastructure support; expanding partnerships; differentiated forms and sources of funding, tendering and contracts; attracting younger people into volunteering; capacity building, including investing in staff, sharing skills and assets; meeting rooms, culture change – feeling valued; and educating LCC staff and others on the VCSE contribution to the city.

Topic sessions

3.20 We arranged a series of online update and topic sessions and invited the VCSE sector to each of these. Eventbrite bookings were arranged for two meetings on each topic plus a questionnaire, offering groups and organisations the opportunity to get involved, share their expertise, opinions, and views.

3.21 The six topics were informed by our research up to that point and focused on what we understand to be some of the more prominent priority areas. These topics were (1) finance and funding; (2) partnership and collaboration; (3) civil society; (4) infrastructure support; (5) and volunteering.

VCSE survey

3.22 The survey intended to explore the extent to which local groups and organisations had accessed the various forms of infrastructure support commissioned by the City Council, and – if they had – who had provided it, how it was delivered, if they found it useful, whether they would recommend the city council and which of the forms of support they valued most.

3.23 Out of the fifteen forms of support most recently offered, respondents collectively ranked them as follows:

1. Income generation
2. Organisational strategy
3. Business planning
4. Marketing and outreach
5. Financial management
6. Set up and management
7. Recruiting and retaining volunteers
8. Responding to challenges, needs and opportunities
9. Social media
10. Maximising benefits of volunteers

3.24 Five services ended up outside the top ten ranking. They were (1) keeping up to date with VCS issues; (2) measuring, demonstrating and understanding impact; (3) underserved communities; (4) protected characteristics; and (5) social value.

Other VCSE strategies & information

3.25 We took a closer look at the strategies of a number of local authorities around England who we considered to work closely with the VCSE in their respective areas, seeking good practice in how they were engaging with and supporting their local VCSE sectors. We were particularly interested in content of the strategies of those local authorities which shared some characteristics with those of Leicester: post-industrial economy; university towns/cities; political complexion; elected mayor; elite sports teams.

3.26 We also gathered information from national agencies directly involved with the VCSE sector, most significantly the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) – of which Leicester City Council enjoys public sector membership, the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) and Locality.

3.27 We looked to several relevant think tanks also, including the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR), The New Social Covenant Unit and the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN), and reviewed a number of sector specific podcasts, including “Bridges to the Future” (RSA), “Giving Thought” (Charities Aid Foundation), “NHS England and NHS Improvement Podcast” (NHS England), “Third Sector” (Third Sector), “Transforming Our Futures” (Globalnet21).

Other public sector stakeholders

3.28 We liaised with colleagues at Leicestershire County Council about our common interests in engaging with the VCSE sector in both city and county. We had many similar conversations with the then Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Areas of interest, pledges and actions, strategy timeline

3.29 Initial findings from our research suggested that we would be best to concentrate our pledges and actions around the following areas of interest.

- Civil society
- Culture change
- Data and insight
- Digital transformation & social media
- Finance and funding
- Infrastructure support
- Partnership and collaboration
- Volunteering
- Business engagement

3.30 These areas of interest have been refined further, resulting in the development of six pledges, each with a small number of deliverable actions (Appendix A), and focus on the following final areas of interest:

- Organisations in our Civil Society
- VCSE – insights, importance, and impact
- Funding and the VCSE
- Infrastructure support and the VCSE
- Volunteering
- Businesses and the VCSE

3.31 The pledges and actions:

- Have been developed and informed by all the research that we have done so far.
- Will drive our relationship with the local VCSE.
- Are geared around refocusing our role, reconnecting to the VCSE, and rebuilding our relationships.
- Make clear the role that we can play in the future.

3.32 The pledges and actions seek to:

- Improve our understanding and awareness of the issues faced by the VCSE sector in Leicester.
- Identify clearly the VCSE groups and organisations that we directly work with now and should do in future.
- Help us to better understand the role these groups and organisations play, and services they provide for Leicester.
- Broker better relationships between VCSE groups and businesses for mutual benefit.
- Reinforce and uphold the importance of civil society in Leicester.
- Champion the important role of the VCSE sector, both within and outside the council.
- Improve communication between the council and the VCSE sector.
- Gather and use data and information about the local, regional, and national VCSE sector.
- Provide more targeted support to smaller, fledgling, or newly established VCSE organisations.
- Provide tailored and needs based infrastructure support.
- Be more organised and coordinated across the council in engaging with the VCSE sector.
- Improve and promote volunteering in Leicester.

3.33 We're currently working to the timeline for finalising and launching the VCSE Engagement Strategy:

Stakeholder	Date	Purpose
Neighbourhoods and Culture Scrutiny Meeting	7 th September 2023	To provide an update on the research so far, an outline of the key priority themes/areas of interest, and to review, consider,

			and seek feedback on the current draft pledges.
CMB Presentation	Mid-Sept 23		To present final VCSE Engagement strategy to CMB, prior to the go-live date.
Discussion with VCSE Stakeholders	Mid-Sept 23		To share with VCSE stakeholders the proposed strategy in advance of the launch and allow them an opportunity to comment/input as required.
VCSE Engagement Strategy go-live	Oct-23		To make live the strategy in a 'soft' manner, through a news release and by making the pledges and actions publicly available via www.leicester.gov.uk . This could be followed by an in-person event for the VCSE Sector to hear about the strategy and delivery plan.

4. Background information and other papers:

4.1 A selection of some of the key documents that have been considered and informed the current thinking around the VCSE Engagement Strategy:

- Civil Society Futures - [Civil-Society-Futures_Civil-Society-in-England_small-1.pdf \(civilsocietyfutures.org\)](#)
- NCVO UK Civil Society Almanac - [UK Civil Society Almanac 2021 | Home | NCVO](#)
- NCVO The Road Ahead 2021 - [Introduction - The Road Ahead 2021 | NCVO publications | NCVO](#)
- Levelling Up – The Role of Charities & Volunteering - [UK Civil Society Almanac 2021 | Home | NCVO](#)
- Bristol VCSE Strategy - [Into a New Era 2019-29 by Voscur - Issuu](#)
- Croydon VCS Strategy - [Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2019-2023 \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)
- Tower Hamlets VCS Strategy - [PowerPoint Presentation \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](#)
- Kingston VCS Strategy - [vcss-strategy-2014 \(kva.org.uk\)](#)
- Locality Powerful Communities, Strong Economies - [REPORT \(locality.org.uk\)](#)

5. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Strategy structure and proposed text

6. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)? No

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Engagement Strategy Pledges and Actions

Pledges and actions

Following on from our groundwork to understand the needs of the sector and the council, these are the pledges and actions we have identified to help rebuild and refocus our relationship with the sector.

Our pledge: Organisations in our civil society

We will promote the notion of civil society and recognise its fundamental role in developing the best sense of self and community for all. In doing so we'll recognise the ecosystem of social and community activists, agencies, groups, and organisations that are independent of government (local or national) and look for ways to work more closely with the sector to benefit our communities.

We will:

- Develop a fuller picture of key groups and organisations in our local civil society and find ways of working in a more coordinated way with these organisations to address issues of mutual interest.
- Work with anchor groups and organisations in each of our wards to maximise local impact.
- Champion the concept of civil society, making it an important part of internal and external discussions and activities.

Our pledge: VCSE – insights, importance and impact

We will champion the sector inside and outside the council by promoting its activities, worth, and benefit. We will enable this by gathering more accurate, current, and reliable information from the sector, locally and nationally, and will make informed decisions based on the data and information collected. We will also share this data and information with VCSE organisations.

