

DRAFT
for Cabinet approval

One Leicester: State of the City 2009

One Leicester: State of the City report

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I. Introduction

- I.1 This State of the City report is the first of an annual series of position statements; it presents an overview of Leicester's current performance. It also assesses whether things are improving or getting worse across key areas and priorities. Where possible the report highlights trends over time.
- I.2 The information in this report has been obtained from a wide range of sources, but it is not intended to cover every aspect of city life – it is a headline document. Where issues are identified, the report looks at action being taken to reduce their impact. In addition, local case studies are used throughout the report to highlight success and innovation.
- I.3 The State of the City report is intended for use by councillors, the Leicester Partnership, public services, residents, schools and businesses. The report has three main purposes:
- to better understand the performance of the city
 - to understand from the evidence base what the priorities are for the future
 - to inform commissioning based on current and future priorities
- I.4 The report enhances understanding of the priorities in the *One Leicester* sustainable community strategy and focuses on the issues where the Leicester Partnership can have the greatest impact. These are identified as future priorities throughout the report.
- I.5 This is our first State of the City report, so is very much a first attempt at bringing together a considerable amount of information and presenting it in an accessible way. We will be assessing reaction to this report that will inform future annual reports, which could well take on a different structure. It is intended that future reports will incorporate wider and deeper ranges of performance information.

2. The Leicester Partnership

- 2.1 The Leicester Partnership (Leicester's local strategic partnership) brings together key sectors, organisations and community representatives that are actively tackling the toughest problems that residents say affect their lives. In doing so, the Partnership is delivering *One Leicester*, the city's sustainable community strategy. This sets out the vision for Leicester to become Britain's sustainable city by 2033. The *One Leicester* priorities are reflected in Leicester's Local Area Agreement (LAA) – the Partnership's delivery plan for the three years up to 2011. More information about the Leicester Partnership, the *One Leicester* strategy and Leicester's LAA is outlined below and elsewhere in this report.
- 2.2 The delivery of *One Leicester* is the responsibility of the Leicester Partnership Executive, which is chaired by the Leader of Leicester City Council. The strategic lead on the strategy and the LAA is undertaken by the Leicester Partnership Strategic Board, which is chaired by the council's chief executive. The Partnership's work is guided by five strategic theme groups and two 'cross-cutting' groups, which look at key issues that affect the successful delivery of the *One Leicester* strategy:
- Children & Young People Strategic Partnership – investing in our children
 - Environment Partnership Board – planning for people not cars and reducing our carbon footprint
 - Health & Wellbeing Partnership – improving wellbeing and health
 - Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Partnership – investing in skills and enterprise
 - Safer Leicester Partnership – creating thriving, safe communities
 - Stronger Communities Partnership (cross-cutting) – creating thriving, safe communities
 - Talking Up Leicester (cross-cutting)

3. Executive Summary

3.1 Leicester is the largest city in the East Midlands, with a population estimated at 301,000. Its population is younger than the national average and there is a smaller proportion of people aged over 65 than elsewhere in the country. Leicester is one of the most diverse places in Britain, as around 40% of the city's population has an ethnic minority background. Three quarters of Leicester people live in deprived areas, well above average in England, and the city has become more deprived in recent years. The city is home to two universities with strong reputations for science, technology and creativity.

3.2 Economic success

3.2.1 In spite of the levels of deprivation in parts of the city, over the past decade Leicester achieved steady economic growth. Like the rest of the country, it has been affected by the worldwide economic recession that started in late 2008. However, the city's economy has proven to be more resilient than those of many other cities because Leicester has fewer larger employers and more small and medium enterprises.

3.2.2 But unemployment is a major problem in the city, being both comparatively high and rising. Some parts of Leicester have an unemployment rate that is twice the average for the city as a whole.

3.2.3 Income levels are comparatively low and there are also low levels of skills and educational attainment compared with other parts of the country. Leicester has higher than average levels of people employed in manufacturing, elementary occupations and the public sector.

3.2.4 The recent spectacular regeneration of the city centre has placed Leicester on a firm footing to benefit from the economic upturn when it occurs. The city has invested heavily in its creative and cultural industries, with the LCB Depot being followed by Curve – the city's new performing arts centre – and the even newer digital media centre at Phoenix Square, all located in the growing cultural quarter in the heart of the city.

3.2.5 Public services have been successful in securing significant amounts of external funding to tackle unemployment and further regenerate the city. This has brought both jobs and qualifications for people in disadvantaged areas. Partners agreed a joint economic development plan with the Leicestershire county partnership – part of one of the first multi-area agreements in the country. They have also set up an economic development company, Prospect Leicestershire.

3.2.6 The numbers of Leicester residents travelling to work by bus, bicycle or on foot has increased and is higher than the national average. Although 40% of Leicester households do not own a car, there is still a considerable amount of road traffic into and out of the city each day – a major concern for local residents. To address this, the main access routes are being developed and renovated, including four park and ride schemes. New pedestrian and cycle ways and traffic free areas are also being developed. New homes in mixed housing developments are being encouraged, as this can help reduce the need for travel.

3.2.7 In 2009 Leicester was ranked fourth in the country and best in the East Midlands for overall sustainability in the sustainable cities index. The aim of the Leicester Partnership is that Leicester should have the lowest carbon footprint of any major British city in the next 25 years – i.e. the lowest level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The level is already falling and is low compared to the rest of the East Midlands.

- 3.2.8 Work is being done to encourage residents to conserve energy and the council has significantly reduced the amount of its own carbon emissions.
- 3.2.9 The aim of the Leicester Partnership is that from 2013 new buildings should be zero carbon. Existing council-owned homes are already among the most energy efficient in the country. Schemes are operating to assist private sector residents in becoming more energy efficient. The Leicester Energy Agency provides advice to local organisations on renewable energy, while an online car sharing service has been set up.

3.3 *The city as a place to live and work*

- 3.3.1 Overall, three quarters of Leicester residents are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live. Although waste recycling rates are below the average for England, more recycling is now occurring. Work is being done to make the city greener, including planting an extra 10,000 trees.
- 3.3.2 Currently there is not enough housing in Leicester that people can afford and not enough of the right sort of housing for some residents. An additional 790 affordable homes are needed each year to meet demand in the city. Planning is well underway for 3,500 homes on council-owned land at Ashton Green in the north-west of the city. New housing is also planned for Humberstone, Knighton Fields, Rowlatts Hill and New Parks.
- 3.3.3 People experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless get good support in Leicester, including a dedicated housing options appointment system to ensure that people are seen early. Council housing is energy efficient and of a good standard, but by contrast, much of the private housing in Leicester is old and almost half is estimated not to be in a good standard.
- 3.3.4 The level of crime in Leicester is the highest in the East Midlands, and the city is not reducing crime as fast as other similar areas. However, anti-social behaviour is falling, as are the number of assaults with injury. Progress has been made on reducing offences of theft involving vehicles and other forms of property and money. In 2008/9 the city's total violent crime rate was the highest of 15 similar areas, while burglary and sexual offences rates were the second worst. Domestic burglary offences are increasing. Crimes where the victims say that there was a racial or religious aspect are the highest in both the East Midlands and areas similar to Leicester, although this may reflect a higher level of reporting.
- 3.3.5 The police and other partners are tackling crime through a variety of approaches, including work in neighbourhoods and with offenders. The council has increased security in areas where crime is especially high and partners are succeeding in reducing the number of young people involved in crime.
- 3.3.6 Leicester suffers more from alcohol-related violent crime in the East Midlands than anywhere else. The city is second in the region for sexual offences attributable to alcohol. However, action is being taken to reduce the nuisance caused by people who have drunk too much alcohol.
- 3.3.7 There are an estimated 2,750 problematic drug users live in Leicester and that around half of these are engaged in treatment.
- 3.3.8 Satisfaction with arts and entertainment in Leicester has increased significantly in recent years. In 2008, there were 5.7 million visits to arts, leisure and cultural facilities in Leicester. The council has placed an emphasis on ensuring that 'hard to reach' groups are able to participate in these opportunities, which has borne fruit. The spectacular new developments in the city centre have also proved popular.

