

Leicester
City Council

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

DATE: TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 5:30 pm

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

Members of the Committee

Councillor 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/ Edmund Brown (Governance 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 24th October 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. ACTIVE LEICESTER STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Appendix B

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submits a report that introduces the emerging Active Leicester Strategy action plan, following the launch of the strategy in July 2023.

8. TREE STRATEGY

Appendix C

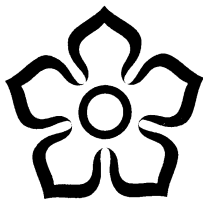
The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to update the commission on the review of Leicester's Tree Strategy for the period 2022/23.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix D

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

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Dawood - Chair

Councillor Agath
Councillor Chauhan
Councillor Singh Johal

Councillor Aldred
Councillor Halford

* * * * *

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Karavadra.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

In relation to minute 20 regarding 'Ward Funding Annual Report', it was agreed that the record be amended to reflect it was confirmed that the informal scrutiny work would be led by the Vice-Chair.

AGREED:

That subject to the above change, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

25. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

26. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

It was noted that none had been received.

27. PETITIONS

It was noted that none had been received.

28. SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT FINDINGS INTO 'ENCOURAGING WOMEN INTO SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES'

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submitted a report setting out a range of findings, following a period of community and industry consultation, also providing recommendations to support the industry to engage, and encourage more women to participate in sport and physical activity.

The Chair of the Task Group, Councillor Halford, made some initial comments. She thanked everyone involved and highlighted how the report showed how the Council could improve women's participation in sport and break down barriers. She stated that she was pleased that the findings from the work would help to inform the forthcoming Sports Strategy.

The Deputy City Mayor for Climate, Economy and Culture added that proper access to sport was important for women and girls and that a significant amount of work was ongoing.

The Head of Sports Services and the Sport & Active Recreation Development Manager introduced the report.

The report and the following points were noted:

- Both locally and nationally, women were less likely than men to participate in sport.
- Active Leicester had facilitated the responses to recommendations from internal and external Council departments with some contributions from external partners. Key points included:
 - Committing to using female role models in marketing techniques and moving towards behavioural change in marketing techniques.
 - The continuation of the recruitment academy which had been successful in reaching female workers. A stand-alone website was being developed for women to be profiled more relevantly and would have a section dedicated to physical activity.
 - The strategy would continue to be monitored. This was a priority area and key for development.
 - A Health and Wellbeing hub was committed to being piloted at a Council leisure centre, looking at new ways of working to reach out to the local community, especially to women and girls who may not otherwise come to a leisure centre.
 - Relationships were continuing to be forged with internal and external partners to encourage women and girls to participate more.
- Different Council departments and key stakeholders were involved to promote opportunities for women and girls.

- There was still a deficit in women's engagement in sports and this needed to be worked on.
- The reference to posters showing ladies swimming in burkas would be clarified.
- Attention was drawn to the 'This Girl Can' Campaign and its success. Additionally, attention was drawn to the 50% gender split in staffing.
- It was suggested that good practice in other Local Authorities could be taken into account.
- A breakdown of the data into both ethnicity and age groups was suggested to allow these factors to be considered in the Strategy.
- There was a need to encourage girls in sport through education.
- In terms of monitoring participation of women and girls in sport, Sport England conducted the Active Lives survey, using a small sample of 200-500 people twice per year. Whilst this sample was not specifically female, conclusions could be drawn for women and girls based on this. In addition to this, a public Health and Wellbeing survey was being conducted using a sample of 2000 people in the city. This allowed for greater detail than the Sport England survey.
- The issue would come back to Scrutiny in terms of the process of delivering and implementing the Active Leicester Strategy Action Plan
- In terms of budget, there was no dedicated money attached to the Strategy. The strategy would be a guidance document for stakeholders on the way of working aimed at getting the inactive population more active by using resources more efficiently. Strategy and recommendations would be determined looking at how to work together in terms of improved representation and better marketing, support and leadership, rather than about a budget.
- Leisure Centres did have a budget and as such there would be an impact if there was a reduction in the services of leisure centres. There would be ongoing challenges, but more could be achieved without necessarily having more resource.

The Chair thanked those involved.

AGREED:

1. That the Executive response report be noted.
2. That a report on various bodies that could promote women's engagement in Sport (i.e. the NHS or Universities) be produced, possibly with a Board to look into this.
3. That good practice in other authorities be considered in the Strategy.
4. That other groups with protected characteristics be considered such as those that participate in disability sport.
5. That indicators for success be established.

29. MUSEUM SERVICE UPDATE

The Director Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment submitted a report providing an overview of the museum service's National Portfolio Organisation programme which is funded by Arts Council England.

Councillor Clarke, Deputy City Mayor for Climate, the Head of Arts and Museums, the Audience Development & Engagement Manager and the Finance & Project Manager introduced the report.

The Deputy City Mayor for Climate, Economy and Culture noted that the Museum Service was a service that could be looked on with pride, especially in the way it reflected the city.

A presentation was given outlining the use of National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England, plans for new galleries, exhibitions and schemes, including the Climate Change Gallery at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG), the 'Healthier Happier City' initiative and a programme of free activities aimed at helping with the cost of living. The presentation also looked at engagement with volunteers and volunteer development.

The Chair thanked the officers for their work, particularly how museums and culture could be used in different ways and noted that the service could be proud of the work they do, especially given that other Councils were cutting such services.

In response to questions, the Commission was informed that:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) capital funding was being applied for, the criteria of which involved environmental issues and involving communities on co-production work. This was part of a broader capital programme which included the Climate Change Gallery at LMAG. This was an important subject both for the Council and for the city. It was added that the exhibition should have a unique Leicester connection rather than being about climate change in general. It was acknowledged that the city had heritage in terms of attitude and commitment to the environment including healthy spaces, clean air and the way the city was designed which could be put forward within the gallery. The co-production element should allow for anybody who wanted to be a part of it having an opportunity to contribute.
- In terms of partners to work with, subject to NLHF funding being approved the project would then require further work in this area. The co-production approach sought the views of the community. If an expression of interest for the lottery funding went forward, a development stage application would be submitted for a development grant so that more work could be done on the project, including forming partnerships. A number of partners in the city and regionally were being considered.
- With regard to reaching communities for volunteers and training volunteers, the work was ongoing. There was a three-year funding

programme, the plans for the first year had been laid out, but it was planned to develop in the following two years. It was aimed to recruit up to 350 volunteers. However, this would need to be the cap due to the turnover of volunteers. The training programme involved a range of aspects of museums work, for example at events or in conservation.

- The largest community event had been the Riverside Festival and the Museum Service had a presence there with a stall of volunteers showcasing a photographic archive collection. This had reached lots of participants. Other events included events at the universities focussed on students, and three library-based events (the BRITE Centre, Fosse Library and Evington Library).
- Regarding off-site activities for older people, a conversation was underway with the Carers Centre working towards a creative project on what could be done to raise awareness of heritage issues for people with dementia and activities for people with dementia. This was expected to be launched by April 2024. Over the three-year run of funding it was hoped to work with people of all statuses and backgrounds to be inspired by cultural activity.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Museums Strategy be reported to the Commission once available.
3. That progress on the National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme be monitored on a 12-monthly basis with an item coming to the Commission.

30. BURIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood & Environmental Services summarised the Burial Strategy Update slide presentation appended to the agenda. This included the action taken to mitigate the pressure on burial space following increased demand from the coronavirus pandemic and the reducing availability of burial space in the council's cemeteries.