We will:

- Coordinate planning and working across the council's divisions and service areas in relation to local VCSE groups, organisations, projects, and services.
- Establish better lines of communication between all council staff working with groups and organisations in the sector so that information can be shared promptly and effectively with each other and, where relevant, with the sector and the city.
- Develop a process for officers working closely with VCSE organisations to link up regularly and work more closely with representatives from the local VCSE sector and other civil society actors on important matters, and when reviewing progress of this strategy on a quarterly basis.
- Improve our mutual understanding of assets held by us which are used by the sector, and those that could be used by the VCSE sector, to contribute towards common goals.
- Improve our mutual understanding of the contribution of the VCSE sector to the economy and annually share this information with the local sector and the city.
- Set up an outreach programme for elected members, to familiarise them with the diverse range of groups and organisations in the sector that are working with and/or situated in their wards.
- Work with partners, share and make use of different sources of information, data and intelligence about the local and national VCSE sector.
- Establish systems within the council that enable us to gather, analyse, and understand data more intelligently to direct our work with the VCSE sector for the good of the city.

Our Pledge: Funding and the VCSE

We will do everything possible to help the sector become more financially robust, paying particular attention to micro (less than £10K p.a.), small (less than £100k p.a.), and fledgling or newly established VCSE groups and organisations. As the council can no longer be the funder of first choice, we have to rethink the role we play in relation to the sector and enable it to be funded and supported in different ways.

We will:

- Make use of Crowdfund Leicester as an effective vehicle for financial support of local VCSE sector groups and organisations.
- Engage with and establish stronger relations/awareness of local, regional and national funders.
- Put together a toolkit to display all relevant funding opportunities in an accessible way for the local sector.
- Explore ways of making it easier for VCSE organisations to provide services on our behalf.
- Look at how VCSE partners, the council and other public organisations could pool funding, resources, and capacity to tackle issues.
- Encourage joint fundraising among local sector groups and organisations for activities and projects of common benefit.
- Take the lead as the local voice in lobbying national government for effective funding of the sector.

Our Pledge: Infrastructure support and the VCSE

Put in place a fair and transparent process of assessing VCSE support needs and matching them with appropriate sources of support and assistance, either from our own resources or through other providers.

We will:

- Identify and assess the needs of individual VCSE groups and organisations and meet these with tailored support. This will range from information and advice that is already freely available from local and national experts or peer sources to more direct grant-based or commissioned support.
- Identify and work with local, regional, and occasionally national providers who can meet specific infrastructure support needs of applicant groups and organisations from the local VCSE sector.
- Establish a VCSE peer review and support process.

Our Pledge: Volunteering

We will help develop, improve, and sustain efficient volunteering policies and processes within the sector. We will provide support where we can and share learning with groups and organisations to help recruit, manage and retain volunteers. This will create a connected volunteering ecosystem in Leicester and will encourage better volunteering opportunities to be developed.

We will:

- Lead by example in recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers.
- Work with VCSE groups and organisations, businesses, and other agencies in Leicester to create a twelve-month action plan to raise the profile of volunteering in the city.
- Use Assemble as an accessible digital platform to promote and update volunteering opportunities from local VCSE groups and organisations.
- Draw on local and national examples of good practice to enhance the quality of the volunteer experience and consider new models for volunteering, such as incentivisation of volunteers in appropriate settings.

- Find ways of sustaining and channelling community spirit shown by grassroots volunteering initiatives that came to the fore during lockdown (such as, mutual aid groups; food and medicine pick-up; keeping an eye on vulnerable neighbours).
- Encourage our council colleagues to volunteer with local groups, organisations, activities, and projects.

Our Pledge: Businesses and the VCSE

We will broker and facilitate relationships between the VCSE sector and businesses, employers and investors to maximise mutual benefits. This takes place at some level now, but we want to make it more regular, reliable and coordinated to be much more beneficial to all.

We will:

- Promote more realistic options for VCSE groups and organisations to develop commercially and sustainably (for example, to establish a 'trading arm' for goods and services).
- Look for opportunities for the local VCSE sector to work together with local businesses for mutually beneficial ends.
- Identify opportunities for the local VCSE sector within government initiatives that apply in Leicester, such as the Levelling Up agenda.

Conclusion

After engaging with the VCSE sector to shape this strategy, it's now clear what our priorities for the upcoming years need to be to build back our relationship.

The VCSE sector in Leicester is ever changing with newer, smaller groups and organisations forming on a weekly basis. We must be able to support these groups to become sustainable and thrive in our city. And although we can't commit to the level of funding as we have in previous years, it is clear we can support in other ways such as through our business connections, providing needs-based infrastructure support, upskilling VCSE groups where we can, volunteer promotion, and creating ways for organisations to collaborate.

This is a pivotal time for the sector, and we are committed to doing everything we can to refocus, reconnect and rebuild the best possible relationship with it.

Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy – Interim Summary Report

Date of Commission meeting: 7th Sept 2023

Lead Director: Mike Dalzell



Useful Information:

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Graham Callister, Head of Festivals, Events & Cultural Policy
- Author contact details graham.callister@leicester.gov.uk /
- Date of Exec meeting Draft Report went to CMB 05/07/2023

1. Summary

1.1. The purpose of the report is:

- To update Scrutiny Commission members on the Cultural and Creative Industries Interim Summary Report
- To seek comment from Scrutiny Commission members on the Interim Summary Report

1.2. Overview

Leicester City Council and its partners (De Montfort University, University of Leicester and Arts Council England) appointed consultants The Fifth Sector in November 2022 to help develop and shape a cultural and creative industries strategy for Leicester.

1.3. Work to date

The Fifth Sector undertook a series of place-based community workshops and research phases between December 2022 and March 2023, reporting regularly to a Project Steering Group.

The purpose of the strategy is to help the city raise its collective ambition, create a compelling vision for what it can become and guide priorities for the next five years, 2023-2027.

Summary information about the current state of Leicester's creative industries, the creative skills and education offer, and examples of Leicester's rich culture and heritage are referenced in the document.

An Interim Report was produced in April 2023, summarising research findings and outlining a vision, model and priorities for the strategy. This document summarises the interim report and seeks comment on the draft vision, the proposed strategic objectives, actions and measures of success.

It includes proposals for a new strategic and delivery partnership via a new Cultural Compact – Creative Leicester (working title).

An online survey inviting sector responses to the Summary Interim Report is currently live with a closing date of Sunday 10th Sept 2023.

The Interim Summary Report is attached for comment in Appendix 1.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Note the SWOT analysis and vision for the city's Cultural and Creative Industries.
- Note the 5 Strategic Themes identified and proposed Actions:
 - Strategic Theme 1 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Strategic Theme 2 – Audience Development
 - Strategic Theme 3 – Capital Investment and Public Spaces
 - Strategic Theme 4 – Creative Industries Development
 - Strategic Theme 5 – Creative Talent and Skills
- Note the proposal for a Cultural Compact, Creative Leicester (working title)

3. Supporting Information

N/A

4. Financial, legal and other implications

4.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The financial implications associated with the development of a Cultural Compact will need to be considered as options for this are explored.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

4.2 Legal implications

There are no apparent issues arising from the recommendations in this report from a legal perspective.

There may be issues that Legal can assist with around the anticipated partnerships with universities, cultural representative bodies and other third parties. The team will be able to provide agreements (even if informal) that may be useful in outlining the agreed input to collaborative ventures or supportive arrangements. This may be particularly important in terms of the potential creative/intellectual property rights that may be outcomes from these potential relationships.