Leicester now ranks as a major European centre for sporting excellence and good practice.

3.4 Reaching full potential

- 3.4.1 Leicester's employment rate is 65.3%, lower than the national rate but consistent with similar parts of the country. Over 20% of the working age population is economically inactive, which is higher than average for the East Midlands and the country as a whole. Unemployment in the city is higher than the rest of the country and the gap is increasing. Unemployment is not evenly spread across the city: it is almost twice the city average in some neighbourhoods. Public sector organisations, led by the council, have been successful in securing significant external funding to tackle unemployment and have achieved positive results.
- 3.4.2 Skill levels of adults in Leicester are lower than the national average and again the gap is widening. One third of businesses report skills shortages. The city is below national and regional averages for qualifications attained, and more people than average have no qualifications.
- 3.4.3 School test and exam results are improving at all ages, but from some of the lowest levels in the country. Leicester's results for 16 year olds, while better (particularly in English and mathematics), are still significantly lower than most other parts of the country. However, if the rate of improvement continues at its current rate, the city would be in sight of achieving a level of performance comparable to similar authorities in the near future.
- 3.4.4 Results for 11 year olds are better than ever and have nearly caught up with those in areas similar to Leicester. There has been a rise in the number of schools reaching the government's target of 55% in English and maths. However, there are big differences in the results obtained by boys and girls and among children from different backgrounds.
- 3.4.5 Schools are getting better following significant investment in support and intervention. The number of schools in Ofsted categories is now down to six, as against twenty-two in 2007/8. Inspections show that many more primary and secondary schools are doing well, while most nursery schools, sixth forms and special schools show good results. Attainment in city schools in deprived parts of the city has increased. However, Leicester has five national challenge secondary schools, where less than 30% of students are achieving five A-C grades at GCSE. Government funding is being used to replace or refurbish Leicester's secondary schools through the Building Schools for the Future initiative and four new schools are already open. Considerable progress has been made in recent years to reduce the persistent absence rate in city schools and permanent exclusions are now almost non-existent.
- 3.4.6 The number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training has fallen to around the national average, but there are differences in rates between young people from different backgrounds.
- 3.4.7 Progress has been made on increasing the number of children benefiting from early years provision and the provision is generally of good quality. Much work has been done to co-locate children's centres onto school sites and build good quality foundation stage provision. Ofsted rates children's services in Leicester, including education, social care and child protection, as adequate overall. Services to make sure children are safe and protected from harm are good, as are services for those children who are looked after by the council.

- 3.4.8 Leicester has had significant health problems for many years. The health of the city's people is generally worse than in many other parts of the country. Although since 1993 fewer people have died early because of heart disease and strokes, life expectancy is not improving as fast as elsewhere in the country, even when Leicester is compared to other places that have similar problems. Mortality rates in the city are at least 20% higher than they should be.
- 3.4.9 Cardio-vascular disease (CVD) remains the single biggest cause of death in Leicester, closely followed by cancer, chronic heart disease and strokes. Levels of heart disease, stroke and other related diseases remain high. Smoking, diet and hereditary factors contribute to this shortening of life. There are high levels of obesity, smoking and alcohol abuse.
- 3.4.10 Poor health is not spread evenly across the city's neighbourhoods and communities. People living in the most deprived areas are the most likely to die prematurely, with men in these areas dying on average six years younger than those in the least deprived neighbourhoods.
- 3.4.11 Teenage pregnancy rates in Leicester are coming down (against the national trend) but they are still high compared with the average for England, particularly in deprived areas.
- 3.4.12 People in some parts of the city find it hard to access health services, while services aimed at preventing disease are not reaching enough people in the city. Services to manage diabetes are insufficient given the large number of people in the city with the condition. However Leicester does have good substance misuse services.
- 3.4.13 To reduce health inequalities, the city council and the local NHS have agreed an improvement action plan and implementing this is a priority.

3.5 Individual and collective self-esteem

- 3.5.1 The city council's adult social care services have been adjudged to be performing well. Some excellent work is being done to enable people who need care to get personalised services, and more older people and people with disabilities are being helped to live independently.
- 3.5.2 More than three quarters of Leicester residents think that their area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. This is below the national average, and there are varying views between different communities within the city. Leicester does good work in helping people newly arrived to the city, such as refugees and asylum seekers, to settle and feel welcome.
- 3.5.3 Leicester is renowned for the scale and quality of its festivals and events, which celebrate different faiths, cultures and communities and bring the city's people together – an example is Diwali, the largest such festival outside India. Other activities aimed at building community cohesion also take place. The Leicester Partnership has an active community engagement strategy, so neighbourhoods and communities of interest can influence what is happening in the city.
- 3.5.4 The council has now developed regular ward meetings in each ward across the city and key frontline services like environmental services are being made more locally responsive. Around one in five Leicester residents gives unpaid help to local groups, clubs or organisations, with 45% doing so at least once a week. One in ten residents participates in groups that made decisions affecting their local area.
- 3.5.5 Leicester benefits from a strong, vibrant and diverse voluntary and community sector, with high levels of volunteering.

4. **One Leicester: Shaping Britain's sustainable city**

4.1 *One Leicester: Shaping Britain's Sustainable City* is the city's sustainable community strategy. It sets out a bold 25-year vision.

4.2 The vision focuses on three core themes:

Confident people

- A caring community
- People feel safe
- People feel at home
- Good place to live

New prosperity

- People reach their potential
- Nobody is trapped by poverty
- Ambitious and innovative
- People are healthy and active

Beautiful place

- Less traffic
- Clean and tidy streets
- A greener city
- A vibrant city centre

Seven clear priorities have been established to enable the vision to be achieved:

- Investing in our children
- Planning for people not cars
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Creating thriving, safe communities
- Improving wellbeing and health
- Talking up Leicester
- Investing in skills and enterprise

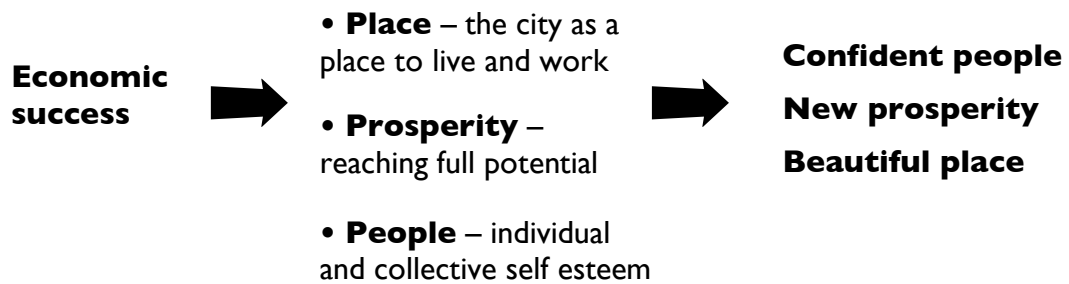
The *One Leicester* vision can be read online at <http://www.oneleicester.com>.

4.3 The strategy is being delivered through actions that will benefit everyone who lives in, studies in, works in or enjoys Leicester. It will improve the city's social and economic foundations. If the city achieves its vision by 2033, Leicester, and the quality of life of its people, will be very different:

- All areas of the city will benefit from Leicester's success and every neighbourhood will be included
- Leicester people will be wealthier, live longer, be healthier and enjoy happier lives
- Children and young people will be safer, more resilient and fulfil their potential
- More families will benefit from earning an income and fewer children will live in poverty

- Everyone will have a real choice of housing with an increased supply of affordable homes
- Leicester will be a city that welcomes new people, where cohesion across communities is seen as strong
- Leicester will be a uniquely enterprising city of opportunities and creativity, inviting and inspiring people to succeed and participate
- Leicester will be a green city, proud of its local and national environmental performance and the contribution of its environmental sector nationally and internationally

4.4 In the following diagram, the arrows connect the economic success shown on the left to the better outcomes for Leicester people shown on the right. Each of the bullet-pointed headings is called a spine, as they cut through and support all the actions that need to be taken to support the *One Leicester* priorities. These actions rest on a foundation of continued economic success.