Councillor Cutkelvin, Deputy City Mayor for Housing and Neighbourhoods introduced the report.

The Director of Neighbourhood & Environmental Services gave a summary of the report. He added that whilst there was no immediate solution to pressures on burial space, a solution needed to be sought by 2026, given that burial space was forecast to reach capacity for 2030-31 for all communities. He further added that Leicester was not alone in that there were other cities in a similar situation. However, the issues were more apparent in Leicester due to the size of the city and its tight boundaries where other cities had more green space.

He clarified that there was no legislation for the reuse of burial space at this time.

He concluded that there had been good engagement from faith groups and there was a policy across all spaces to maintain provision. Work across the groups was continuing in order to look at provision beyond 2030.

The Chair thanked the officers involved for their report.

In response to questions, the Commission were informed that:

- There were currently over 120,000 graves in cemeteries, of these, only 4,000 were new. In terms of pre-sales, 700 were sold for future use in the five years before the policy was ended due to short-term need.
- By 2026 work would need to have started on identifying sites, surveying them, putting out a tender and undertaking procurement as there was a three-to-four year build process. The Capital Projects Team were looking into this. Soil conditions were also important as an environmental permit would be needed. This would require 12 months of groundwater monitoring to take place alongside the other preparations.
- There was initially 20 acres available, but there was an intention to deliver for a minimum of 50 years.
- Whilst more people were opting for cremation due to the cost-of-living crisis, faith had a big influence on whether people were buried or cremated. In general, more people were choosing cremation, over 80% nationally, however it was different in Leicester due to the city's demographics.
- Concern was raised over lobbying to bring the rest of the country into line with London in terms of legislation to allow, in certain circumstances (i.e. after a certain length of time and where there are no objections), the exhumation of graves, which were then dug deeper, to allow other people to be buried as well as the original occupant (who would be buried deeper). It was suggested that this did not align with traditional Catholic beliefs and as such the Catholic faith needed to be considered and taken into account.
- It was not thought that there would be an increase in burial costs due to supply and demand. The costs were benchmarked against other Local Authorities and Leicester was at the lower end of the price range when compared against comparable authorities.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Commission be kept informed of the national consultation and any legislative changes.

3. That all faiths be involved with local consultation regarding any changes in legislation on the re-use of graves arising from the national Law Commission review of burial legislation.
4. That a 12-monthly update be brought to the Commission.

31. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

The Chair noted that the meeting scheduled for 25 March 2024 may need to be changed. The Commission would be kept informed.

It was suggested that the Library and Community needs assessment programme could come to the Commission on 29 January.

Leicester had been identified for a pilot programme by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to bring additional resource to the city. Work had begun on what this might look like in terms of heritage priorities for Leicester. It was suggested that this be brought to the Commission for comment.

Allocations for the and the Culture and Creative Industry Strategy and the Festivals and Events review were discussed. The arrangements for these items would be confirmed outside the meeting.

AGREED:

That the work programme be revised to incorporate the items suggested above.

32. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no items of other urgent business, the meeting ended at 19:03.

Appendix B

Culture, and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny
Committee

Active Leicester Strategy – emerging action plan

Date of meeting: 5th December 2023

Lead director: Miranda Cannon

Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: All

■ Report author: Andrew Beddow / Vicky Ball

■ Author contact details: Andrew.beddow@leicester.gov.uk / Victoria.ball@leicester.gov.uk

■ Report version number: v1

1	Summary
1.1	This report introduces the emerging Active Leicester Strategy action plan, following the launch of the strategy in July 2023.
1.2	The Active strategy strives to support individuals, communities, partners, and businesses to experience increased opportunities to be physically active.
1.3	The city has 34% of its population who are inactive / sedentary. Long term inactivity can be linked to numerous health conditions. This places an additional strain on healthcare resources. Therefore, by targeting this population, supporting them to move more will provide a healthier, happier and more prosperous population.
1.4	This strategy has been developed in partnership with public health, and a wide range of stakeholders, partners, professionals, community groups and forums. This has ensured that the priorities of the strategy reflect and respond to the priorities and needs of the population and addresses the barriers that many residents' faces in relation to becoming more physically active.
1.5	Active Leicester – Turning the Tide on Inactivity , is a five-year strategy for stakeholders and organisations working in the field. It focuses on the city's most inactive population through an approach called proportionate universalism. This approach recognises that the city has a strong universal offer for physical activity and sport. There is a wealth of opportunity in the city from public spaces to leisure centres, to the club infrastructure to the commercial operators. However, access to these services / assets is not always equal. Therefore, through this strategy Active Leicester's ambition is to shine a light on these inequalities and target resource to where it is most needed.
1.7	The strategy is a guidance document. It is designed as blueprint for organisations to target resources to where there is most need in the city. There is no budget allocated to this strategy. Therefore, the aim is for organisations to adapt existing resources or to use the strategy to draw down investment.
1.8	This report follows a report taken to the Heritage, Culture and Tourism scrutiny commission in February 2023, where the draft strategy was shared. This report provides an update on the action plan to date.
1.9	In response to the strategy action plan, the report will also shine a light on Active Leicester's response to the strategy, with a pilot approach that is being adopted at Aylestone Leisure centre.
1.10	The report will also share the approach being taken to further develop the action plan and galvanise collaborative working through an internal seminar that is being planned in the New Year.
2.	Recommended actions/decision
2.1	The commission are asked to note the contents of the action plan and provide comment to help shape its development.
2.2	The commission are asked to comment and feedback on Active Leicester's approach to piloting a health and wellbeing hub at Aylestone Leisure centre.
2.3	The commission are asked to comment and feedback on the internal seminar planned for the New Year.

3.	Stakeholder engagement
3.1	None at this stage.

4.	Main Report
4.1	Despite the highly publicised benefits of physical activity, most adults in the UK do not meet the minimum recommendations of doing 150 minutes (2 1/2 hours) of moderate intensity activity (such as brisk walking or cycling) or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity each week. Nationally, nearly 3 in 10 adults do not meet this guideline. The story is no different in Leicester, with approx. 34% of the child and adult population being physical inactive, which is doing less than 30 minutes moderate exercise a week.