The report does mention “an online survey” that asked for sector responses to the Summary Interim Report by 10/09/2023. If further advice is required on (i) whether this could be seen as a formal consultation and (ii) if so, the requirements for dealing

with responses in accordance with usual legal practices, please contact the Legal team for further information.

Emma Young
Qualified Lawyer
Legal Services

4.3. Climate Change implications

Overall, the draft proposals do not have significant climate emergency implications. However, Leicester's cultural and creative industries – along with all its economic sectors – nonetheless do contribute to the city's carbon emissions and will be impacted as the climate continues to change. It is therefore important that initiatives to promote climate action in the local economy as a whole support cultural and creative businesses to make changes. This includes making cultural sector buildings more energy efficient (hence reducing their running costs), looking at potential for renewable energy generation and low carbon heating and promoting sustainable travel by culture sector organisations and their audiences.

Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency). Ext. 37 2249

4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the public sector equality duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

Protected characteristics under the public sector equality duty are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The report provides an update on the Cultural and Creative Industries Interim summary report and seeks comments from Scrutiny Commission, on the work carried out to date by The Fifth Sector, appointed consultants, to help develop and shape a cultural and creative industries strategy for Leicester. As part of the ongoing work to develop the strategy we need to be clear about any equalities implications of the course of action proposed. We must consider the likely impact on those likely to be affected by the options and proposed actions (e.g. five strategic themes have been identified along with proposed actions including themes on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Audience Development), their protected characteristics, and (where negative impacts are anticipated) mitigating actions that can be taken to reduce or remove that negative impact.

It is recommended that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are carried out as appropriate across the five strategic themes to demonstrate that the consideration of equalities impacts have been taken into account and are an integral part of the process of implementing the report recommendations.

The EIA process can support the Council to predict possible issues and take appropriate action such as removing or mitigating any negative impacts, where possible, and maximising any potential for positive impact. The EIA is an iterative

process and should be revisited as part of the decision-making process.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175

4.5 Other Implications

(You will have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate any which apply?)

N/A

5. Background information and other papers:

6. Summary of appendices: Appendix 1 – Interim Summary Report

7. Is this a private report ? NO

(If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)

Leicester Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy

Interim Summary Report for consultation



Introduction

Leicester City Council and its partners (De Montfort University, University of Leicester and Arts Council England) appointed consultants The Fifth Sector in November 2022 to help develop and shape a cultural strategy for Leicester. The purpose of the strategy is to help the city raise its collective ambition, create a compelling vision for what it can become and guide priorities for the next five years, 2023-2027. The Fifth Sector is highly experienced in this field, having created cultural strategies and operating models for Liverpool, Derby, South Yorkshire, Wakefield, Somerset, Rushmoor and others.

The Brief

The brief required the consultants to:

- Carry out an initial audit and **convene key players** (cultural, community, education, health, higher education / further education, business/ commercial) to establish mutual interests and joint desired impacts of the strategy.
- Clearly **map and analyse existing sectors**, identifying areas of strength, weakness and opportunity including consideration of post pandemic sector reset.
- Undertake extensive **public, stakeholder and business consultation**.
- Review and comment on **existing local and national policies** that are relevant; and consider major routes of **funding** that may be available to support the strategy.
- Consider **best practice** from other cities that have effectively used similar strategies to deliver meaningful impact.
- Recommend interventions to **support specific sub sectors**, including dance, music, theatre, creative digital, design, museums, training and education.
- Propose **future priorities for investment and intervention**, particularly capital investment but also talent development and creative pathways, with consideration to the priorities of Arts Council England's *Let's Create* strategy, the diversity of the city's communities and the priorities of children and young people.
- Recommend a focus for a **future 'creative cluster' bid** for Leicester to drive creative industry growth.

- Draft a **Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy** for the city and present it to stakeholders to include clear objectives, priorities and measures that reflect the history, condition and distinct identity of the place.
- Explore the potential for development of a **Cultural Compact** as a model of governance to support the delivery of the strategy and draft terms of reference, membership, resourcing plan and action plan for next steps.

Work to Date

- The Fifth Sector undertook a series of place-based community workshops and research phases between December 2022 and March 2023, reporting regularly to a Project Steering Group.
- An Interim Report was produced in April 2023, summarising research findings and outlining a vision, model and priorities for the strategy.
- This document summarises the interim report and seeks comment on the draft vision, the proposed strategic objectives, actions and measures of success. It includes proposals for a new strategic and delivery partnership via a new Cultural Compact – *Creative Leicester* (working title).
- Summary information about the current state of Leicester’s creative industries, the creative skills and education offer, and examples of Leicester’s rich culture and heritage are included at the end of this document.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Design cluster of national significance. Emerging creative services sector.
- An arts and cultural offer across many artistic genres, much of it world class.
- A city commitment to community cohesion and celebrating diversity.
- Established arts organisations that have embedded work within community settings.
- Strong year-round offer of cultural events and festivals.
- Growth of investment from Arts Council England via new National Portfolio Organisations, including several new diverse-led organisations.
- Strong partnership between the Universities and the council, codified in a Civic University Agreement including commitments to culture.
- Strong and growing cluster of heritage assets, both paying and free.
- Significant capital investment already undertaken or planned that will improve the cultural offer and capacity for growth.
- Some excellent partnership working between specific organisations.

Opportunities

- Appetite and enthusiasm amongst partners to work together.
- Expanded and more diverse group of NPOs enjoying additional Arts Council resource.
- New Workspaces at Pilot House, at Space City and (potentially) around Midland Street in Cultural Quarter to support Creative Industries growth.
- Underused assets that could help fill capacity gaps.
- Responding to UK Government's new Creative Industries Sector Vision – including opportunities to bid for funds to support growth of a Creative Industries Cluster.
- Synergy with other place marketing strategies (such as for the Visitor Economy, Inward Investment and Attracting Students).
- A 'post-LLEP' landscape could prioritise creative sector business support.

Weaknesses



- Some communities are not well served or engaged by the existing offer.
- Workforces, leaders, governing bodies and audiences do not reflect the diverse makeup of the city.
- Patchy track record of collaboration across the arts and cultural sector for promotion, programming, and audience development.
- Gaps in the cultural estate such as rehearsal space.
- Difficulties in attracting and retaining key creative talent remains a barrier to growth.
- Lack of demand for some creative learning opportunities.
- Shortages in key creative production capacity including grow-on space for businesses and bespoke facilities (e.g. lab space, production studios).
- Creative sector structurally imbalanced and overdependent on freelance working - too few small businesses demonstrate appetite or strategy for growth.
- Lack of a city proposition for creative industries growth that can secure resource at scale.

Threats



- Economic downturn and cost of living reduces audiences and spend, makes cultural businesses (most in varying stages of recovery) reluctant to invest in talent and innovation.
- Staff shortages and increased operating costs (including energy) threatens sustainability of some venue-based cultural organisations.
- Lack of sector coordination reduces chance of securing new investment. Revenue pressures restricts city council's ability to support the sector.
- Lack of trust and engagement undermines ability to coordinate joint working. Commitment to diversity, inclusion and equality is not sustained and embedded in organisational plans and cultures.

Inspiration

Diversity and inclusivity are Leicester's superpowers. Throughout history it has been a city of opportunity and refuge for changing populations, offering a unique cultural richness, complexity, diversity and inclusion. The Cultural & Creative Industries Strategy will build a convergence of diversity and inclusivity – of people, production and partnerships. This will both boost creative producers to address global audiences and develop disruptive approaches to new work, learning and audience development that improves inclusion, engagement and career opportunities for those currently disadvantaged. A plurality of diversity in practice requires partnerships and work programmes which celebrate and insist on it. It will develop advocates and champions from diverse backgrounds. The partners will commission, co-design and produce new cultural content working with people rather than for them.