4.5 The first of the three spines, the city as a place to live and work, aims to create a clean and safe city. The second, reaching full potential, is focused on connecting more local people to the economic success of the city and to support them to achieve their full potential through education, skills, employment and good health. The third spine, individual and collective self esteem, connects and supports the other two spines. This spine recognises that public services on their own cannot achieve these goals. Partner agencies must facilitate individuals and communities to achieve their full potential, raise their ambitions and to have mutual respect both for themselves, their local communities and the city as a whole.

5. State of the City indicators

- 5.1 To help measure our performance over time we are developing a framework of indicators. These are the targets that best describe the quality of life, health and environment enjoyed by everyone in the city. It will take time to build up the framework but from 2010 onwards it will be possible to measure the impact of activity across the city so that priorities for partners can be adapted and amended.
- 5.2 **Level 1 indicators** – these measure the city’s economic performance and the achievements and improvements needed to deliver economic success
- Resident income
 - Employment rate
 - Proportion of pupils achieving at least five A*–C at GCSE and equivalent
- 5.2.1 We intend to expand this basket of indicators next year, building on those in the sub-regional economic assessment to include other aspects and when we have refreshed our community cohesion strategy and approach within the partnership to neighbourhood working.
- 5.3 **Level 2 indicators** – these show progress against the seven *One Leicester* priorities and are usually drawn from Leicester’s local area agreement and the 2008 residents’ survey
- Resident satisfaction with Leicester as a place to live
 - Life expectancy
 - Serious acquisitive crime rate
 - Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
 - Under 18 conception rate
- 5.4 **Level 3 indicators** – the other Local Area Agreement indicators most important to the high-level achievement of the priorities
- Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in Leicester
 - Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care
 - Early access for women to maternity services
- 5.5 **Level 4 indicators** - linked to citizen confidence and residents’ survey
- Percentage of people surveyed who feel they can influence decisions
 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together
- 5.6 This State of the City report focuses mainly on the performance of the indicators in levels 1, 2 and 3.

6. Leicester's Local Area Agreement

6.1 Leicester's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is an agreement between the Leicester Partnership and the Government for the period 2008-2011. The LAA covers a range of key issues for Leicester, and it contains 50 targets that the Leicester Partnership is committed to achieving by 2011.

6.2 Full details of the city's LAA can be found at: <http://www.oneleicester.com/leicester-partnership/leicesters-local-area-agreement>.

7. The city in brief

- 7.1 The largest city in the East Midlands, in its 28.3 square miles (72.3 square kilometres) Leicester contains an estimated 301,000 people and is ranked 10th for population size of 50 cities in the UK. The city's population is forecast to grow by 13,000 people (4.5%) over the next 25 years. 50.8% of the population is female and 49.2% male, meaning that Leicester's percentage female population is 0.2% higher than the East Midlands average but 0.1% below the national average.
- 7.2 Leicester's population is younger than the national average, with an average age of 35.5 compared to 38.7 for England and Wales as a whole. There is a smaller proportion of people aged over 65 than elsewhere in the country. The average age of the city's ethnic minority population is approximately 8 years younger than the average age of the white population. 54% of Leicester's school pupils have an ethnic minority background. Approximately 9,500 births and 5,700 deaths are registered in the city every year.
- 7.3 Around 40% of Leicester's population has an ethnic minority background. 28% of the city's people are Gujarati Indians, originally either from East Africa, especially Uganda and Kenya, or from Gujarat itself. Smaller communities in the city include the African Caribbean and Somali communities, which each make up around 3% of the population. 57% of Leicester people are white British.
- 7.4 Leicester has around 240 faith groups, drawn from 14 different faiths. 45% of Leicester people are Christian. 26% of the school-age population is Muslim and 15% Hindu. Around 70 languages or dialects are spoken in the city. As well as English, eight other languages are commonly spoken, including Gujarati (16%), Punjabi (3%), Somali (3%) and Urdu (2%).
- 7.5 Leicester ranks as the 20th most deprived local authority area in England, with three quarters of Leicester people living in deprived areas. This is significantly higher than the national average. Furthermore, Leicester has the most deprived areas in the country for income (St Matthews) and education (Braunstone). Other areas of significant deprivation include Beaumont Leys, New Parks, St Peters, St Marks, Mowmacre Hill and Stocking Farm.

8. Economic success

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Strong economic performance is the foundation of turning the *One Leicester* vision into reality over the next twenty-five years. This section looks at:

- Leicester's economy
- Transport
- Creating a sustainable city

8.2 Leicester's economy

8.2.1 Over the past decade Leicester has achieved steady economic growth. The city outperformed many British cities for new job creation and employment.

8.2.2 Like the rest of the UK, Leicester has been affected by the worldwide economic recession that started in late 2008. However, the city's economy has proved to be more resilient than those of many other cities, because Leicester has fewer larger employers and more small and medium enterprises (which make up two thirds of the city's economy). New businesses are created at slightly above the national average but also fail at a higher rate. Improving this situation is a key element of a new sub-regional economic strategy. Leicester is a very entrepreneurial city and its varied business base has stood it in good stead in the current difficult economic climate.

8.2.3 However, while Leicester is excellently positioned for further economic growth, substantial challenges remain. Unemployment is a major problem in the city – Leicester's unemployment rate has increased from 8.1% in 2006/07 to 12.8% in 2008/09. Some parts of Leicester have an unemployment rate that is twice the average for the city as a whole.

8.2.4 Income levels are considerably lower than both the regional and national averages. Skills are lower in Leicester than in many other parts of the country, with more people than average having no qualifications. School results are improving at all ages, but GCSE results still lag behind other areas. Performance at NVQ1 and 2 would need to improve by at least 12% to match what the schools supporting the leading UK city economies currently achieve. One third of businesses report skill shortages and the current low level of apprenticeship takes ups in the city needs to be addressed.

8.2.5 More positively, the spectacular regeneration of the city centre that has occurred in recent years has placed Leicester on a firm footing to benefit from the economic upturn when it occurs. Leicester is now a more attractive and modern city, with additional restaurants, bars and nightclubs contributing to a thriving night time economy. As a result, investors have been more confident about putting money into the city. The £350 million Highcross centre opened in 2008 and had 600,000 visitors in its first week. Leicester now competes effectively with Nottingham as a shopping destination.

Case study

The Highcross story

Highcross Leicester opened on 4 September 2008 bringing 120 new stores, 15 new restaurants and a 14-screen cinema complex to the city centre. The £350m centre attracted two million visitors in its first month of opening. The council supported this with a major refurbishment of the city's major streets, including extended pedestrian priority routes. The city climbed from 16th to 11th (out of 2,000) in the national retail Venuescore 2009 ranking largely as a result of this.

- 8.2.6 A major scheme to redevelop the area around Leicester station and create a new gateway into the city has been approved by the council. Proposals include creating a 30,000 sq m office quarter and quality hotel, along with a 500-space multi-level car park, new station concourse and entrance gateway on land near to the city's railway station. The scheme will create high-quality office space within easy reach of the railway network to London and the rest of the East Midlands and could create more than 2,000 jobs.
- 8.2.7 An eight-hectare Science and Innovation Park, on two sites next to the National Space Centre, will create opportunities for new companies to grow and for existing ones to move into the city. Preparation of the first of the two sites is now complete, with a new access road from the A6 to the National Space Centre complete and officially opened. The next stage of the development, structural landscaping, is underway and will create a tree-lined boulevard stretching the length of the road. The second site, the council owned former John Ellis school site, has been cleared for development.
- 8.2.8 The city also benefits from being home to two universities that have strong reputations for science, technology and creativity. Leicester also benefits from a central location and from good transport links.
- 8.2.9 The city has far more people employed in manufacturing, plant and elementary occupations than is the regional or national average. In common with many other areas, this has declined in recent years in favour of the service sector. Between 1987 and 2004 17,300 jobs were lost in manufacturing against 18,800 new jobs created in service sector employment. Just over 60% of these jobs were full time.
- 8.2.10 Leicester also has a higher than average level of public sector employment, which may mean that the city could suffer adversely from the longer-term effects of the recession in the future.