4.2	<p>Figure 2. Inactivity (<30 minutes per day) by ward in Leicester, 2018</p> <p>Leicester Health and Wellbeing Survey 2018 with ward names</p> <p>% Physically inactive Less than 30 minutes physical activity</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>16 to 21</td><td>(5)</td></tr> <tr><td>12 to 16</td><td>(6)</td></tr> <tr><td>8 to 12</td><td>(5)</td></tr> <tr><td>4 to 8</td><td>(3)</td></tr> <tr><td>0 to 4</td><td>(2)</td></tr> </table> <p> Significantly lower than Leicester Minor road B road A road Motorway </p> <p>Leicester - 11%</p> <p>Public Health Division Leicester City Council Created: May 2019 Source: Leicester Health and Wellbeing Survey 2018 <small>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved Leicester City Council 100019264 2019</small></p>	16 to 21	(5)	12 to 16	(6)	8 to 12	(5)	4 to 8	(3)	0 to 4	(2)
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4.3	<p><u>Active Leicester Strategy – key principles</u></p> <p>This strategy is for stakeholder’s and organisations working within the sport / physical activity sector in the city. It is proposed to provide a framework and guidance document to support them to deliver where Active Leicester feels it is most needed.</p> <p>Small changes to the ways organisations work can go a long way to tackling inactivity when combined with similar, likeminded organisations. Therefore, Active Leicester would ask organisations to critically evaluate their practices and see what small changes can be made.</p> <p>The key principles that we ask organisations to adopt, as a way of working towards the strategy include:</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To focus resource (full or part) on the city’s inactive population, with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in bad health (including mental health) or living with a disability or limiting health condition • Women and Girls • Residents with no formal qualifications and tend not to be working. • Residents who reside in the East of the City and associate with being Black/Black British or Asian/Asian British. • Older adults, aged 65+ 2. To focus resource for generational change, for the cities under-five and school age population. 3. To focus on activity that is informal, local to where people live, which recreational in nature, and an activity type that promotes participation with family and friends. 4. Engage, listen, support, and empower the local community. Utilising the role of community-based leaders and partners, whom have an in-depth knowledge of the community, and can support with the creation of sustainable activity models. 5. Create and engender collaborative working, by partners, to deliver appropriate and tailored communications which facilitate long-term behaviour change, along with the sharing of resources, to where it is most needed, where inactivity exists.
<p>4.4</p>	<p><u>Action Plan</u></p> <p>Since the launch of the strategy in July 2023, Active Leicester have been facilitating an action plan. As previously mentioned, there is no funding or budget allocated to this strategy, therefore, partner (internal or external) engagement must take a different approach. There is a level of galvanising, collaborative and creative thinking that is required. There is also an additional level of resource required from Active Leicester to facilitate and keep warm these discussions and actions.</p> <p>A key message from the consultation conducted as part of the strategy development, back in 2021, was the amount of good work that is being undertaken by internal council departments. However, departments don’t often communicate their work. Opportunities for improved messaging or collaboration are missed.</p> <p>Therefore, given this feedback and the level of resource required to create an action plan, officers felt the action plan should be split into two phases. The first phase is with internal council departments, moving out to external partners in phase 2.</p> <p>During the development of phase 1, officers in Active Leicester took the strategy on a road show with around ten different council departments. They have raised awareness of the strategy, discussed opportunities for collaborative working and attempted to tease out tangible actions for the strategy.</p> <p>Following this first phase of discussions, an action plan is emerging for the commission members to comment on and provide feedback. The actions are provided as an addendum to this report.</p>

4.5**Active Leicester Response - Health and Wellbeing Hub Pilot**

Active Leicester operates 7 leisure centres, a golf course, athletics track and range of outdoor sports provision. In response to the new Active Leicester Strategy, we are developing an approach at one of our centres to become a health and wellbeing hub.

It will attempt to balance the need to provide an excellent leisure experience, alongside a shift towards creating community wellbeing hubs, that will enable people to become active, by working in a more holistic behaviour change way.

Active Leicester is looking to break the mould of a traditional leisure operation, which can be seen to market to the products to the motivated community, where the customer service is transactional and where there is limited partnership working to reach out to the sections of the community that really need the benefit of being active. We also, want the leisure centre to be the go-to place for social prescribing.

The pilot centre is Aylestone Leisure Centre. This site was chosen for its facility mix, being a large leisure centre with a good mix of activities (swimming pool, sports hall and health and fitness suites). The centre also resides close to one of the most deprived and inactive wards in the city, Saffron.

Over the last 6 months officers have been developing the concept of a health and wellbeing hub. They have considered what could be provided with little or no resource. As a result, the following is being tested:

1. In partnership with the housing team, Active Leicester will provide free access for a small cohort of adults 16+ to the leisure centre services, for a 6-month period. This will include:
 - Free gym, swimming, sports hall, exercise classes.
 - Free family swimming.
 - Bring a buddy to exercise for free (gym, swim, classes, sports hall).
 - Additional support provided through enhanced touch points with the client.
2. Enhanced training for staff to ensure an empathetic, warm, and supportive environment is created for new people starting their exercise journey.
3. Improved marketing and communication to the people in Saffron, adopting a behaviour change approach. Also, utilising the communication networks within housing, education, and neighbourhoods.

In the later phases, once the service has been able to test and learn the above approach then Active Leicester will expand the scheme, reaching out to local partners and clinicians to refer people into the centre.

4.6**Active Leicester Seminar**

In the New Year Active Leicester will be hosting a seminar to bring together the senior and middle managers, from departments across the local authority to start and develop the conversation around doing more with less, in direct response to the strategy, and building on the emerging action plan.

With the support of a keynote speaker, Active Leicester, are looking for departments to think and act differently, about the systems, resources, and policies that they oversee, to see how they can better influence and support localities and communities to become active.

This seminar, we hope will be the start of an annual or twice-yearly event that will broaden to external partners but for now, the focus is internally, with council officers.

APPENDIX – DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Turning the tide on inactivity - ACTION Plan for Internal Partners	
Ref	Actions
Housing	Utilising the housing teams Bulk SMS / email service
	Mail shot to the 1,400 housing employees - target campaigns and localised promotional activities using this network.
	Utilise the housing register for raising awareness and promotion.
	Improved services to people living in sheltered accommodation or we could utilise the network to raise awareness and messaging. Pilot as part of Active Leicester H&Wbeing hub
	Connection with residents' associations. Proactive groups include St Matthews, Highfields, and Braunstone Frith. This could include outreach activities, joining partners with groups or utilising the groups for messaging. Pilot as part of Active Leicester H&Wbeing hub
Enablement	
	Build on experiences in collaboration with the libraries connected project to additionally consider how we can provide a similar offer at Leisure Centres. Active Leicester to explore.
	Improve uptake of social care providers signing up to the Health Charter. Health Charter to be reviewed by AL and PH, with advice provided on Physical Activity.
	Trial and implement where effective enablement friendly sessions within our leisure centres across all our services, starting with gyms. Potential to explore as part of H&WB hub pilot.
	Healthy chats training - is being delivered by Durham University and funded for three years by Durham. HCS training should be supported through LLR? (IE discussion).
Parks	Walk, jog, run, maps improved promotion and website location. - local green spaces added to this mapping exercise.
	Engage in conversations with community wellbeing champions to take a targeted approach at utilising our Park infrastructure to the most inactive groups or communities.

	Consider means to take a behaviour change approach in our communications and signposting across our parks, especially for active events such as 'Beat the Street'
	Park Services will commit to enhancing the profile of its green and open spaces by working in partnership with broader internal and external teams on raising the awareness and promotion of these important city assets
	To continue to raise awareness of the popular Environmental Volunteer scheme, which provides an alternative way to encourage and engage people to get out, get active, increase their social interaction, keep fit and improve their mental health through the parks outdoor environment.
	Park Service are also involved in a national Police led scheme to promote safer access and usage of parks by women and girls. Local authorities nationally are reviewing and amending grounds maintenance programs to improve sight lines, reducing the build-up of shrubbery and improve natural lighting. Several parks have already seen a benefit, and this work will be ongoing and expanded, as funding allows.
Active Travel	Utilise the ambitions and guiding principles of the Active Leicester strategy to influence infrastructure and investment programmes for Active Travel in the city.
	Utilise the ambitions and guiding principles of the Active Leicester strategy to influence the delivery of behaviour change programmes in the city. Also linking into the health and wellbeing hub pilot to trial some beginners cycling lessons.
	Sport Services to scope the feasibility of the implementation of cycle parks at all leisure centres, piloting an approach at Aylestone Leisure Centre, as part of the Health and Wellbeing hub approach.
	Explore the concept of Social Prescribing to active travel activities - Livewell - walking maps?
	Promotion of the journey planner travel tool / Broader remit to roadshows / better points reward app. Linking into the broader promotional marketing within other department i.e. housing team.
Public Health	Legacy phase of BTS. Utilise the action plan delivered by Laura to continue on the legacy programme, and where possible align work to the needs of the stage. Separate action plan to be established.
	Develop and facilitate an Active Leicester Grants programme that will support the principles and objectives set out in the strategy.
	Utilising the role of social prescribing into community activity
	Review the promotion of outdoor gyms to increase the usage. Target the promotion.
	Explore the concept and role of the community connectors project to support levels of Physical activity in a location by connecting the community to services. Link to H&WB hub, as Saffron is a target area for this project.

