

100 achievements of the Labour Cabinet in our first 18 months back in power

We have compiled this list of achievements as a useful reminder of progress since Labour took control of the council in May 2007. This is not a full list – we are bound to have forgotten or overlooked some things! We hope it is useful to remind you of what has been achieved and what there is still to do. The list contains many real improvements we have made for communities across Leicester.

We will be renewing this list and hope that informs both debate and other Council plans in the future.

1. Under a Labour Cabinet the city has launched the unique new ONE Leicester 25 year strategy to make Leicester Britain's sustainable city. With Partners we led the development of the One Leicester identity – driving forward a new confidence and vision for the city
2. Highcross: The Leader of the Council along with Hammersons and Hermes Leicester opened Highcross in September – the UK's most exciting new retail development made possible by Labour Group.
3. Her majesty the Queen opened *Curve* this year – Britain's best new performing arts development
4. Introduced the popular Cleaner City Street Cleaning team – delivering our pledge of cleaner streets with £200,000 of new investment
5. Introduced City Wardens to tackle anti-social behaviour – delivering on our pledge of cleaner, safer streets
6. Launched new Community Meetings with increased local budgets – replacing the failed Area Committees and giving people a real say in their local community
7. Extended opening hours at Southfields and Belgrave Libraries – reversing cuts made under the previous administration
8. Installed new lighting to improve safety on Victoria Park
9. Funding two new Empty Homes Officers to help tackle the housing crisis,

bringing empty homes back into use

10. Banned burger vans outside schools

11. Brought in a targeted free pest control service in parts of the city

12. Launched a consultation on the future of the Exchange shopping precinct in Eyres Monsell

13. Improving security at Saffron Cemetery with £50,000 investment in new gates work to be completed this year

14. Hosting the 2009 Special Olympics – the only city to host the Games twice

15. Launched our strategy to bring 2012 Olympics benefits to Leicester

16. Welcomed the Prime Minister to Leicester on 4 occasions

17. The Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith MP, has visited Leicester twice in the last year to see local policing and hear about our community cohesion work at the Central Mosque on Conduit Street

18. The Governance of Britain national consultation was launched in Leicester by Jack Straw MP, Secretary of State for Justice

19. Braunstone Leisure Centre and Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium included in the official 2012 Olympics pre-games training camps guide

20. ‘Transforming Leicester’s Schools’ – launched a new action plan to improve the city’s schools with £millions investment, which is set to rise

21. Allocated funding for improvements to the building of the Leicester Asian Youth Association (LAYA)

22. Major public realm improvements including pavements, verges and footpaths across the city including in Eyres Monsell, Saffron, Abbey, Humberstone & Hamilton, Coleman, and New Parks, and delivering pedestrianisation in City centre

23. Bringing in a new cycle delivery service for Leicester Market

24. Doubled the number of Christmas trees in the city centre – and brought back the Ice skating rink as well as new lights on Humberstone Gate. Christmas is bigger and better with a Labour administration!

25. Bringing in the new Tenants’ and Leaseholders Forums – giving tenants

new opportunities to influence service improvements and have their say.

- 26.** Saved the Shama Women's Centre from closure with £30,000 extra funding to make sure it could keep its doors open
- 27.** Launched the new Leicester Compact – a landmark agreement to promote joint working between the Council and voluntary sector
- 28.** Leicester is European City of Sport UK 2008 – a unique accolade in the UK and recognition of our commitment to sport
- 29.** Funding to sustain Leicester's festivals programme including Diwali and to support the development of new festivals
- 30.** Re-opened Cossington Street swimming baths after major improvements
- 31.** The Prime Minister launched the free bus passes for the over-60s in Leicester
- 32.** Opened the revamped St Margaret's Bus Station – giving real improvements to bus passengers
- 33.** Brought back the seamstress statue outside the City Rooms – celebrating Leicester's industrial heritage
- 34.** Brought the internationally renowned Attenborough Collection of Picasso ceramics to Leicester which attracted over 70,000 visitors – a record for an exhibition at New Walk Museum
- 35.** Invested £4million in care for the elderly and vulnerable to enable them to stay in their own homes
- 36.** Removed the Haymarket footbridge from Charles Street within weeks of coming to power – an eyesore and anti-social behaviour hotspot which had not been addressed under the previous administration.
- 37.** Bought the former city centre Post office to turn it into a new One stop shop for citizens to get information advice and help.
- 38.** Building work for the new cutting edge Digital Media Centre is underway leading to a £21.5 million centre with three cinema screens, exhibition space, flats, and digital production facilities
- 39.** Leading the biggest ever Football Foundation, football facilities development project – with new football facilities in communities across the city. Worth over £10million