Vision

Leicester is recognised globally as a creative and inclusive city.

Leicester is an exemplar of diverse arts practice, working collaboratively to develop a cultural offer that inspires and delights. It engages local audiences that reflect the city and delivers global impacts across live and convergent media platforms.

Leicester's cluster of creative businesses includes vibrant sector networks for design, music, film and visual arts that reflect the benefits of cross sector knowledge sharing, talent development and collaborative research and development with our local universities and others.

Average wage levels are higher as new jobs in the knowledge economy keep more graduates in the city and attract others.

Leicester improves cultural assets to make them more sustainable and accessible for all. The city offers spaces in the public realm that enable culture to be highly visible and accessible. Quality creative workspaces and businesses attract and retain talent in a city renowned for creativity.

Leicester's universities, colleges, schools and creative businesses develop pathways into creative employment which are effective, innovative and accessible to all. They work in partnership to build a workforce which contains the convergent creative and technical skills for growth and is representative of the plurality of diversity which exists across the city.

Leicester's unique demographics

The 2021 Census identifies Leicester as one of a handful of 'majority minority' cities in the UK. Over the last decade, Leicester's diversity has grown stronger. Its population is now made up of:

- 43.4 per cent of people who identify as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh.
- 40.9 per cent of people from white backgrounds (including both British and European nationals).
- 7.8 per cent of people who identify as black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African.
- 3.8 per cent of people are mixed or of multiple ethnic groups.

The data alone does not fully account for the dynamism within and between the city's diverse communities, both established and new. The place of origin and mix of the city's communities is increasingly diverse and demographic change in Leicester influenced as much by educational and economic opportunity as by family ties.

Leicester's cultural offer already celebrates this diversity and projects it to national and international audiences; in 2023, the city saw five new diverse-led cultural organisations invited to form part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio, and an increase in annual investment in the city of £1.38 million (or 22%).

This success represents a step on the journey, not the end goal – there is much further to go before the makeup of Leicester's creative workforce and its cultural output are fully representative of the rich and complex diversity of the city's people and communities.

This strategy sets out a challenge to partners working across local and national government, in cultural agencies and educational institutions to support Leicester's diverse cultural and creative employers to increase and broaden their appeal to local and global audiences whilst improving inclusion, engagement and career opportunities for those currently disadvantaged.

Strategic Themes

Research and consultation undertaken to date has identified the following five key strategic themes:

- Strategic Theme 1 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Strategic Theme 2 – Audience Development
- Strategic Theme 3 – Capital Investment and Public Spaces
- Strategic Theme 4 – Creative Industries Development
- Strategic Theme 5 – Creative Talent and Skills

Strategic Theme 1 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Objective

Develop programming, investment and governance that reflects the diversity of Leicester, champions cohesion, responds to the needs of both new and established communities and is sensitive to cross-cutting complexity.

Actions

- (A) Establish a Cultural Compact – *Creative Leicester* (working title) – whose governance and membership arrangements embed diversity in Leicester's cultural leadership in principle and in practice.
- (B) Stakeholders create clear EDI plans for improving diversity and inclusion across their workforces, leadership and governance structures.
- (C) Develop an online presence for *Creative Leicester* via the Place Marketing team to improve visibility, showcase stories and increase engagement.
- (D) Review the framework of the Black Lives Matter 2021 Framework for Change to guide actions and measure progress.
- (E) Commit to engage both established and more recent communities in a shared forum.
- (F) Identify strategic funds to support development of creative education, careers advice and workforce.

Some relevant actions are also included in the workforce and audience development themes.

Measures of success

- (A) Creative Leicester board and governance established.
- (B) Membership and leadership of *Creative Leicester* reflects plurality of diversity of the city's people.
- (C) Audience data and feedback for cultural venues and events.

- (D) Numbers and proportions of workforces, performers and creative leaders with protected characteristics.
- (E) Cultural organisations and stakeholders have clear EDI strategies.
- (F) Sustain and add to the number of diverse-led organisations within ACE's National Portfolio and further increase the overall level of ACE investment (including NPO) by 2027.

Strategic Theme 2 - Audience Development

Objective

To deliver a cultural offer that inspires, delights and is more inclusive and accessible to all.

Actions

- (A) Audit existing audience profiles across city venues, events and festivals to identify gaps and create an over-arching Audience Development Plan for the city.
- (B) Develop inclusive events that animate the public realm and reflect the city's diverse communities.
- (C) Commission, co-design and produce new cultural and heritage initiatives through a lens of community agency and champion engagement with Global Majority communities.
- (D) Celebrate, co-ordinate and promote the ambition, quality, inclusivity and diversity of Leicester's cultural and creative offer.
- (E) Encourage cultural producers to be more inclusive (e.g., moving festivals beyond discrete events for discrete communities).
- (F) Develop collaborative work amongst cultural producers on programming, promotion and audiences.
- (G) Demonstrate the effectiveness of cultural and creative activity as a means to support people furthest from the labour market.
- (H) Develop a new City Festival format - *This Is Leicester* (working title) - promoting the work and quality of Leicester's cultural and creative sector / artists.
- (I) Update and re-issue the 'World Class' brochure.
- (J) Organise regular, high-profile conferences, seminars and other platforms that showcase the Leicester offer.

Measures of success

- (A) Number and proportion of residents engaging in cultural activity.
- (B) Number of people with protected characteristics engaging in cultural activity.
- (C) Audience feedback on accessibility and quality.

- (D) Extent of new programming that is co-curated with Global Majority creatives and communities.
- (E) Sustained increase in audience numbers.
- (F) SMART targets as set out in the Audience Development Plan.

Strategic Theme 3 - Capital Investment and Public Spaces

Much has been done in recent years to invest in physical spaces and places that support the city's cultural offer. Specialist events spaces such as Jubilee Square and Green Dragon Square have been supported by initiatives like the Phoenix 2020 extension and the creation of a unique network of heritage panels and street art. Some proposed actions are also captured in the Creative Industries theme.

Objective

Attract and deliver capital investment to enhance Leicester's cultural and creative industries offer and to support audience and workforce development.

Already in the pipeline

- £15m new visitor attraction at Jewry Wall to celebrate Roman history of the city - opens Summer 2024.
- £7m+ to create new climate emergency and art galleries and re-tell the social history of the city at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, delivered in phases 2024–26.
- £12.7m Leicester Cathedral Revealed scheme completes with the Cathedral open to the public at end 2023 followed by a new visitor learning centre in 2024.
- £13m creative workspace (60,000 sq ft) at Pilot House, King Street opens early 2025.
- 55,000 sq ft of new innovation and tech DOCK workspace at Space City in 2024.

Future priorities

- (A) Develop the *All In* initiative that champions improved access for all (including people with disabilities, neuro diverse conditions, dementia etc) creating a Leicester specific standard.
- (B) Improve specialist event site infrastructure including in city parks.
- (C) Establish if Curve could expand to be a Tier One venue (1,200+ seats).
- (D) Re-open Haymarket Theatre with programming that targets under-served communities.
- (E) Improve infrastructure where the current offer has gaps (dance rehearsal space, contemporary arts gallery etc).

- (F) Develop a plan for using new Digital Technology to enhance the programming offer in venues and the public realm.