Active Leicester	Develop and facilitate a pilot for one leisure centre to adopt the principles of being a health and wellbeing hub pilot. The purpose to reach out to the locality's inactive community, to encourage sustained usage of the leisure facility.
	Active Leicester notes this recommendation and will commit to maximising the use of social media to showcase women from different backgrounds, exercising in various types of clothing.
	Active Leicester will create an annual city-wide marketing / awareness campaign that focuses on positive behaviour change towards starting and staying active.
	Active Leicester will develop a new standalone website that will promote the wide range of services that Active Leicester has to offer. It will also provide an opportunity to provide spaces for the broader promotion of physical activity initiatives.
	Active Leicester will actively utilise the wider communication channels within the council to reach a wider audience with its messages namely: Members bulletins, ward community meetings, face newsletter, health clinics etc.
	The Active Leicester team will look at implementing a plan for open days to be held at each leisure centre. By hosting open days in partnership with Public Health, leisure centres will have the opportunity to raise awareness about the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle, showcase their facilities and programmes, and foster a sense of community engagement. This collaborative approach can help attract new members, encourage participation, and promote the overall health and wellbeing of the local community. Each Active Leicester facility will aim to provide one open day per annum.
	Active Leicester internal Seminar in Jan/Feb 2024 - to galvanise internal departments for working differently.
Education	Utilising the communication network to schools, through the Weekly Bulletins and Keeping in Touch Mtgs.
	Exploring how the physical activity sector can support SEND schools.
	Explore the Closing the Gap programme, with the School Improvement partnership. A fund is available. A case could be made for better quality PE. This could be promoted to third sector (Inspire Together).
	Creating connections with Children centres and Family Hubs, where activity specialists can enhance the offer provided by centres.
Neighbourhoods	Link to health and Wellbeing service provided by neighbourhoods to cross pollinate messaging and communication on physical activity.
	Broadly promote the third sector services related to physical activity - particularly where there is capacity and in areas aligned to strategy priorities.
	Engagement with third sector delivery partners on Ball Courts attached to community centres. Also, deliver the Play zone project at Eyres Monsell.

	Utilise Neighbourhoods communication patterns to promote physical activity and behaviour change.
	Broader cross promotion of health and wellbeing related activities - through libraries, eBooks, Newsletters, including Sports newsletters on neighbourhood related items.
	Pilot a communication approach at ALC library as part of Health and Wellbeing hub approach to reach a new audience and target activities.
Misc.	Explore and review the new 'Place Based Extension Working' funding bid, with Sport England. Potential of £2m investment over five years.
Corporate Comms	Explore the role of corporate marketing for a joined approach to physical activity / behaviour change marketing with and through council resources.
VCSE	Explore the role of the VCSE to support the strategy - with messaging and or delivery.

Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny



Date: 9th November 2023

Cc: Sean Atterbury, Stewart Doughty/Michael Walker

From: Dave Jones, Trees and Woodlands Manager

Tel/Ext: 0116 454 4939

RE: Tree Strategy Review 2022/23

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide the mayor with a review of Leicester's Tree Strategy for the period 2022/23.
- 1.2 The attached gives the year four review.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The first Leicester Tree Strategy was formally adopted in November 2018 during National Tree Week.
- 2.2 It is a five-year strategy which aims to sustain and increase the tree stock in council's ownership and to improve the quality of the city's trees. It also promotes the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment, reducing pollution, and contributing to flood risk management.

3.0 The Approach Taken in the Strategy Review

- 3.1 The Strategy outlines how we manage the city's trees to ensure that we sustain and enhance Leicester's urban forest for future generations.
- 3.2 The annual review monitors the delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy via the five key strategic objectives:
 - Promoting amenity
 - Promoting habitat and wildlife
 - Responding to global obligations
 - Managing the pressure on trees in others ownership
 - Delivering the strategy

A series of 22 actions as specified in the Tree Strategy are reported on in the review document.

- 3.3 The review document gives the current position statement and identifies what has been achieved over the 12-month period, with a series of measures.
- 3.4 Each section is colour coded for ease of reference.
- 3.5 There are a series of headline key facts included at the start of the document which give an overview.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the commission acknowledge the content of the report and strategy

Leicester Tree Strategy Review 2022/23

21



Leicester Tree Strategy Review 2022/23




Trees bring enormous environmental and ecological benefits to our city.

They enhance our streets and grace our parks, making a huge contribution to our health and wellbeing.

This five-year strategy will guide us in sustaining and increasing our tree stock and help us improve the quality of the city's trees.

It will also help promote the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment, reducing air pollution and contributing to flood risk management.


Sir Peter Soulsby
CITY MAYOR


Cllr Adam Clarke
DEPUTY CITY MAYOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Our Aims

The city council will:

- Ensure that the current level of tree canopy and tree numbers under the city council's control are extended and the quality improved.
- Ensure trees under the council's control are managed with the intention of resolving conflicts and problems in a rational, consistent and economic way - listening to the different views, taking them into account but ultimately taking responsibility for, sometimes difficult, decisions.
- Encourage other landowners to plant and manage their trees through advice, guidance and where necessary, the use of tree protection legislation.

It will also:

- Compensate adequately for the loss of significant trees in the landscape by planting more than one replacement - wherever practical at, or near, the location of the removed trees.
- Ensure that public realm infrastructure schemes that involve tree removal or tree planting will incorporate quality planting and design and that designers and lead agents liaise with the council at appropriate stages of planning, design and implementation.

Review:

- The delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy is via five key strategic objectives, with a series of identified actions. The strategy will be judged against these actions.

Leicester Tree Strategy Review 2022/23

Trees & Woodlands Portfolio Key Facts

23

Management of tree stock of 178k registered trees including 112 hectares of woodland.

In-house team comprising of an establishment of 35 staff, as appendix 1. Annual revenue budget of £1.4m.

10,580 small trees and 412 large trees planted. 714 trees felled as part of stock management, ash dieback & storms. That's 15 trees planted for every tree felled.

Four of the city's parks now have online tree trails that will encourage people to find out more about our magnificent trees. At Abbey Park, CHCP, Humberstone & Western Park.

100% of by-product waste recycled, combination of biofuel woodchip material, logs & mulch, at 900 tonnes, saving an estimated £95k in landfill costs plus transport costs.

In partnership with The Tree Council, we now have 28 volunteer tree wardens, 6 of these wardens joined us this year.

Leicester City Council's Ash Dieback Action Plan & online information page is now live, it will be used to manage the risks associated with this disease over the next 10 years.

Planting schemes in partnership with Earthwatch & the Woodland Trust, such as Saving Saffron Brook project has resulted in over 9,500 new trees being planted in the city.

534 Tree Preservation Orders & 25 Conservation Areas in place offering a level of amenity tree protection.

159 planning consultations undertaken relating to Tree Preservation Order applications and notifications of trees in conservation areas.

Successful completion of phase 2 Western Park project. 40 diseased trees felled, and 80 heavy stock trees planted. This project has now been completed.