Employment by occupation (Oct 2007-Sep 2008)				
	Leicester City (numbers)	Leicester City (%)	East Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	38,300	30.8	38.5	43.2
1 Managers and senior officials	11,200	9.0	15.2	15.5
2 Professional occupations	13,100	10.5	11.2	13.0
3 Associate professional & technical	14,000	11.2	12.1	14.6
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	23,900	19.3	23.0	22.4
4 Administrative & secretarial	12,300	9.8	10.7	11.4
5 Skilled trades occupations	11,700	9.3	12.2	10.9
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	23,900	19.2	16.2	15.7
6 Personal service occupations	12,400	10.0	8.4	8.1
7 Sales and customer service occs	11,400	9.2	7.8	7.5
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	38,200	30.7	22.2	18.7
8 Process plant & machine operatives	17,400	13.9	8.8	7.1
9 Elementary occupations	20,800	16.7	13.4	11.5

Source: ONS annual population survey

- 8.2.11 Leicester has a lower than average number of people in banking, insurance and financial services. There is a relative lack of senior and professional occupations: this has various historic causes, but continuing to improve the city's educational performance should help attract more investment and higher level opportunities in the future. Improving educational standards is a central part of the *One Leicester* strategy and this is reflected in the high levels of investment in education over the past two years.
- 8.2.12 Leicester is also investing in its creative and cultural industries. The LCB Depot has been followed by the landmark Curve performing arts centre and Phoenix Square, all located in the growing cultural quarter in the heart of the city. As well as enabling Leicester to reap the benefits of the strengths of its universities in creative industries, these major investments have enhanced the city's appeal to visitors and private sector investors.

Case study

Leicester Creative Business Depot

Based on the site of the former city bus depot, Leicester Creative Business (LCB) Depot opened in July 2004 as the first project in Leicester's cultural quarter. The facility includes 55 managed workspaces, meeting and conference facilities and a public café bar. The team delivers a creative programme (gallery exhibitions and creative commissioning), hosts sector specific networks and events, and delivers specialist creative industries enterprise support programmes and creative learning initiatives with young people.

LCB Depot is home to a diverse range of creative sector organisations - creative services companies, not-for-profit and voluntary sector arts and cultural organisations, and several cultural sector development agencies - and acts as a network hub at the heart of a city wide network of around 700 creative sector companies and sector support agencies.

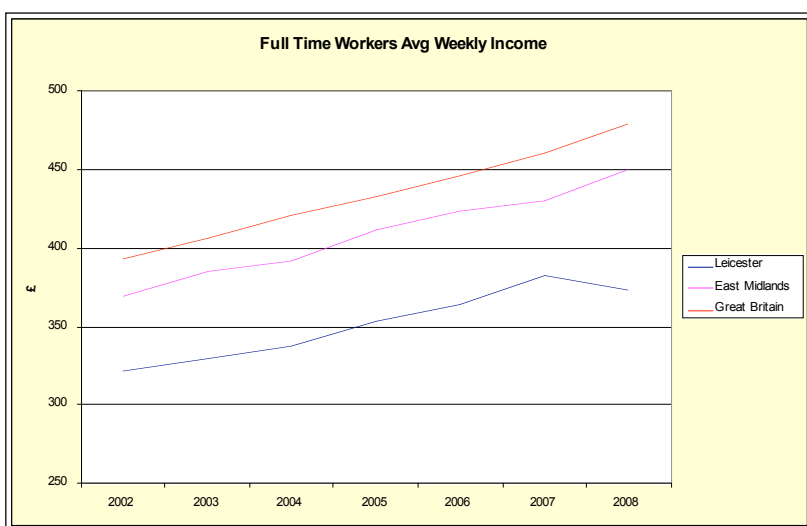
LCB Depot was awarded a RIBA Architectural Award in 2005. In 2009 it was the only project from the East Midlands named as a national Homes and Communities Award finalist.

- 8.2.13 One important factor is that more jobs in Leicester are gathered toward the lower end of the income scale. This can have a negative influence on the employment rate. Residential income for full time workers in Leicester is nearly £76 a week less than the regional average and nearly £106 a week less than the national average residential income. The average weekly residential income in 2007 for full time workers in Leicester was £383. This is greater than the average in the eight national 'core cities' (£344), but other factors like local costs of living and labour market composition need to be taken into account.
- 8.2.14 Average income in the city has risen over time, but not at the rate or to the extent needed to match regional or national trends. This is partly explained by the relative lack of growth in sectors like property, financial services and the other higher value, better paid occupations that have 'boomed' in some cities over the past decade. It is also explained by the lower levels of qualifications achieved by Leicester's workforce, compared to the workforces in the leading UK city economies. If Leicester is to catch up with regional and national income performance, there will need to be continued improvements in workforce qualifications, skills and earnings potential, particularly for those groups and communities that are furthest behind the UK average.

Level One: Earnings by residence (2008)

	Leicester City (pounds)	East Midlands (pounds)	Great Britain (pounds)
Gross weekly pay			
Full-time workers	373.8	449.6	479.3
Male full-time workers	384.2	494.4	525.0
Female full-time workers	358.0	380.4	412.7
Hourly pay			
Full-time workers	9.39	11.03	12.01
Male full-time workers	9.44	11.76	12.72
Female full-time workers	9.34	9.96	10.96
Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis			
Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area			

Average weekly income (full time)



- 8.2.15 Public services, led by the city council, are good at securing significant amounts of external funding to tackle unemployment and further regenerate the city. This has brought both jobs and qualifications for people in disadvantaged areas. In the four years to 2008, over 2,000 people were helped into work and over 4,000 gained qualifications. Almost 800 new jobs and 175 new businesses were created.
- 8.2.16 Before the onset of the recession, partners agreed a joint economic development plan with the Leicestershire county partnership, reflecting the close linkages between the city and county economies. This is part of the multi-area agreement with the government (one of the first in the country). The city and county councils have set up a development company, Prospect Leicestershire, to lead on developing the economy. Both authorities have agreed to use government grants for training and the creation of new jobs and businesses.

8.3 Transport

8.3.1 Keeping a major city like Leicester moving is an expensive and complex job. The upkeep of roads, street lighting, the replacement of ageing equipment, the increasing demands that come with population growth and more people owning cars all present challenges and opportunities for the city.

8.3.2 The numbers of Leicester residents travelling to work by bus, bicycle or on foot has increased and is higher than the national average. Although 40% of Leicester households do not own a car, there is still a considerable amount of road traffic into and out of the city each day – a major concern for local residents.

8.3.3 Population predictions suggest that 90,000 new homes will be needed across the city and county by 2026, meaning that present city transport infrastructure will not be able to cope with the increased demand. The city council has revealed plans for a new £67m bus station, work on which could start in 2014 if the project gets approval. The majority of the funding would come from the Government.

Priority/Indicator	Baseline	08/09	08/09	09/10	10/11
		Target	Actual	Target	Target
NI 167 * Congestion – average person journey time per mile during the morning peak	4.6 minutes per person mile (2004/5)	4.82*	4.58	4.87*	4.89*

8.3.4 The city council is also putting considerable resources into the development and renovation of the city’s main access routes. A new bus corridor on a main access route is being developed, as are four park and ride schemes, with the first two now open. Given the age of some key parts of Leicester’s infrastructure, the repair and, in some cases, replacement of key features such as bridges has also been a priority. The council is also part of the Midlands Highway Alliance, working with other local authorities to put in place joint contracts for highways improvement work that will save money and obtain better quality work from contractors.

8.3.5 ‘Planning for people not cars’ is one of the main priorities in the *One Leicester* strategy. The council included new pedestrian and cycle ways and traffic-free areas in the major improvements it has recently made to many streets and spaces in the city centre, complementing the Highcross development and the cultural quarter. More new walking and cycle networks and a new pedestrian area are to follow in the near future.

8.3.6 In addition, the council and the Leicester Partnership are encouraging the provision of new homes in mixed housing developments that can help reduce the need for travel. These new developments will provide a range of housing to suit different incomes and include properties for rent as well as those for purchase. They will also have a range of local services, such as schools, libraries, clinics and sports and recreational facilities as well as commercial and industrial developments. The council has secured two grants to build new housing in Leicester, and plans to build developments in Humberstone, Knighton Fields, Rowllatts Hill and New Parks.