Measures of success

- (A) Increase in total area of workspace occupied by creative businesses.
- (B) Increased occupancy of creative workspace.
- (C) Audience feedback on accessibility and quality.
- (D) Increase number of and attendance at events held on public open spaces.
- (E) Event infrastructure improvements at city parks and public spaces.
- (F) Improvement in talent attraction and perception of Leicester as a creative economy.

Strategic Theme 4 - Creative Industries Development

Objective

Deliver a step change to the scale, rate of growth and external perception of Leicester's creative industry economy.

Actions

- (A) Develop an overarching strategic plan for Leicester's design cluster.
- (B) Identify opportunities based on authentic strengths (such as in textiles) to create new Creative Cluster propositions and partnerships that can attract resource.
- (C) Build visibility and encourage growth of sector networks (design, film, music, visual arts, Createch etc) and collaboration between sectors and supply chains.
- (D) Work with the city's universities and colleges to make available facilities and develop R&D approaches to cross-sector production which help creative producers scale their practice to meet the demands of global commissioners and audiences.
- (E) Develop tailored business support and access to finance for creative businesses, particularly those with high growth potential, to boost creative employment and opportunity, building on the Create Growth programme.
- (F) Explore scope for new creative industry investment in the Midland St area adjacent to Phoenix in the Cultural Quarter.
- (G) Secure inward investment of creative businesses new to the city economy.
- (H) Pursue the development of a Clothworkers Entrepreneurial Centre (CECIL).

Measures of success

- (A) Increase number of creative businesses in Leicester employing 10+ people.
- (B) Increase in number and value of national and international commissions.
- (C) Increased business numbers and employment growth in creative sectors.
- (D) Attract new capital investment and businesses new to the city.
- (E) Improve talent attraction and perception of Leicester as a creative economy hub.

Strategic Theme 5 - Creative Talent and Skills

Objective

Leicester's learning institutions work together to develop pathways into creative employment which are effective, innovative and accessible to all.

Actions

- (A) HE and FE providers engage with employers to co-design and commission provision of convergent creative and tech skills education (both accredited and CPD) to address future skills needs of creative producers and commissioners.
- (B) Provide internships, placements, mentoring and work experience opportunities in Leicester's creative economy for students and graduates from diverse backgrounds.
- (C) Develop awareness, career routes, advice and work experience opportunities in Leicester's creative economy and technology sectors for secondary school students.
- (D) Create high quality working and learning environments that help deliver this strategy.
- (E) Promote and champion the significance of cultural and creative education in the school curriculum.

Measures of success

- (A) Increase in numbers and % of students studying creative subjects at GCSE and FE.
- (B) More graduates from diverse backgrounds retained two and five years after graduation.
- (C) Increase in supply and take up of accredited courses and professional training in digital creative skills.
- (D) Increase in number of internships in creative businesses from Leicester's universities.
- (E) Increase in take up of T-Levels and apprenticeships in creative subjects.
- (F) Increase in number of apprenticeships within creative employers.
- (G) Increase in number of creative employers hiring apprentices.

A Cultural Compact for Leicester – *Creative Leicester*

We also recommend that a new public-private partnership of arts and cultural sector alongside non-sector organisations – a **Cultural Compact** to be called **Creative Leicester** (working title) – is needed to deliver this strategy.

Compacts are cross-sector and independently led organisations which aim to increase the connectivity between the arts and cultural sector through strategic partnerships with others. Many exist across the country.

Their ambitions typically are to cohere cross-sector ambition for places and ensure that culture and creativity drives partnerships and regeneration, leverages additional funding and embeds culture and creativity within learning curriculums.

A Leicester Compact must inspire partnerships and new work that celebrates the individuality and uniqueness of Leicester's super-diversity. It must develop advocates and champions from diverse backgrounds to support the strategy, reach new audiences and effectively promote Leicester as a cultural and creative place.

We hope that a future Compact may in time develop wholly independent resources, however the funding environment now is particularly difficult, and sustainability is critical. Key partners including the city council, Arts Council England, De Montfort University and University of Leicester are committed to supporting a new Compact, but it is recognised this will primarily be via in-kind support and existing resource. Maximum opportunity will also be made of existing arrangements and partnerships to deliver strands of this strategy so as to minimise duplication and maximise accountability.

It is proposed that the new Compact would:

- Create a new partnership with a broad membership and an independent Chair.
- Have a remit to:
 - Review progress of the overall strategy.
 - Advocate and be ambassadors for the city.
 - Identify opportunities for new partnerships and resources.
 - Create and disseminate information about culture and creative activity.
 - Organise a high-profile annual event (at minimum) that brings together cultural and creative partners.

It is also proposed that the strategy needs two key Delivery Partnerships who would provide regular feedback to the Compact.

(1) A new Arts and Cultural Partnership

Drawing on but not restricted to the group of organisations supported as National Portfolio Organisations by Arts Council England, this group would lead much of the work around Audience Development and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. This partnership would also be independently chaired and supported by the city council's Head of Festivals, Events and Cultural Policy.

(2) Civic Partnership

Leicester benefits from an existing 'civic university agreement between De Montfort University, University of Leicester and Loughborough University and the city and counties of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The partnership is an existing compact which prioritises actions in arts, culture and heritage, economic development, education, environmental sustainability and health, wellbeing and sport.

It is proposed we use these arrangements as the basis to drive delivery of and accountability for the Creative Industries and the Creative Talent and Skills elements of the strategy, though it is recognised other partners will also need to be engaged with this work. Both city universities are heavily engaged with research and innovation work to foster creative industries economic growth and will be core to any future 'Creative Clusters' bid or similar for the city. Securing such resource is an explicit ambition for the strategy.

Now - Leicester's Cultural and Creative Industries

Leicester's creative industries comprise 1,440 companies and a workforce of 30,000 people, 15,600 of whom are based in the city and the remainder across the county. This indicates that potential for the creative economy as a driver for inclusive growth is far greater than suggested by national statistics (895 businesses and 4,395 employees).

Sector Strengths

Internationally renowned for its **fashion** manufacturing, Leicester boasts a nationally significant cluster of **design** businesses, working both across creative services of **advertising, marketing and graphic design** and in delivering innovation and added value across Leicester's manufacturing and services sectors.

The city is increasingly recognised as a hub for original **digital content**: immersive technology pioneers **Metro-Boulot-Dodo** have gained national and international recognition for their work and **National Space Centre** is developing applications of mixed reality in live performance and in large-scale specialist digital content.

De Montfort University and **University of Leicester** are working in partnership with the city's diverse creative producers to provide access to facilities and collaborative approaches to research & development to meet the challenges in creative technology. These will help producers scale up to exploit opportunities which the city's unique diversity lends them in addressing global marketplaces and platforms across all genres.

Creative Workforce

65% of the creative workforce in the LLEP area is full-time or part-time permanent employment, suggesting that creative industries employment – and therefore economic output – is roughly double that shown by BRES: 9,880 in Leicester and 18,665 in the LLEP area. There is, in addition, a large talent pool of freelance or self-employed creative workers: some 11,700 people, of whom half are based in the city and half in the rest of Leicestershire.

Benchmarking

Leicester demonstrates a similar size and composition of its creative and digital business base and workforce to nearby cities and city regions, including Derby (a similar sized business base but a workforce in the city and county about half the size of Leicester and Leicestershire) and South Yorkshire (where the sector consists of almost twice as many creative enterprises but draws from a similarly sized creative workforce across the South Yorkshire city region.)

Creative Skills and Education

Our research has shown that there are 427 courses in creative subjects in Leicester and Leicestershire.