LCC was recognised as a Queen's Green Canopy Champion City. A silver birch tree from the Tree of Trees sculpture was presented to the Lord Mayor and was planted at Abbey Park.

Leicester Tree Strategy Review 2022/23



Lord-Lieutenant of Leicester, Mike Kapur OBE (right) presenting the late Queens Tree of Trees silver pot to Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr George Cole (left)

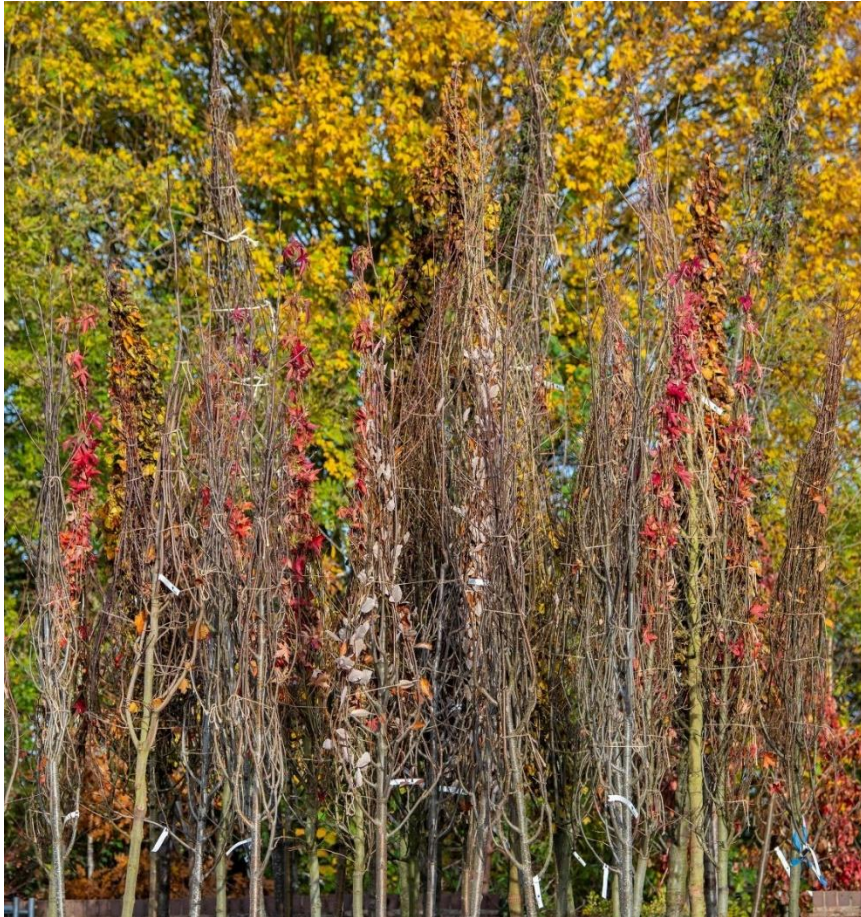


Ash dieback tree works, Anstey Lane/Gorse Hill



Mature Beech tree inspection with PICUS Tomograph, Abbey Park. Results show tree has advanced fungal decay

Leicester Tree Strategy Review 2022/23



New trees at Beaumont Park depot ready for planting



Avenue of Limes at Victoria Park

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
1	Promoting amenity	Monitor the health of the council's trees.	Inspection and survey programme.	T&W	<p>Schools, Highway, Housing and Parks tree stock inspections undertaken to identify works required to manage the health of the tree stock.</p> <p>2022/23 - 285 surveys completed</p> <p>This equates to 22% of all LCC sites with trees were surveyed (total 1,290 sites). Sites include 208 parks, 185 housing transects, 645 highway transects etc.</p>
			Continue to expand the council's tree stock.	T&W	<p>Replacement planting of large trees has been undertaken in the highway, housing areas and parks & open spaces, along with new developments.</p> <p>2022/23 - 412 large trees were planted</p> <p>Examples: 80 Western Park 29 Saffron Lane 18 St George Street</p>
			Engage a team of volunteer Tree Wardens.	LEV	In partnership with The Tree Council LCC now has a dedicated team of 28 Tree Wardens registered as a constituted group, trained to assess, and report issues and assist in tree planting and establishment, e.g., early identification of Ash Die Back etc.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
2	Promoting amenity (cont)	Maintain trees with the aim of reducing nuisance, hazard and complaint	Level of complaints.	T&W	Formal complaints received: 2022/23 – No formal complaints received.
			Tree inspection programme to identify and eliminate potential risk. Maintain inventory register for each tree on Ezytreev database.	T&W	Visual tree inspection regime as ref 1 above: Sites inspection frequency 3 – 7 years based on potential risk depending on location: This identifies the condition and health of the tree stock and any impact the whole tree might provide in terms of nuisance, hazard and complaint, typical examples being, obstruction of highway/streetlamp, removal of deadwood, tree disease and potential tree failure, etc.
			Aim for larger proportion of available budget to be targeted on proactive & selective maintenance, rather than reactive emergency works.	T&W	Annual programme of works identified following site surveys with the aim to manage the stock in a safe and healthy condition and reduce the reliance on emergency reaction works. 2022/23 Reactive spend £174k (28%) Proactive spend £444k (72%)