8.4 Creating a sustainable city

- 8.4.1 Leicester has placed great importance over the years on becoming a sustainable city. In 2009 it was ranked fourth in the country and best in the East Midlands for overall sustainability in the sustainable cities index, coming ahead of major cities such as London and Manchester. This ranking was based on a basket of indicators, including quality of life, environment and future-proofing. The city council has also developed its approach to Fairtrade through formalising its policy on purchasing and procurement.
- 8.4.2 The aim of the Leicester Partnership is that Leicester should have the lowest carbon footprint of any major British city in the next 25 years – i.e. the lowest level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. In 2005 Leicester was calculated as emitting 2,088,000 tonnes per annum. This level is dropping as the latest figures for 2006 indicate that the city emitted just under 2 million tonnes of CO₂ (DECC). This is a relatively low figure compared to the rest of the East Midlands.
- 8.4.3 The 2008 Leicester city residents' survey showed that there was an inconsistent approach across the city to key environmental actions. So there is a future challenge to encourage residents right across Leicester to conserve energy, recycle, save water, install home insulation, switch off lights and electrical appliances when not in use and walk, cycle or use public transport instead of cars.
- 8.4.4 Improved approaches have been developed to environmental education in schools to encourage young people to recognise the importance of them playing their part in building a sustainable city. The implementation of the EMAS scheme in schools has also supported schools' approaches to environmental efficiency.
- 8.4.5 A long term approach is being taken to climate change and the part played in this by partner organisations' own carbon footprints. The council is working with businesses, hospitals and universities to reduce the amount of carbon produced and work programmes have been developed aimed at domestic, commercial, industrial and transport activities. The city council has led the way on this, significantly reducing the amount of its carbon emissions by cutting its use of electricity, water and mileage in council vehicles.
- 8.4.6 The aim of the Leicester Partnership is that from 2013 new buildings should be zero carbon – i.e. that they waste as little energy as possible for things like heating and lighting and so need to use less.
- 8.4.7 The city council owns and manages several district heating schemes supplying heat (and in some instances hot water) to around 2,800 council homes, nine nurseries and schools and a number of other council facilities. The council is aiming to extend and connect the four existing schemes serving the inner city to incorporate further council and other public buildings. This has the potential to include other private buildings, along with new buildings and developments introduced to the city. The combined heat and power (CHP) project will provide affordable, reliable and controllable heat, reduce carbon emissions for the council and the city, establish a secure and sustainable energy supply and have the potential to expand the benefits to other users, enabling them to connect to the network, contribute to carbon reduction in Leicester.
- 8.4.8 Existing council-owned homes are already among the most energy efficient in the country, thanks to improvements that have already been made. In the past year, around 1,600 council houses were fitted with double glazing to bring the total up to 21,000. Free loft and cavity wall insulation is available and 114 homes were insulated in 2008/9. Smart meters have also been installed.

- 8.4.9 Similar schemes run in the private sector. The 'hot lofts' partnership between the council and British Gas provides free insulation for private households. 1,394 homes were insulated in 2008/9 with plans for a further 1,700 in 2009/10. Other schemes include 'health through warmth' and 'warmer homes', which help older and vulnerable people to keep their homes warm. Energy Sense provides advice and information on making better use of energy in the home, with 130 home surveys being done in 2008/9. The council's Energy Vision provides interest free loans and 25 private home owners made use of this to improve their energy efficiency.

Case study

Hot lofts

The hot loft scheme has supported household to insulate as a measure to cut energy bills and to provide greater energy efficiency. This element of work was featured in an international energies conference in Guatemala in October 2008 in which Leicester's work both in the city and through its international twinning links with Nicaragua were featured. The work in Nicaragua in conjunction with Loughborough university and the Leicester Masaya group has focused on tackling issues of fuel poverty.

- 8.4.10 In addition, the Leicester Partnership has set up the Leicester Energy Agency, to provide advice to local organisations on renewable energy. An online car sharing service, Leicestershare.com, has also been established in partnership with De Montfort University, Leicester City Football Club, the University Hospitals of Leicester and many other local organisations.

9. The city as a place to live and work

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 The aim of the Leicester Partnership is that Leicester should be a place where people choose to live, work, study and visit, a place in which they are satisfied to live. This section looks at:

- A quality environment
- Housing
- Making communities safer
- Arts, leisure and culture

9.2 A quality environment

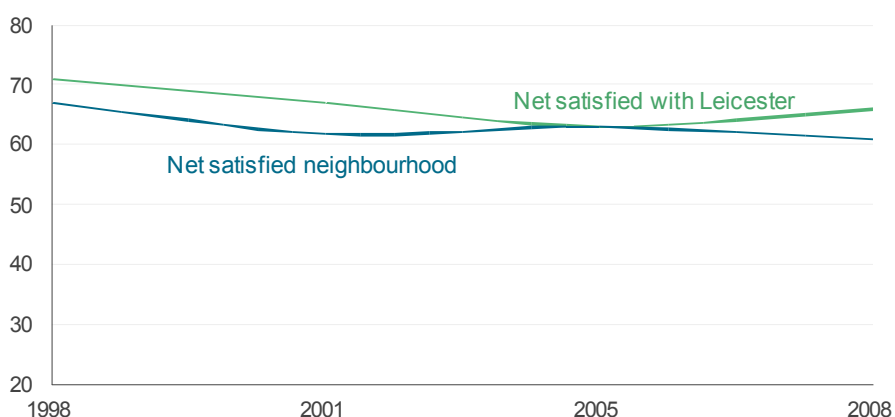
9.2.1 Overall, three quarters of Leicester residents are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

Question: Thinking about your neighbourhood, on the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with it as a place to live?

Very satisfied:	29%
Fairly satisfied:	46%
Neither/nor:	9%
Fairly dissatisfied:	10%
Very dissatisfied:	5%
Don't know:	1%

9.2.2 Satisfaction levels remain relatively unchanged since 2005, but are below the peak achieved in 1998. Compared with 2005, there is higher satisfaction with Leicester but a slight drop in residents' satisfaction with their local neighbourhoods. In comparison with similar local authority areas nationally Leicester performs relatively well for residents' satisfaction with the local area.

Net satisfaction with Leicester and neighbourhood



Base: 2,305 Leicester City Council residents, fieldwork dates: 2 July
Ipsos MORI

- 24 September 2008; 2005 (1,538); 2001 (1,535); 1998 (1,500)



- 9.2.3 Figures for 2008/09 show that waste recycling and composting rates had increased to over 30% (recycling 17.05% and composting 13.62%). Whilst this performance is below the average for England, it is comparable to performance in other similar cities (e.g. Nottingham 32.5%, Stoke 26.7%, Leeds 29.99%, Coventry 26.56%, Bradford 26.24% and Derby 43.15%). Non-urban authorities can usually achieve much higher rates because of their very nature and the fact that multi-bin systems with fortnightly collections tend to be the norm. In Leicester, performance to date in 2009/10 indicates that recycling & composting rates are close to 40%. The city still provides a weekly kerbside collection of both recyclables and residual waste and the council's waste collection and disposal costs are amongst the lowest in the country.
- 9.2.4 On top of this Leicester also diverts some of its waste for energy recovery; in 2008/09 the figure was 12.38%, giving a total landfill diversion rate of 43.05%. This compares favourably with similar cities that do not incinerate their waste e.g. Derby 43.46%, Leeds 30.05%, Bradford 26.24%.
- 9.2.5 The city council has recently invested additional resources in street cleaning, including a new 'cleaner city' team working in the city centre, hand-barrow teams in district shopping areas and additional graffiti removal. This has helped to improve standards of street cleanliness in the city.
- 9.2.6 The council's new city warden service has now been operating for just over a year. The service's primary objective is to work with local communities to improve the quality of the local street environment, as well as helping to deliver the *One Leicester* policy of zero tolerance towards vandalism, litter and graffiti. The service has also started to tackle the problem of bins left on streets. For the first time the city has a dedicated team that can utilise some of the fixed penalty notice powers available in relation to these issues.
- 9.2.7 In their first year, city wardens undertook over 8,000 investigations and issued approximately 600 fixed penalty fines and statutory notices, as well as removing over 14,000 posters & illegal signs on the highway. The city warden service is being rolled-out city-wide in 2010, with the number of wardens increasing from nine to 22, which should see further dramatic improvements in the local street environment over the next two years.
- 9.2.8 Leicester City Council is currently developing a new biodiversity action plan for 2010-2020. The plan identifies the action that is needed to safeguard the habitats and species that are locally or regionally important. The actions should not only benefit the condition of a habitat or the status of a particular species, but will have a wider benefit to both people and wildlife. The plan fully incorporates the benefits of contact with nature and green space in terms of people's well being, including health, emotional and developmental benefits.
- 9.2.9 As well as the obvious urban environment, Leicester has a number of other important habitats that include neutral grasslands, parkland, woodlands, rivers and streams. These habitats have been designated as local nature reserves or local wildlife sites in recognition of their local importance to wildlife. They support a vast range of characteristic and rare species, such as the otter, which has been regularly recorded throughout the city's watercourses.
- 9.2.10 The Leicester Partnership is looking to make the city more attractive by making it greener. The council is increasing the number of trees in public spaces such as streets, parks and cemeteries by 50% by 2011 – by planting an extra 10,000 trees. 3,000 were planted in the past year alone.