This includes:

- 170 at FE level
- 180 HE level
- 7 T levels
- 16 Apprenticeships
- 52 CPD courses – professional training for new entrants and people already in the workforce.

Table 1 Supply of creative skills training across Leicester and Leicestershire

The five creative skills pathways are:

- **Pathway 1 - Creative Originals:** arts & crafts, fine art, apparel and fashion.
- **Pathway 2 - Creative Services:** marketing and advertising, photography, architecture & planning, graphic design, product design, design services.
- **Pathway 3 - Creative Experience:** music, performing arts, museums, and institutions, libraries.
- **Pathway 4 - Creative Content:** computer games, mobile games, publishing, motion pictures & film, broadcast media, animation.
- **Pathway 5 - Digital Technology:** computing and digital technology, digital skills, coding, software development.

Educational institutions across the city and country demonstrate complementary strengths in provision of creative skills:

- The three Universities in the sub-region all have excellent facilities including immersive labs and emerging technologies.
- The University of Leicester is a recognised centre of excellence in **museum studies**.
- De Montfort University is strong in **textiles and fashion design**.
- De Montfort University has a new £6.5m **Digital Tech Learning Hub** which includes a digital creative suite with motion tracking and image capture technologies.

- De Montfort University offers a range of postgraduate MA and PhD delivery with associated research projects and expertise in areas such as artificial intelligence, interaction design, usability and innovation and virtual, augmented, and mixed realities.
- At FE level, Gateway College and Loughborough College are two of only 15 colleges in the UK to deliver the highly respected, industry designed Next Gen Level 3 Extended Diploma course which includes animation, gaming and VFX.

An understanding of the role of creative technologies is being embedded into undergraduate modules. This addresses immediate skills gaps and shortages identified by employers, and provides a future supply of talent for local creative producers looking to exploit the growing global demand for non-traditional, multi-disciplinary work across a range of live and digital platforms.

However, our consultation with employers exposed some problems in the present talent pipeline:

- Employers think there are significant skills gaps and shortages in the workforce in most creative sectors.
- Employers feel there is little “good” support for development of skills.
- Few believed Leicester has sufficient people with a high level of skills or that there is a strong existing creative workforce.

The creative workforce is far from reflective of Leicester’s demographic. Local consultation reflected national findings that arts and creativity is not seen as a viable career choice for many, particularly those with protected characteristics and from more economically disadvantaged backgrounds. There is a challenge to local providers to address this - and make better connections with Leicester’s diverse communities.

Leicester's Cultural Offer

Leicester already offers a rich and vibrant cultural and creative scene which increasingly reflects and champions the city's diversity to local, national and international audiences. Cultural organisations include:

Curve Theatre, a state-of-the-art theatre hosting a wide range of productions, including musicals, plays, dance performances and community engagement; **Phoenix**, offering film screenings, art exhibitions, performances, workshops, and a digital media centre, promoting engagement with the arts and creative technology; and **Attenborough Arts Centre** at University of Leicester, a centre of excellence for disability arts creating and curating a range of inspiring artistic exhibitions, live performances, events and creative courses.

Serendipity Institute for Black Arts and Heritage centres perspectives from the African and African Caribbean Diaspora as part of cultural experiences for all. Arts Council England has added diverse-led organisations such as **Inspirate**, **Opal 22** and **Phizzical** to its National Portfolio which also includes theatre companies such as **Bamboozle**, South Asian dance company **Nupar Arts**, **Darbar** (a national centre of excellence for Indian classical music). **Aakash Odedra**, a dance company uses the voice of British-Asian experience to tell new stories about modern life.

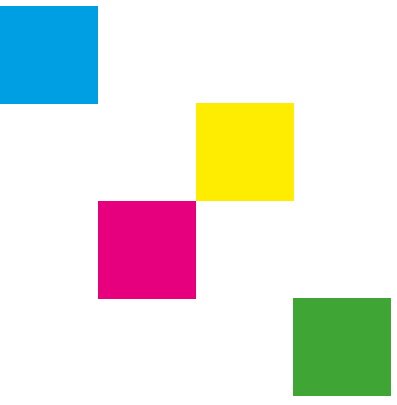
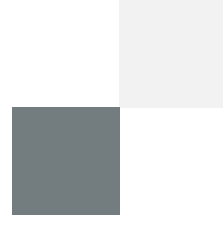
Leicester Museums and arts companies such as **Soft Touch**, **Spark** and **The Mighty Creatives** have many years of experience working with young people in disadvantaged communities. The **City Classroom** is an ambitious cultural education partnership committed to providing a rich cultural experience for children and young people.

The city boasts a vibrant music scene. **De Montfort Hall** is a historic concert venue that hosts classical music, popular concerts, and touring acts; **The Shed**, **The Soundhouse** and **2Funky Music Cafe** promote a range of upcoming artists and club nights covering a vast range of musical genres. **HQ Recording** is a regional hub for Urban, R&B and Hip-Hop artists.

Leicester festivals reflect the diverse cultural traditions, arts, and music of its residents. It hosts the largest **Diwali** celebration outside India, a longstanding **Caribbean Carnival** and the **Leicester Comedy Festival**, an annual event with national profile that showcases comedy acts from renowned comedians to emerging talents.

Recent years have seen a significant growth in the visual arts offer including **The Gallery** at De Montfort University, **Two Queens** in the Cultural Quarter, StudionAme, ambitious development plans at the **Leicester Museum and Art Gallery** and a world class street art offer courtesy of successive Bring the Paint festival events led by **Graffwerk** including the tallest artwork in Europe on Leicester's Blue Tower.

Leicester is well known for creating generations of world class **dancers** via **De Montfort University** and a healthy dance school infrastructure including **Addict Dance Academy, Studio 79** and the **Ann Oliver Stage School**.





Ward Engagement & Funding Report 2022 – 23

For consideration by: Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny
Commission

Date: 7th September 2023

Lead director: Sean Atterbury

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Shilen Pattni / Lee Warner
- Author contact details: 454 1832 / 454 3542

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of how Ward Funding was spent across the city between April 2022 and March 2023. This report seeks to provide an insight into the variety of projects and initiatives that took place in the wards, and some of those that were important to residents locally.

2. Summary

- 2.1 A yearly budget of £18,000 per ward is allocated which can be used to support projects that bring benefits to that ward. The total annual budget for ward funding is £378,000
- 2.2 In 2022/2023 a total of 616 applications for Ward Funding were received. Of these 67 were withdrawn, leaving 549 for consideration. A total of 486 applications were successful in receiving Ward Funding.
- 2.3 The total amount of ward funding approved for the financial year 2022 – 23 was £387,888. The total includes funding carried over from ward budgets from financial year 2021-22. There was no carry over of funding permitted for 2022 – 23 as carry over is not permitted during an election year.
- 2.4 The report provides further detail on the category and type of grant funded activities delivered, the overall number of volunteers engaged, and the amount of matched funding leveraged.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The members of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are recommended to note the report on ward engagement and community funding for the year 2022 – 23 and are invited comment on the contents of the report.

4. Report/Supporting information

The annual ward engagement and funding report is attached as appendix A.

Appendix A

Ward Engagement & Funding Report 2022 – 23

Date: 9 August 2023

Author: Shilen Pattni

Lead Director: Sean Atterbury



Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of how Ward Funding was spent across the city between April 2022 and March 2023. This report seeks to provide an insight into the variety of projects and initiatives that took place in the wards and provides case studies of some of those that were important to residents locally.

What is Ward Community Funding?