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
3	Promoting amenity (cont)	Use a variety of species and cultivars.	Planting plans	T&W	Tree species are chosen to meet the suitability to location being planted using a range of native trees but also recognising that non-native trees have a place in the landscape. e.g., Western Park used predominantly native tree stock, but non-native species were also planted where the location warranted this.
			Promote the wide selection of species and cultivars used at key parks	P&OS	Four tree trails are now in place which can be downloaded or used as an App. They showcase and promote some of the city's magnificent tree species. The trails can be used at Abbey Park, Castle Hill Country Park, Humberstone Park & Western Park. Further Park tree trails will be added in 2023.
4	Promoting amenity (cont)	Reduce problems that can be associated with the presence of trees when making decisions about planting design and the positioning of trees in the landscape.	Right tree right place	T&W/ Planning	Early engagement between planning team and developer as part of the design process, to build in retained tree protection and new tree stock which provides appropriate amenity suitable for the location.
5	Promoting amenity (cont)	Purchase planting stock of good quality and prepare an underground environment that is conducive to good tree growth.	Procurement policy to ensure quality and scope of species.	T&W	Tender being developed for procurement to establish a framework contract for the supply of a range of species and cultivars to meet the needs of the council.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
			Successful establishment of large tree stock. Planted previous planting season.	T&W	<p>Preparation of tree pits with appropriate soil conditioner, drainage, and irrigation system to ensure successful establishment.</p> <p>2022/23 – 96% establishment rate</p> <p>Any establishment failures are replanted within the following planting season. Higher losses than normally expected occurred due to exceptional spring & summer drought conditions.</p>
			Successful establishment of small tree stock (whips) Planted previous planting season.	LEV/P&OS	<p>Preparation of planting site, correct planting technique for size of tree and use of appropriate shelters/tubes.</p> <p>2022/23 – 72% establishment rate</p> <p>Establishment failures are replanted within the following planting season. Higher losses than normally expected occurred due to exceptional spring & summer drought conditions.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
6	Promoting habitat and wildlife	Encourage the planting and management of woodland and groups of trees.	Identify sites with scope for planting of woodland groups and seek funding to support projects.	P&OS	<p>Climate Woods group with representatives from a range of services meet several times a year, scoping opportunities for mass tree planting and utilising suitable schemes. Successful projects in 2022/23 include:</p> <p>Tiny Forest, in partnership with Earthwatch, 600 trees planted in a space the size of a tennis court, 7,200 small trees planted at 12 schools.</p> <p>Saving Saffron Brook scheme in partnership with the Woodland Trust planted 2,480 small trees.</p>
7	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Where it is compatible with amenity, seek to retain old tree stock, including trees in decline and manage them in a way that promotes their value to wildlife.	Number of trees identified and surveyed.	Nature Conservation/ T&W	<p>There are 177 mature trees which meet the Local Wildlife Site criteria for designation due to the size (girth) generally being over 3.77m and containing features likely to be of value for wildlife such as cracks, fissures, and crevices.</p> <p>Where practicable large standing dead trunks (habitat poles) are retained to support wildlife, as they are valuable eco systems.</p> <p>The Saving the Saffron Brook project undertaken to improve the condition of the woodland Local Wildlife Sites, improving structural diversity via selective thinning and coppicing works, along with woodland creation and tree species enrichment within Knighton Spinney and Washbrook Local Nature Reserves (LNR's).</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
8	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Favour native trees over exotics when specifying, planning and implementing new planting.	Species type and quantities	T&W/Planning	<p>Examples of schemes utilising British native tree stock, including oak, silver birch, hornbeam, field maple, cherry & hawthorn.</p> <p>Western Park project planting. Tiny Forest planting at 12 schools.</p> <p>Saving Saffron Brook project within Knighton Spinney and Washbrook Local Nature Reserves (LNR's).</p>
9	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Protect and conserve protected or rare species through appropriate compensation when loss cannot be avoided.	Staff training. Biodiversity action plan	T&W/Nature Conservation	<p>Tree inspection prior to felling to determine presence of protected bat species, team are LANTRA trained to undertake bat inspections and utilise specialist equipment, such as the endoscope investigations.</p> <p>Trees & Woodlands team work closely with the Nature Conservation team to ensure Biodiversity Action Plan is adhered to and the presence of protected species checks have been undertaken e.g., to protect nesting birds, bats, badgers, and newts etc.</p> <p>Where protected species habitats are removed due to essential works, such as ash dieback fells, mitigation works will be implemented to limit the impact e.g., installation of bat boxes in remaining trees.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
10	Responding to global obligations	Respond appropriately and proportionately to the threat of pests and disease epidemics.	Monitor the impact of Ash Dieback.	T&W	<p>Ash dieback disease is already having a significant impact on the tree stock in the city. Nationally the disease has been under reported and public awareness is still low. It is now clear that this tree epidemic will have a significant impact on ash tree deaths within the city (estimated at 80% – 90%).</p> <p>2021/22 10 infected ash trees felled. 2022/23 265 infected ash trees felled.</p> <p>As the disease takes hold these numbers will rise significantly over the coming years.</p> <p>The council's Ash Dieback Action Plan is now in place. There is also a dedicated information page on the council's web site. These give details on the disease, ash trees in the city and management information. Ash dieback (leicester.gov.uk)</p>
			Through tree surveys identify concerns on tree stock health and condition and review each site for potential pathogens.	T&W	<p>Western Park phase 1 & 2 project works were completed in February 2023. This was to fell trees infected with Phytophthora and Needle Blight.</p> <p>A comprehensive replacement planting programme was undertaken.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
11	Responding to global obligations (cont.)	Recycle the materials that arise from the management of trees, including the use of woodchip as a carbon-neutral fuel & mulch, as weed suppressant at council sites.	Volume of material diverted from landfill and recycled.	T&W	<p>By diverting by-product waste from landfill, costs of approximately £950k per annum have been avoided on landfill costs and transporting costs. Woodchip is recycled for biofuel.</p> <p>Woodchip is also used as a mulch for weed suppression at council sites.</p> <p>Recycled by tonnage/total sale value/percentage recycled</p> <p>2022/23 – 900t / 100%</p>
12	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership	Seek to preserve amenity afforded by trees when considering our response to tree work applications made under planning controls.	Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) review & revoke	Planning/T&W	<p>LCC has 534 Tree Preservation Orders in place offering a level of amenity protection.</p> <p>2022/23 works have been progressing on programs & procedures to revoke & renew TPO's as an ongoing project. It is expected that the revocation of outdated TPO's will start in 2023/24.</p>
			Revise policy to support tree preservation.	Planning	Pine Tree Avenue, tree preservation strategy in place. In planning terms, the document represents Informal Guidance. It promotes the trees as a "material consideration" when planning or assessing works that might affect their retention.