- 40.** Working on a new Climate Change Action Plan to make Leicester greener and more sustainable
- 41.** 1500 trees already planted towards our pledge of planting 10,000 trees across the city
- 42.** Marked the 21st anniversary of Nelson Mandela Park with a commemorative tree planting and junior sports festival
- 43.** Introduced a new while-you-wait renewal process for Blue Badges
- 44.** Bringing residents parking to South Highfields (behind the LRI) after years of campaigning from residents
- 45.** Reinstated the popular A to Z guide to services
- 46.** Allocated an extra £100,000 for summer play activities last year – a decision taken within weeks of coming back into power – leading to important provision in 40 locations across the city
- 47.** Success in our bid to introduce free swimming for under 16 yr olds
- 48.** Labour Cabinet initiated the Cultural Quarter by turning the derelict Bus depot into flourishing business units. The cultural Quarter is now coming to completion with *Curve and Orton Square* already successfully opened and the *DMC* opening later this year
- 49.** New play area in Abbey Park
- 50.** Labour Cabinet is driving ahead the BSF programme with record investment from our Government for state of the art new schools in the city – this will bring over £230 million of new money into our schools including Beaumont Leys, Fullhurst Community College, Judgemeanow Community College and Soar Valley College
- 51.** 2000 new jobs are being created with the opening of new business developments such as One Colton Square and Highcross helping to fight the economic downturn
- 52.** A Labour-led Council working with a Labour Government has delivered new NHS health centres in St Peter's, Braunstone, Westcotes, Highfields and Rowley Fields, De Montfort University; new centres are on the way in Belgrave and Charnwood
- 53.** Over £50 million of new money from the Labour Government for

Leicester's colleges including Leicester College, Gateway, and Wyggeston and QEI – to support the development of sustainable buildings

54. The Leicester Marathon has returned to the city's streets under a Labour administration

55. Free evening city centre car parking at Christmas for 2 years running

56. Brought back the Caribbean Carnival with lifeline funding

57. Won successful bid for £150 million for primary school BSF

58. Restored the Liberty Statue and opened the new road scheme at Upperton Rd

59. Regional Ministers Phil Hope MP and Gillian Merron MP have both visited the city to hear about the Labour Cabinet's local achievements and brought Housing Minister Iain Wright MP to Leicester to discuss affordable housing and housing policy

60. We have completed the new road on the Leicester Science Park – next to the NationalSpace Centre – the £60 million development will create over 1,000 high tech jobs

61. £60,000 to New Parks Club for Young People to make sure it avoided closure – the funding has led to complete refurbishment and reopening of the sports hall

62. Given the go ahead for a new ball court at Coleman Neighbourhood Centre

63. Opened the revamped Newarke Houses Museum

64. Leicester became Curry Capital of Britain (2007) after beating fierce competition from 15 other cities

65. Extra investment for extended opening of Jewry Wall Museum and Abbey Pumping Station

66. Re-opened the Westbridge Place footbridge which links Castle Gardens to the riverside

67. Completed the refurbishment of Aylestone Leisure Centre swimming pool

68. Installed new CCTV at Gilroes Cemetery to improve security

- 69.** Increased opening hours at the Brite Centre Library, Braunstone and Highfields Library
- 70.** Funded Knighton Lane Artists Studio, enabling it to stay open and develop new links with the local community
- 71.** Working with the Regeneration Company and private sector to explore major improvements to Leicester Railway Station
- 72.** Opened the new Danbury Gardens Extra Care facility for elderly people – the Labour Cabinet has expressed its support for Extra Care housing for the elderly and has committed £3.5 million capital for the next scheme
- 73.** Introduced new and now very successful Community Legal Advice Centre with outreach advice work into communities.
- 74.** Installed new security fencing at Westcotes Gardens
- 75.** Gerry Sutcliffe MP, Minister for Sport, visited to celebrate Leicester's year as European City of Sport UK
- 76.** £25,000 of new funding to Leicester's Federation of Muslim Organisations (FMO) – allowing the FMO to set up its own office for the first time
- 77.** Bringing in major improvements at the Central Lending Library including improved access for the disabled, and new lighting and window displays
- 78.** Labour Cabinet backed city centre retailers by suspending road works for the Christmas shopping period
- 79.** Welcomed Community Cohesion Minister, Parmjit Dhanda MP, to the city
- 80.** Alley Gates are being fitted to 147 locations across the city to improve security and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- 81.** CCTV systems have been installed and improved across the city
- 82.** A new library and community centre is being built in New Parks with a wide range of community facilities
- 83.** Rosie Winterton MP, Transport Minister, visited the city to back our efforts to get more people cycling
- 84.** Created a new Economic Development Company with the County Council and Districts– to spearhead work to attract new inward investment to Leicester

- 85.** New investment to protect the city from flooding risks
- 86.** Making new international business links with Europe to bring investment to the city - met with Paris Chamber of Commerce -
- 87.** Hazel Blears MP, Communities Secretary, and Phil Woolas MP, Climate Change Minister, visited Leicester to speak at a major climate change Conference
- 88.** Planning permission granted for the Ghandi Statue on Belgrave Road
- 89.** Reducing the amount of bottled water used inside the council – acting on our commitment to improve the council’s green record
- 90.** Appointed a new Joint Director of Public Health with the Primary Care Trust – Labour Cabinet is working to create a healthier city, tackling health inequalities
- 91.** Funded new CCTV to improve security at Southfields Library
- 92.** Re-opened St Peter’s Tenants Association
- 93.** Working towards phasing out the use of plastic carrier bags introduced the *One Leicester Bag*
- 94.** Launched the H-JET jobs and skills project in Highfields to get local people into work
- 95.** New and continuing funding for Leicester in Bloom – improving the appearance of the city
- 96.** Funding free use of council leisure centres for the over-60s
- 97.** New funding which has expanded the graffiti removal team – creating a cleaner Leicester
- 98.** Established new links with Chongqing in China – to promote trade and business links
- 99.** Launched the new £56 million Blackfriars waterfront development, bringing the area back to life and creating new jobs
- 100.** Re-established Leicester’s regional and national reputation – which was left in tatters after four years of embarrassment and under achievement with the Lib Dems and Tories in power.

Initiated by Cllr Rory Palmer and compiled by the Labour Group.

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