Each of Leicester’s 21 electoral wards hold community events where members of the public have the opportunity to meet Councillors and council partners to help shape the services provided in their community. Each ward is allocated a yearly budget of £18,000 which can be used to support projects that bring benefits to that ward.

In 2022/2023 a total of **616** applications for Ward Funding were received and of these **67** were withdrawn, leaving **549** for consideration. The table below provides an outline of the number of applications received and of those, the number withdrawn:

Constituency	Number of applications received	Number of applications withdrawn	Number of applications for consideration
East	226	25	201
South	223	26	197
West	167	16	151
Total	616	67	549

Case study 1

Ward: Fosse
Amount awarded: £2500.00
Project name: Electric blankets

Summary of activity/event:

Since opening in 2020, Woodgate Food Bank, now known as Mutual Aid Association and based at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre have supported over 320 low-income families with food and household items. Energy costs in the UK are currently at an all-time high, and the association did a comparison of how much it costs to keep heating on, in relation to how much an electric blanket costs to run.

Outcome:

The association applied for funding to purchase electric blankets to be distributed to low-income families who live in the Fosse ward, to support them to stay warm during the winter months, reducing the amount they paid towards energy costs that were already unaffordable for them. Residents using the food bank were so grateful for the project being run in the ward, and some are now volunteering to ensure the project is sustainable.

The application process

Councillors are supportive of projects that bring benefits to their ward and those that address local priorities. Councillors tend to want to support as wide a range of activities as possible and for this reason do not support many proposals which would take up a large proportion of their funds. To assist with this, Councillors have the flexibility to make local arrangements for their ward to set limits on how much funding can be allocated to each application.

Each application is thoroughly reviewed against key priorities defined locally by ward Councillors and against predefined criteria ensuring applications do not breach any of

the funding conditions as set out within the guidance for Ward Funding, as outlined below.

What cannot be funded?

Ward Community Funding **cannot** be used for the following:

- Staffing, except temporary staff or specialist staff brought in to do a specific and short-term piece of work (for up to a maximum of 12 months)
- Full costs of infrastructure, running costs or capital investment
- Recoverable VAT – Ward Funding cannot be awarded for monies that will be reclaimed back as recoverable VAT by the applicant / organisation
- Any liability arising out of illegality or negligence
- Any form of gambling (except small fundraising activities e.g., raffle, tombola)
- Exclusively religious activity
- Political activity
- Evaluations outstanding from previous funding
- An event or activity which has already taken place. Which is an application that is submitted after the activity, event, or project has taken place (Retrospective Application).

Following the review of each application, Councillors are presented with an assessment, summarising the key points of the application and any additional information received on request. It will include a recommendation to Support or Reject based on whether the application is in breach of the Ward Funding guidelines and also highlight the merits and/or limitations of the application. Ward Councillors are asked to consider these findings to determine whether to support applications for funding.

Case study

Ward: Eyres Monsell

Amount awarded: £500.00

Project name: Pork Pie Library - Jubilee Commemorative Plaque

Summary of activity/event:

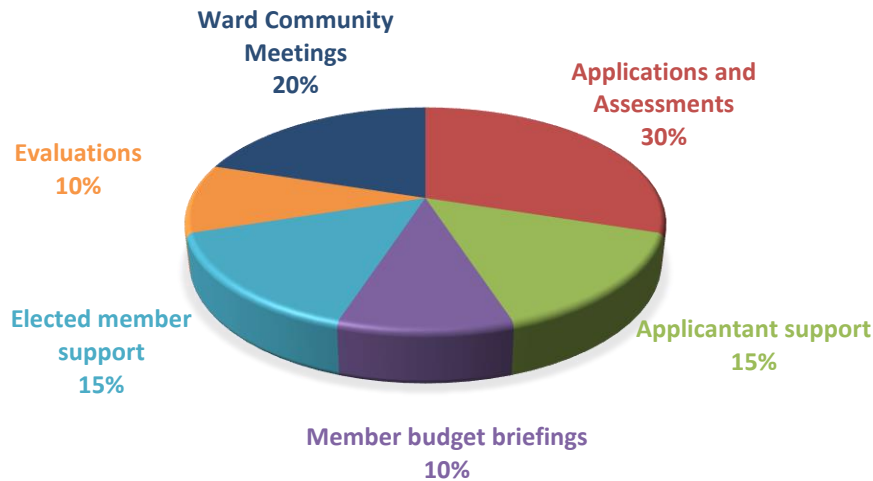
The Pork Pie Library, and community-based project 'Community Mind Matters', worked in conjunction with residents, and library users, to create a bespoke, commemorative plaque to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Residents worked together to create and design a plaque that reflected their views on what the Jubilee celebration meant to them, and how they wanted these to be reflected.

Outcome:

60 local residents, and library users took part in the project, whereby a design was created, and a plaque commissioned using ward funding. The feedback from the workshops stated that the project had provided a 'sense of togetherness' and a 'sense of community'. This was particularly important to the local people because they had previously felt that the two-year restrictions, had resulted in a sense of isolation.

Ward Engagement Duties

The ward engagement team manage all aspects of Ward Funding Applications, from submission by applicant right up until the evaluation has been received. Officers also play a significant part in the organisation and facilitation of Ward Community meetings across the city. Although every day can be different for each Ward Community Engagement Officer, below is an approximate breakdown of time spent on various duties, followed by a brief description.



Applicant support

Ward Community Engagement Officers provide one to one support to applicants wanting to apply for Ward Funding. Officers meet with applicants in person, at either Community Centres or Libraries, where they provide advice and support with submitting their application. Officers will discuss the process with applicants along with explaining the requirements needed to meet the criteria and guidelines, including the evaluation stage. Officers also provide support to applicants over the phone and via e-mail.

Assessments

Once an application has been submitted, it will be assigned to the relevant Officer who is responsible for the ward that has been applied to. Officers read through each application and contact the applicant to gather any additional information. Once all necessary information has been received, an assessment is then completed with an overview of the project, and a detailed check that the application meets Ward Funding Guidelines. Every assessment is moderated by another Ward Community Engagement Officer who is not connected with the application.

Budget meetings

There are three funding rounds per year (end of January, May and September) and after each funding round, Ward Community Engagement Officers arrange to meet with Ward Councillors to discuss all of the applications received, ensuring assessments and applications are supplied prior to the meeting. During the budget meeting, officers and Councillors discuss each application and assessment and confirm their decision.

Councillors may ask for additional information to support their decision which may require officers to make further contact with applicants before Councillors can make a final decision.

Applications under £500 do not need to be considered at a budget meeting. Instead, Officers will e-mail the application and assessment to Councillors. Officers will then monitor the outcome and responses. Once a decision is reached on an application, the Ward Funding database is updated accordingly. All supported applications are listed on a report generated ahead of Executive sign off. Once supported applications have been signed off by the appointed Executive Lead, Officers send confirmation e-mails to all applicants informing them of the outcome of their application.

Elected Member support

Ward Engagement officers provide support to Elected Members in relation to Ward Funding Applications and their Ward budget, Ward Community Meetings, community patch walks and general enquiries about work within their wards.

Evaluations

For every application that has been supported, an evaluation along with evidence of expenditure are required by a stated deadline. If these are not received by the given deadlines, Officers follow up with applicants. Applications are only closed once evaluations have been received and receipts and invoices checked to reconcile expenditure.

Ward Community Meetings

Ward Community Engagement Officers discuss venues, dates, and agendas at budget planning meetings with members. Officers will contact the Democratic Support Team to inform them of the preferred venue and dates. Once an agenda is confirmed, Officers will then contact those asked to attend and the confirmed agenda will also be sent to the Democratic Support Team who will publish online. Prior to the Ward Meeting officers will e-mail members all confirmed attendees and send the budget report which will be presented at the Ward Meeting.