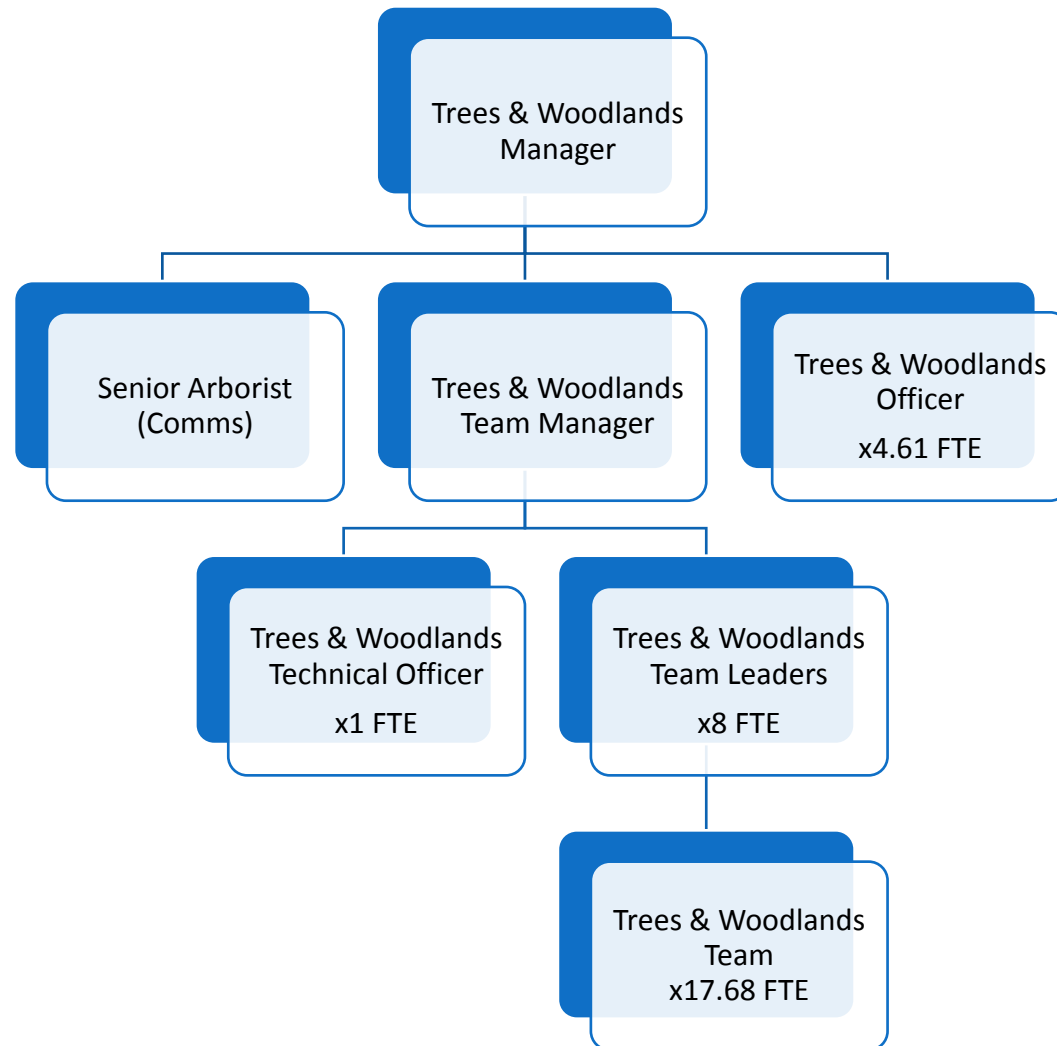
Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
13	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont.)	When assessing planning applications, take into account the effect on trees and protect them where the balance of factors favours preservation, and/or conditions	Consider all planning applications within timeframe.	Planning/T&W	2022/23 – 215 (all within timeframe)
14	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont.)	Where landscaping that includes tree planting is made a condition of planning consent, incorporate quality design and specification.	Process to ensure conditions issued provide suitable design outputs.	Planning	All Planning consents issued seek to secure the standard and specification as requested by Trees and Woodlands officers. Where this cannot be negotiated the reasons are reported and recorded in the Decision Report.
15	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont.)	Work directly with landowners and developers to support them with the management, inclusion and retention of trees affected by the planning process.	Number of planning consultations undertaken.	Planning	<p>Planning consultations undertaken relating to TPO applications and notifications of trees in conservation areas.</p> <p>2022/23 – 159 (all within timeframe)</p> <p>T&W offer British Standard 5837 surveys required to ensure all trees are considered as a material consideration for all planning applications, e.g., Great Central Way & Forest Road Education Centre.</p> <p>Planning, Development and Transportation & Urban Design work with each developer as part of the design process to ensure that existing landscape features can be retained, preserved, and enhanced with new design features.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
16	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont.)	Provide a 24/7 call out service ensuring a response to tree emergencies at any time.	100% of emergencies responded to within two-hour response	T&W	Responding to a range of situations, e.g., tree failure, road traffic accident. storms etc. 2022/23 295 total emergencies responded to 25 out of hours
17	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont.)	Respond within 24 hours to reports of other contraventions, actionable nuisance and hazards and deal with these quickly and proportionately - making appropriate resources available.	Number of contraventions responded to within timeframe.	Planning	2022/23 – 11 tree related claims received, and site visits undertaken. 73% undertaken within 24 hours.
18	Managing the pressure on tree in others' ownership (cont.)	Be bound by the relevant planning practice guidance when managing protected tree regulations.	Consider planning enforcement action as required.	Planning	2022/23 - 8 cases with no breaches. 2 still under investigation. No action agreed in 1 case.
19	Delivering this strategy	Adequate financial resources from council budgets and income generation.	Annual review of budget allocation and income forecast.	P&OS	Revenue budget: £1,264,100 Salaries £163,400 Running costs £777,000 Income £650,500 Net All vehicle and plant expenditure budget held centrally by Fleet; annual budget £226K. T&W team had a £500k capital budget for the sanitisation works at Western Park and the treatment of Ash Die Back during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
20	Delivering this strategy (cont)	Appropriately qualified, skilled, motivated and experienced staff	Certificates of competence and CPD for all staff.	T&W	<p>100% of operative's have achieved the required certificate of competence for the range of tasks undertaken.</p> <p>2022/23 – 140 refresher & technical training undertaken.</p> <p>The majority of operative training is a legal requirement as nearly every function requires certification, leading to some operatives holding as many as 50 certificates, many of which require regular refreshment, e.g., climbing at height, use of chain saw, pesticides use etc.</p> <p>All staff training and competency is reviewed as part of the quality conversations.</p>
21	Delivering this strategy (cont)	The organisation, systems, depots, facilities and good quality equipment that our staff need.	Infrastructure in place to support T&W team in service delivery.	T&W	<p>Health and safety audit identified pressures on Beaumont Park Depot capacity, identified opportunities to relocate part of service to reduce pressure on available space.</p> <p>Capital funds secured for purchase of tracked 23m platform, estimated delivery August/September 2023. Essential for ash dieback works.</p> <p>Ongoing replacement programme of chippers and chainsaw equipment.</p> <p>Ezytreev software system in place to manage council's tree stock.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
22	Delivering this strategy (cont.)	Support from all appropriate sections of the council.	Awareness and understanding of the Tree Strategy within departments and with core clients.	Marketing & Comms	<p>Tree Strategy marketed with clients and council divisions, including Members.</p> <p>The document will be available on the LCC website.</p> <p>Directing officers to online documents and reiterating policy on replacement planting and tree policy management guide.</p>

Trees & Woodlands Team Structure



Trees Strategy Review 2022/23

39



Dave Jones, T&W Manager, Stewart Doughty, Head P&OS

Tree strategy review

- Launched Nov 2018.
- Five-year strategy.
- Guide to sustaining and increasing our tree stock.
- 40 • Improve the quality of the city's trees.
- Promote the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment.



Annual Review

- The Strategy outlines how we manage the city's trees to ensure that we sustain and enhance Leicester's urban forest for future generations.
- The annual review monitors the delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy via the five key strategic objectives:
 - Promoting amenity
 - Promoting habitat and wildlife
 - Responding to global obligations
 - Managing the pressure on trees in others ownership
 - Delivering the strategy
- This is undertaken via a series of 22 actions as specified in the Tree Strategy, which are reported on in the review document.

41

The council manages 178,000 trees across its varied land portfolio



- 99,000 – Parks
- 21,000 – Highways
- 23,000 – Housing estates
- 20,000 – Schools
- 15,000 – Misc.
- Including:
- 112 Hectares of woodland

The T&W Resources

- Budget £:
- 1,264,100 – Employees
- 163,400 – Running costs
- 770,000 – Income target

43

- Staff:
- 28 – Operational
- 6.6 – Technical



Outcomes

44



- 100% by-product recycled
 - Over 900 tonnes diverted from landfill saving £95k landfill costs plus transport
- Retained deadwood, biodiversity
- Awarded - Queens Green Canopy Champion City status
- 534 TPO in place & 25 Conservation Areas
- 159 TPO tree applications processed
- 215 Tree planning applications processed
- 4 Parks tree trails now live

Outcomes (cont)

- 285 Tree Surveys completed (1,290 sites)
- No formal complaints received
- 96% establishment rate of large trees planted
- 60% establishment rate of small trees (whips) planted
- 295 Emergency tree call outs, 25 out of hours
- 140 refresher & technical training courses completed
- Successful completion of Western Park phase 2 works, 40 diseased trees felled, and 80 new trees planted



New tree planting

10,580 small trees & 412 heavy stock planted. 714 trees felled in 2022/23 as part of stock management, ash dieback & storms. That's 15 trees planted for every tree felled.