9.3 Housing

- 9.3.1 Quality housing is essential to quality of life. Currently there is not enough housing in Leicester that people can afford and not enough of the right sort of housing for some residents. The Leicester Partnership has calculated that an additional 790 affordable homes are needed each year to meet demand in the city. Most of the extra homes need to be available to rent, with some affordable homes for purchase. There is a shortage not just of two, three and four bedroom houses for families, but also of suitable homes for older and disabled people who need additional support. Although the waiting list for social housing has reduced, it is still high.
- 9.3.2 The Leicester Partnership and the council are working to meet the demand. 132 new affordable homes were created in 2008/9. The recession has affected the numbers of new homes being built, but government funding is being used to speed up developments. Planning is well underway for 3,500 homes on council-owned land at Ashton Green in the north-west of the city. New housing is also planned for Humberstone, Knighton Fields, Rowlatts Hill and New Parks.
- 9.3.3 The number of private properties in Leicester that have stood empty for at least six months exceeds the average for England. Partners are working to bring this type of property back into use to address housing shortages.
- 9.3.4 People experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless get good support in Leicester. In recent years the council has introduced new ways of working to prevent homelessness occurring. These include a dedicated housing options appointment system to ensure that people are seen early by a housing options officer and a new home visiting service and outreach surgeries introduced in partnership with Connexions and the probation service. Rather than just waiting on the council's list, the Leicesterlet homefinder and rent deposit guarantee schemes help people access the private rented sector more easily. For those experiencing homelessness, the Dawn Centre provides temporary accommodation, support, advice and assistance on health, housing, life skills and education under one roof.
- 9.3.5 In terms of the standard of housing, there is a double story. Most council housing is energy efficient and of a good standard following concerted work over a number of years; of the 22,378 council properties, by the end of 2008/9 only 4.3% required further work to bring them in line with the Government's decent home standard. In 2008/9 the council installed 915 new kitchens, 912 new bathrooms and 241 new windows and doors in tenants' homes. It also rewired 993 properties. A £26 million programme is ensuring that the remaining 'non-decent' properties are being improved in 2009/10. This will enable the city to meet the national target of zero non-decency by 2010. However, properties continue to age and inevitably some will become 'non-decent' over time. The council's capital programme contains an allocation of £47 million to deal with this and other work over the next two years. More money will be spent as required in the future.
- 9.3.6 By contrast, much of the private housing in Leicester was built before the first world war. Almost half is estimated not to be in a good standard and it is felt that around 9,000 private homes fail to meet the decent homes standard. 395 privately owned homes were made decent during 2008/09 with support from the council and a further 350 are targeted for 2009/10.

9.4 Making communities safer

- 9.4.1 The Leicester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership brings together the key public sector agencies with the aim of implementing a crime reduction strategy across the city. Feeling safe from crime is a major issue for people coming into the city, and working to reduce overall crime as defined by the British Crime Survey is a key priority.
- 9.4.2 The level of crime in Leicester, like most urban areas, is high compared to other parts of the country. In September 2009 total crime was the highest in the East Midlands, and the city has been adjudged as not reducing crime as fast as other similar areas.
- 9.4.3 However, this headline figure conceals a more mixed pattern. Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Leicester fell by 27.5% from 2006/07 to 2007/08, and the number of assaults with injury fell by 7% over the same period. Progress has been made on reducing offences of theft involving vehicles and other forms of property and money.
- 9.4.4 In 2008/9 the city's total violent crime rate was the highest in comparison to 14 similar areas and its burglary and sexual offences rates were the second worst. Domestic burglary offences increased by 17% for the period April-August 2008 compared with the same period in 2006/07. Following a fall in the numbers of robberies over the previous three financial years, there was an increase in 2008/09, although the figures are again falling following successful interventions. More work is needed to bring figures down to pre-2008/09 levels and to bring us closer to other similar areas.
- 9.4.5 Crimes where the victims say that there was a racial or religious aspect to the offence are the highest in both the East Midlands and areas similar to Leicester. The rate is more than twice that in the next highest area in the East Midlands. It is also higher than areas with similarly diverse populations. The rate may be higher in Leicester because there is a higher level of reporting of these offences than in some other parts of the country, reflecting confidence among victims that action will be taken. Leicestershire Constabulary has a good understanding of these types of crimes and their investigative procedures are robust and conviction rates high. The council has created new posts to support victims and work with offenders.
- 9.4.6 Crime is being tackled by the police and other partners through a variety of approaches. Work is underway in neighbourhoods to increase people's confidence in how local problems are being tackled. Work is also being undertaken with offenders to try and stop them re-offending, both those involved in petty offences and those leaving prison. The police have increased patrols and the council has increased security in areas where crime is especially high, for instance by installing sensor lighting and security gates to alleyways. The family intervention project is working with those families that commit the most anti-social behaviour.
- 9.4.7 Leicester suffers more from alcohol-related violent crime than anywhere else in the East Midlands and the city is second in the region for sexual offences attributable to alcohol. A recent national Home Office list of the top 50 most challenged areas in respect of NI 20 (assault with less serious injury) and NI 41 (perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour) lists Leicester City as 27th. However NI 20 figures for 2008/09 showed a 12% reduction over the previous year and the figure is currently reducing this year in line with targets. Further work is necessary to bring us closer to other similar areas of the country.
- 9.4.8 Evidence suggests that 45% of the 600 offenders currently supervised in Leicester have a problem with alcohol; 135 of these are identified as dependent drinkers. Alcohol is linked to offending for 65% of domestic violence offenders, 51% of

prolific and priority offenders and 60% of offenders who are subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements.

- 9.4.9 Action is being taken to reduce the nuisance caused by people who have drunk too much alcohol. The 'Best Bar None' initiative is helping reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the city centre. Across the city, partners are making sure that licensing regulations are being followed and that alcohol is not being supplied to those younger than the legal age limit.

Case study

Best Bar None

The aim of Best Bar None is to promote responsible management of licensed premises and in doing so, recognise good practice. Ensuring our city is a safe and enjoyable place to enjoy a night out is vital to the economic growth and sustainability of the region.

Leicester's scheme has won a national award for being the most innovative in the country. As a direct result of this, the annual Best Bar None conference was held in Leicester in October 2009.

Once again, the scheme has been made possible by the collaboration between Leicester City Council, Leicestershire Constabulary and the local licensed trade. The scheme actively promotes a safer, more secure environment in which to enjoy yourself in the city.

Best Bar None aims to reward venues that are well managed and that take customer safety seriously.

