



Leicester
City Council

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

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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 Council's 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 Council's 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 Council's 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 Government's 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