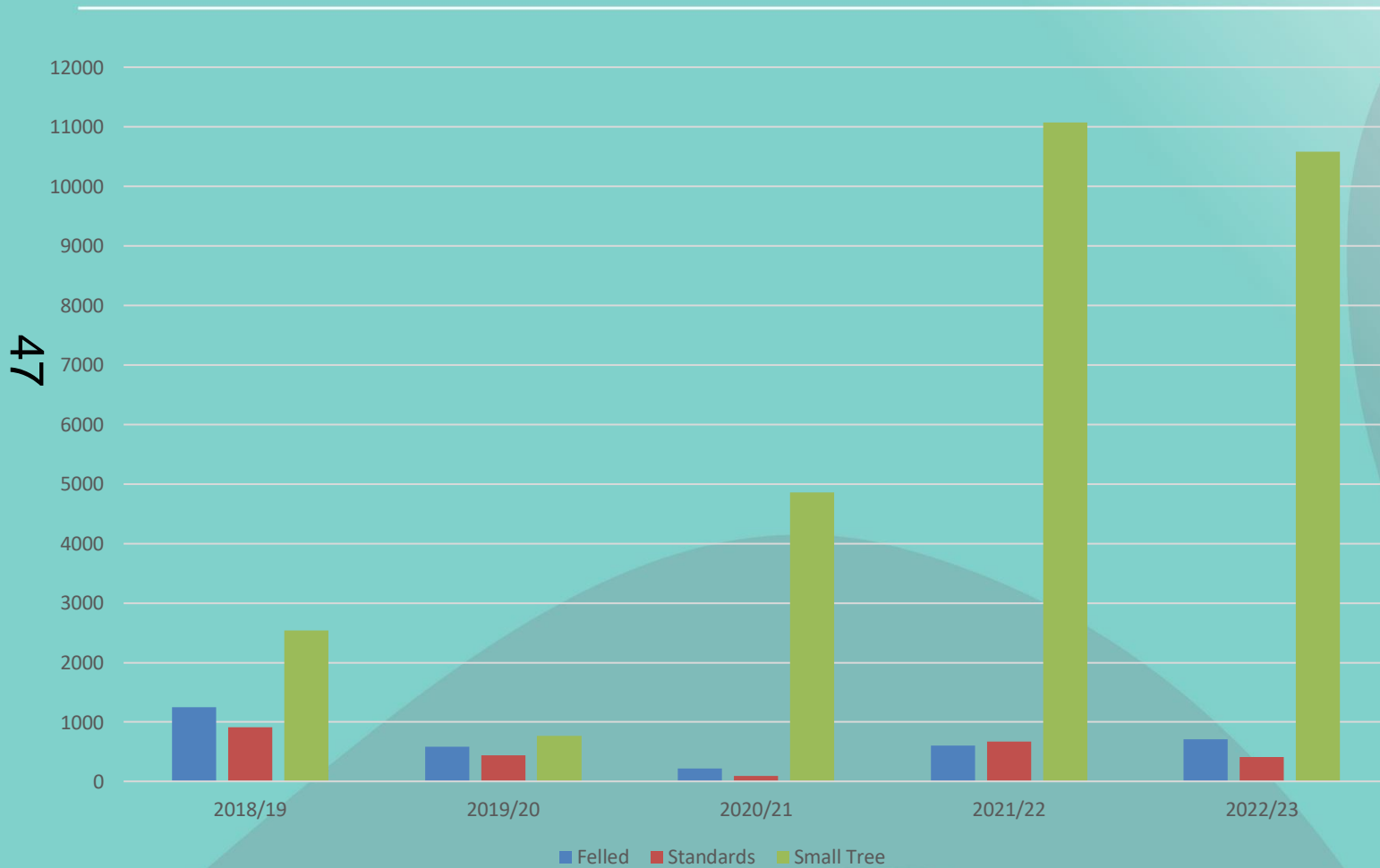
Successful external funding bids:

95

- Tiny Forest, in partnership with Earthwatch, 600 trees planted in a space the size of a tennis court. 7200 small trees planted at 12 schools.
- Saving Saffron Brook Project, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, to improve the condition of woodland Local Wildlife sites. 3380 trees planted



Trees felled/planted



Examples of why we remove trees

48



- Competing demands
- H&S hazard/risk
- Dead or structurally unsound
- Obstruction to legal access
- Structural damage
- Damage to utilities
- Disease

Current & future pressures

- Diseased trees Western Park
 - Successful completion of phase 2 Western Park project
 - 40 diseased trees felled
 - 80 heavy stock trees planted
 - Good comms
- Ash Dieback
 - Ash Dieback Action Plan in place
 - Online information page now live
 - Tree Action List to manage infected trees
 - Internal stakeholders information briefings being undertaken

49



Ash dieback

Queens Green Canopy Champion City

50



- Leicester City Council were awarded Queens Green Canopy Champion City status
- The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicester, Mike Kapur OBE presented the Lord Mayor with a Silver Birch tree from the Queens Tree of Trees sculpture
- The Silver Birch was planted at Abbey Park in December 2022

Community engagement

51



Leicester City Tree Warden Group

52



- Partnership with The Tree Council
- 28 Trained Wardens
- Assess and report issues, e.g. early id Ash Die Back, hazardous trees
- Support tree planting
- Improve education
- Work with T&W team on Tree Trails

Questions

53



**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.	Complete
26 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To explore formalising structures with VCS. b) To explore LCC and VCS joint funding initiatives / boards. c) LCC to provide helping hand to VCS to empower communities. d) To explore a business pledge for LCC to sign up to. e) To engage more with ward cllrs. 2) A fuller report to be brought back to a future meeting. 3) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to consider increasing the ward funding budget. b) Vice chair to lead a Review group to be set up to look into this topic. c) The engagement of volunteers to be explored. d) To consider best practice. e) For the members training re: ward meetings on 11th Oct - suggested 2 levels of engagement needed – one for more experienced cllrs and one for newer cllrs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In progress – officers to respond in due course. 2) Listed on the work programme. 3) b) Initial discussions taking place between officers and members.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
24 October 2023	<p>1) Executive response back from previous review re: Encouraging women to participate in sports and physical activities.</p> <p>2) Museum Service Overview</p> <p>3) Bereavement Services/Burial Policy</p>	<p>1a) Amend/clarify wording on women swimming in burkhas.</p> <p>1b) A report on various bodies that could promote Women's engagement in Sport (i.e. the NHS or Universities) could be produced, perhaps a Board could look at.</p> <p>1c) Good practice in other authorities to be considered.</p> <p>1d) Other Groups with protected characteristics such as disability sport could be considered. Data could also be broken down into, for example, age and ethnicity.</p> <p>1e) Indicators of success to be provided.</p> <p>1f) Delivery and implementation of the Sports Strategy to be reported to Scrutiny.</p> <p>2a) Update to be brought to Scrutiny once Museums Strategy in place.</p> <p>2b) Updates to be brought annually.</p> <p>3a) Annual update to come to Scrutiny.</p> <p>3b) Commission to be kept aware of the national consultation of the issue and any legislative changes on re-burial policy.</p>	<p>1a) Complete, document amended.</p> <p>1b) Sport & Active Recreation Development Manager happy to consider for future meeting, subject to approval by the Chair.</p> <p>1c) Noted, and ongoing practice adopted with this.</p> <p>1d) Point to note.</p> <p>1e) This can be supplied, as and when required. Sport & Active Recreation Development Manager recommends an annual update on women's participation in sport. This could link into above point of disability too.</p> <p>1f) Being brought forward at December meeting.</p> <p>2a) Update following Museum Strategy likely to come in January 2024</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
5 December 2023	Active Leicester Strategy Action Plan Tree Strategy review		
29 January 2024	Council budget reports – general fund and capital Draft Museum Strategy VCSE Strategy/Crowdfund Leicester Update Library and Community Needs Assessment Informal Scrutiny Response Report – ASB team		
25 March 2024 (Date likely to change)	Festivals and Events Review update Tourism Plan Review		

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Culture and Creative Industry Strategy	A fuller report to be provided following the item on 26 September.	
Community Safety		
Fly-tipping strategy		
Growing spaces strategy		
Jewry Wall museum development, progress update		
Heritage panels, inviting members suggestions for new panels		
Enabling volunteers		
Heritage Lottery Fund (Place Programme Funding)	Requested at meeting on 24 October	
Food Service Plan Update		