- 9.4.10 The latest problem drug use reports from the University of Glasgow suggest that around 2,750 problematic drug users live in Leicester. 1,329 of these people were engaged in treatment in 2007/08. A profile of wards has been built which indicates that the wards with the highest levels of need include Abbey, Beaumont Leys, New Parks and Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields. More treatment has recently been made available to drug users in the city, and serious crime linked to drugs has significantly reduced as a result of a drug intervention project.
- 9.4.11 Partners are working hard to try to keep young people from crime and have achieved some spectacular results. Starting in the areas where youth crime is highest, and with those young people at greatest risk, partners have developed restorative approaches in neighbourhoods (RAIN), where the victim and young person are brought together to resolve problems. Feedback indicates that over 90% of victims are satisfied with how matters are dealt with in the scheme. From 2007/8 to 2008/9 there was a 35% reduction in the number of young people being cautioned or appearing in court, while re-offending rates are also lower. The numbers of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system was reduced from 946 in 2007 to 350 in 2008. This compared with a reduction of just 5% achieved by areas similar to Leicester.
- 9.4.12 Over half of all youth crimes is committed by just a small minority of young people and in these cases partners use intensive supervision and surveillance as well as help and support.

9.5 Arts, leisure and culture

- 9.5.1 Satisfaction with arts and entertainment in Leicester has increased significantly since 2005, with 72% now saying they are satisfied (2008 residents' survey). Just over half (54%) of all residents are satisfied with Leicester museums and this figure rises to 85% among those who have attended a museum or gallery in the last 12 months. 76% of theatre and concert hall-goers are happy with the service they receive.

- 9.5.2 Regarding parks and open spaces, 78% are satisfied and 15% dissatisfied – figures broadly in line with the 2005 findings. 71% of users of sports and leisure facilities are satisfied, with 14% dissatisfied. Again, this does not represent a significant change from 2005.
- 9.5.3 In 2008, there were 5.7 million visits to arts, leisure and cultural facilities in Leicester. The council has placed an emphasis on ensuring that ‘hard to reach’ groups are able to participate in these opportunities, which has borne fruit. In 2008, 38% of visitors and users came from ethnic minority communities, 10% had a disability, 35% were aged under 16, 14% were senior citizens and over half come from social backgrounds C2, D and E. The council’s work in this area was recognised by a ‘Libraries Change Lives’ award for its work with asylum seekers and refugees
- 9.5.4 The spectacular new developments in the city centre have also proved popular. Attendance at Curve is already at around 150,000; the flagship venue also won an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).
- 9.5.5 Phoenix Square – Leicester’s new £21m digital media centre - opened in late 2009. It features cinema screens, creative spaces, digital arts facilities and new apartments.
- 9.5.6 Leicester was awarded the title of European City of Sport in 2008, and now ranks as a major European centre for sporting excellence and good practice. This award recognised the quality and levels of investment in events and facilities in the city. Leicester is also the East Midlands’ lead for Renaissance in the Region.

Case study

The Creative Gardening Initiative

Creative Gardening used the Belgrave Hall complex and gardens as a way to improve the lives and well being of local communities.

The community allotment group met each week, working on the newly refurbished Alpine House in the gardens of Belgrave Hall. They potted up hundreds of alpine plants, shovelled three tonnes of gravel onto the benches and provided visitors to the museum with a beautiful display of alpine flowers.

Members of allotment group continued with their community allotment and worked together growing and sharing vegetables after the project came to an end.

The project included digital photography workshops. These helped the group build on their new skills. A pruning workshop was held in the gardens that let people ‘have a go’ at pruning roses and fruit trees, with advice from an expert.

The Creative Gardening project was recognised by Leicester environment partnership at the annual Leicester Greenlife Award ceremony for its positive contribution to the environment.

10. Reaching full potential

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 Many factors combine to provide Leicester people with the opportunities to reach their full potential in education and employment. This section looks at:

- Investing in skills and enterprise
- Investing in our children
- Improving health and wellbeing

10.2 Investing in skills and enterprise

10.2.1 The employment rate for Leicester is 65.3%. While this is lower than the national rate (74%), it is consistent with that of other cities and locations of comparable size and demography with similar economies. Unsurprisingly, the recession has affected jobs in the city, with the number of people claiming out-of-work benefits rising from around 31,500 in May 2007 to approximately 35,500 in May 2009.

10.2.2 However, there are significant numbers of economically inactive people in the city, who say that they do not wish to work. Over 20% of the working age population is economically inactive, compared to 15% in the East Midlands as a whole and 16% nationally.

10.2.3 Leicester's unemployment rate is higher than the rest of the country and the gap is increasing. Unemployment is not evenly spread across the city: it is almost twice the city average in some neighbourhoods.

10.2.4 Public sector organisations, led by the council, have been successful in securing significant amounts of outside money to tackle unemployment. In the four years up to 2008, over 2,000 people were helped into work, while almost 800 new jobs and 175 new businesses were created.

Case study

New jobs at Highcross

Leicester Partnership was very successful in helping people from the most disadvantaged groups and areas of the city secure the new jobs created by the opening of Highcross. The Highcross recruitment fair held in June 2008 attracted 5,500 jobseekers and helped them to decide what types of jobs to train for. An interview guarantee scheme with employers ensured that people trained to the right level received interviews. Of the 2,075 jobs created in Highcross, 825 were secured by residents from deprived parts of the city. Of these 825, 600 were previously unemployed, while 106 were lone parents and two thirds were in target minority ethnic groups. This approach will also be used to help local people get jobs in construction, catering and other service industries.

10.2.5 Skill levels of adults in Leicester are lower than the national average and again the gap is widening. One third of businesses report skills shortages and the current low level of apprenticeship takes ups in the city needs to be addressed.

10.2.6 The city is below national and regional averages for qualifications attained, and more people than average have no qualifications. However, this is not an exact measure of qualifications in the city workforce, as many people who work Leicester live outside the city. 71,000 people commute into Leicester while 27,500 commute out to work elsewhere.

Qualifications (Jan 2007-Dec 2007)

	Leicester City (numbers)	Leicester City (%)	East Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	41,700	22.2	25.5	28.6
NVQ3 and above	67,600	36.0	44.1	46.4
NVQ2 and above	95,800	51.0	62.6	64.5
NVQ1 and above	122,500	65.2	78.2	78.1
Other qualifications	24,500	13.1	8.4	8.8
No qualifications	40,800	21.7	13.5	13.1

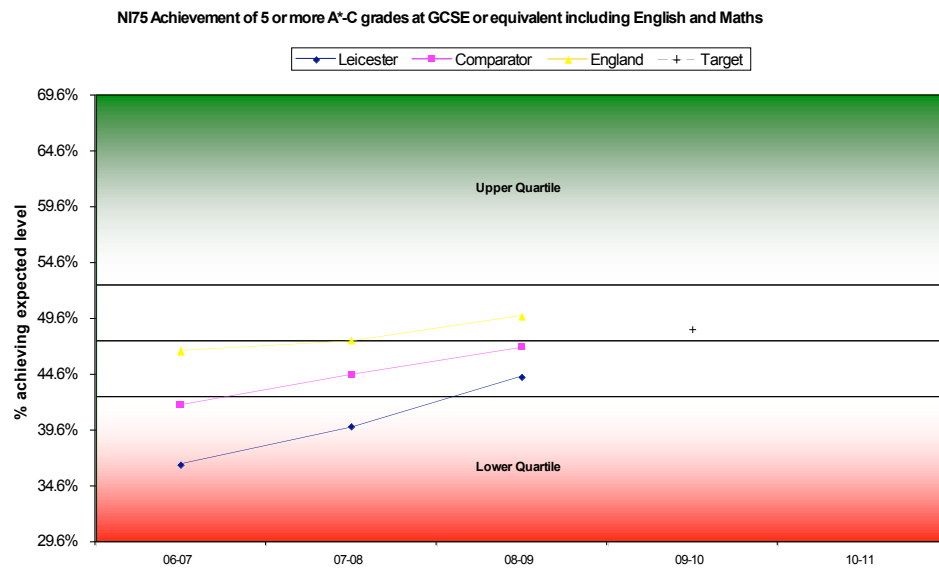
- 10.2.7 A new £10m+ multi-access centre programme, funded from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, will help get people back into employment, with advice on a wide range of job, benefit and welfare-related issues. Existing centres at the Leicester Adult Education College and in Highfields will be followed by six new centres across the city in areas of high unemployment.
- 10.2.8 School results are improving at all ages, but GCSE results lag behind other areas. Performance at NVQ1 and 2 would need to improve by at least 12% to match what the schools supporting the leading UK city economies currently achieve. One third of businesses report skill shortages