Case study

Ward: Fosse and Abbey Wards

Amount awarded: £500.00

Project name: Soul to Sole

Summary of activity/event:

The Local priest at St Pauls in the Fosse area of the city, is also a Podiatrist. With the ward funding, church members opened up a warm hub two days a week at the church hall to enable mainly elderly people to not only keep warm and socialise, but also provide a podiatry service to them without having to travel to receive this.

Outcome:

Not only have local people been able to keep warm and fed without using their own energy, they can also access the podiatry service should they wish to, but the main value has been that more people are coming along, having initially been afraid to come out, due to the impact Covid has had on social isolation.

Successful applications

Between April 2022 and March 2023, out of 549, a total of **486** applications were successful in receiving Ward Funding. The following table provides details of the number of successful applications per constituency:

Constituency	Number of applications received for consideration	Number supported up to £500	Number supported over £500	Total Number of applications supported
East	201	91	78	169
South	197	96	78	174
West	151	98	45	143
Total	549	285	201	486

Types of ward funded activity

Ward Funding was provided for a number of local priorities and events determined by ward Councillors. As part of analysing the successful applications, each project or activity was identified under the most likely category relative to the purpose of funding.

The categories are identified as follows:

Category	Description
Community and Social Events	A way of promoting community cohesion, to integrate and network. Examples include family fun days, day trips and lunch clubs.
Arts /Cultural/Celebration Events	Events that are specified as key cultural aspects, can sometimes be inclusive around religion for example Holi Celebrations, Eid Celebrations, Christmas, and Halloween events that are open and welcome to all.
Developing and Supporting Communities	To meet the current needs of the community, making neighbourhoods stronger and empowering for sustainable development. For example, Coronavirus initiatives, mental health advice in school projects, community events and foodbanks.
Education and Improving Skills	Projects that support the community in gaining further skills, e.g. computer, numeracy, and literacy, back to work and self-confidence.
Environmental events/projects	Improving the environment throughout neighbourhoods and communities. Examples include City Warden clean ups, clearing fly tipping and litter picking campaigns, and work in Parks with volunteers.
Sports and Leisure	A way of improving health and well-being through sports and leisure. Examples include football teams, various sporting activities, indoor bowls, knitting clubs, art groups and exhibitions.
Traffic and Highways	Work/initiatives around highway improvements, speeding and raising awareness throughout the

	community, and traffic safety including installation of bollards.
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The table below provides an outline of the number of applications supported across the different types of activity.

Constituency	Type of activity							Total
	Arts & Culture	Developing & Supporting Communities /Volunteering	Education and Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Community / Social events	Sports/ Leisure	Other	
East	8	79	5	6	24	27	20	169
South	12	85	4	7	28	27	11	174
West	20	70	6	7	16	19	5	143
Total	40	234	15	20	68	73	36	486

The following table provides details of the amount of funding awarded in support of activities across the different categories. The total awarded was **£387,888**.

Constituency	Type of activity							Total
	Arts & Culture	Developing & Supporting Communities /Volunteering	Education and Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Community / Social events	Sports/ Leisure	Other	
East	£4,444	£58,567	£4,660	£6,460	£16,521	£26,625	£13,808	£131,085
South	£4,790	£67,325	£8,984	£7,049	£30,999	£19,759	£8,411	£147,317
West	£13,167	£58,369	£5,971	£4,723	£8,239	£14,707	£4,310	£109,486
Total	£22,401	£184,261	£19,615	£18,232	£55,759	£61,091	£26,529	£387,888

Case study

Ward: Aylestone

Amount awarded: £3351

Project name: Aylestone Rookeries Allotment and Gardening Society – Rookeries Community Allotment for Older People.

Summary of activity/event:

The Aylestone Rookeries Allotment and Gardening Society are a long-established allotment society that is based in the Aylestone ward. The society became aware that many of their older allotment members, who had become less able, were regrettably giving up their plots because they were unable to manage and maintain them. The allotment society wanted to assist by providing a specific area for older people to continue growing and enjoying the benefits associated with being members of the society.

Outcome:

Ward funding of £3351 was awarded towards the costs of supplying and building purpose built raised beds in a designated area of the site, that would allow easy access for older members. The purchase of user-friendly gardening equipment would also enable the older and new members of the society to continue to garden and produce their own food. One hundred members have benefitted from the raised beds, in the designated area that allows wheelchair users and those with walking aids access. The members produce has resulted in the development of a garden shop, in which local people can purchase fresh, home grown produce, at affordable prices. In addition, the older people who would have previously given up their plots, have stated that being able to continue to garden at the site, has meant that they have remained active, are not socially isolated, and are providing a benefit to other people in the community by producing fresh home-grown food.

Volunteer engagement

The table below provides information about the estimated number of volunteers engaged in organising, coordinating, and delivering ward funded activities.

Constituency	Type of activity							Total
	Arts & Culture	Developing & Supporting Communities/Volunteering	Education and Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Community / Social events	Sports/ Leisure	Other	
East	180	278	50	9	303	226	392	1438
South	37	593	14	11	290	85	164	1194
West	111	628	25	89	142	36	20	1051
Total	328	1499	89	109	735	347	576	3683

Council schemes

Through discussions with local residents and Council services, ward specific priorities or issues are often identified. A total of 37 applications for Council led projects/schemes were awarded Ward Funding to a total value of **£51,691** (14% of the total amount of funding awarded) to help address local issues/priorities that are not funded by core service budgets. The table below provides details of the service areas that received funding in 2022/23.

Service area	Number of schemes	Amount of funding
City Wardens	7	£12,469
Festivals/Events	1	£2,000
Highways/Transport	2	£2,030
Housing	2	£9,815
Libraries	20	£15,090
Parks	5	£10,287
Total	37	£51, 691

Declared 'Other Sources' of Funding

As part of the application process, applicants show how the projects/activities are supported through other sources of funding. In total £480,279.63 of matched funding

was leveraged through the Ward Funding scheme. The table below shows the matched funding by constituency area:

Constituency	Amount
East	£166,771
South	£158,839
West	£154,670
Total	£480,280

Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Work Programme 2023 – 2024

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
16 August 2023	Introduction presentation to Culture and Neighbourhoods services	Suggested topics for scrutiny to be added to the work programme.	
7 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Community sector engagement strategy report • Draft Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy report • 2 reports: a) Ward Funding Policy and b) Ward Funding Annual Report • Work Programme – draft work programme 		
24 October 2023	<p>Possible items tbc</p> <p>Active Leicester Strategy Action Plan</p> <p>Executive response back from previous review re: Encouraging women to participate in sports and physical activities.</p> <p>Tree Strategy review</p>		

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Appendix E

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
5 December 2023	Possible items tbc		
29 January 2024	Possible items tbc Council budget reports – general fund and capital		
25 March 2024	Possible items tbc		

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Active Leicester Strategy Action Plan		24 October
Executive response back from previous review re: Encouraging women to participate in sports and physical activities.		24 October
CCTV cameras		
Community Safety		

Fly-tipping strategy		
Library and Community needs assessment programme		
Growing spaces strategy		
Tree strategy review		Possibly October
Bereavement services		
Festivals and Events review		
Tourism Plan review		Possibly March 2024
Wider museum strategy		
Jewry Wall museum development, progress update		
Heritage panels, inviting members suggestions for new panels		
Sports strategy, action plan progress		
Enabling volunteers		
Crowdfund Leicester		