10.3 Investing in our children

- 10.3.1 Both the Leicester Partnership and the council want to give all Leicester children the best possible start in life through good education. The aim is to close the gaps in achievement between children in the city and those in the rest of the country and among children from different backgrounds.
- 10.3.2 Test and exam results are improving at all ages and the attainment gap between children in the city and those in the rest of the country continues to narrow. At secondary school age, Leicester has made good progress in raising standards for most pupils, with 44.4% achieving five or more good GCSEs, including English and maths, in summer 2009. The significant rise in GCSE results for 16-year olds continues a strong trend of improvement over the last four years. While results remain below national averages, if the current rate of improvement continues, the city would be in sight of achieving a level of performance comparable to similar authorities in summer 2010 or 2011.
- 10.3.3 Results for 11-year olds are better than ever and are now almost matching those of cities and other areas similar to Leicester. The number of pupils gaining a level 4 in both English and mathematics now stands at 68%. Although standards remain below the national average, there is a strong trajectory of improvement.

NI75 – Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths

Baseline Information

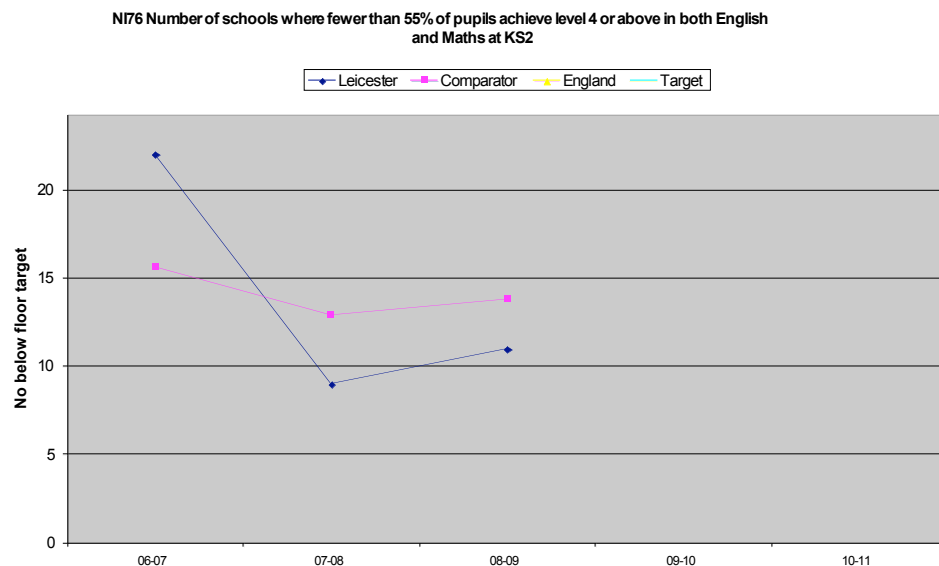


Academic Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
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Agreed targets	48.0%	48.6%	55%
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NI76 – Number of schools where fewer than 55% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2

Baseline Information



Academic year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
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Agreed targets	5	5	0
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- 10.3.4 The gap in attainment between all children and those entitled to free school meals is narrower in Leicester than it is nationally, and ethnic minority pupils generally make good progress. However the gap between boys and girls in primary school remains a concern and too few boys from the poorest neighbourhoods are achieving their potential at school. The council, schools and other partners are working together to step up the level of targeted support for reading and writing to help narrow this gap.

Case study

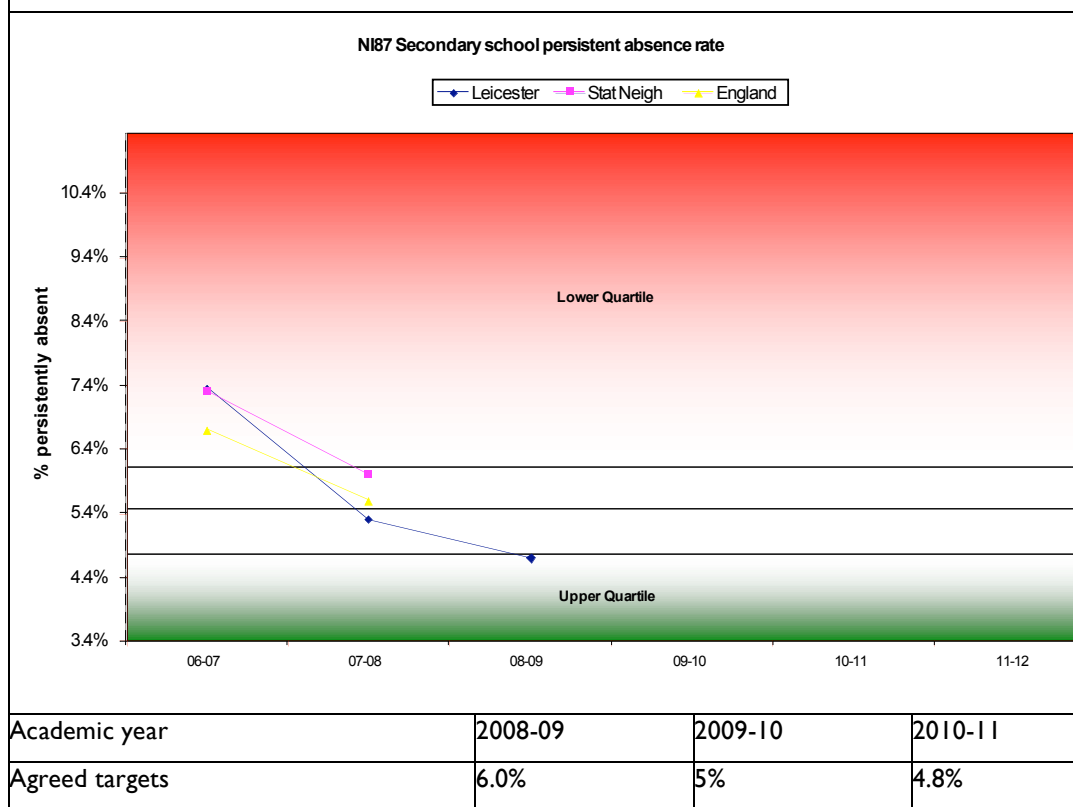
Aqoon Community and Education Services

Aqoon Community & Education Services, based in Highfields, was set up in April 2003 to promote education in Leicester's black and minority ethnic communities. Founded by a group of Somali professionals, Aqoon's work includes providing educational activities for newly arrived families and their children, such as homework and study clubs, family learning and basic skills for adults. It is a not-for-profit, democratically structured co-operative enterprise which works with partners such as the Community Action Network, Somali Development Service and local primary schools. Aqoon receives funding from a variety of different sources, including Leicester City Council.

- 10.3.5 The city has focused not just on the performance of individuals but also on the performance of schools. In 2008 a robust local authority policy was approved to support and intervene in schools deemed to be falling short of required expectations. Significant investment has been made to enable the implementation of this policy.
- 10.3.6 The investment and effort put in during recent years is now paying off. The number of schools in Ofsted categories is now down to six, as against 22 in 2007. Inspections show that many more primary and secondary schools are doing well. Most sixth forms and special schools also show good results. Attainment in city schools in deprived parts of the city has increased. From November 2007, over £10 million has been invested in additional support as a result of the partnership between the council, schools and professional associations drawing on the dedicated schools grant and resources from the council and central government.
- 10.3.7 Leicester does have five secondary schools subject to the National Challenge, four of which were below the GCSE results floor target of 30% in 2008. Following formal consultation, the authority has agreed to the closure of one school and has plans in place to support the necessary improvement in the others.
- 10.3.8 The council is improving schools in a number of ways. Government funding is being used to replace or refurbish Leicester's secondary schools through the Building Schools for the Future initiative. Four new schools are already open. The council has been getting external help to improve how both children and teachers learn. This work will continue to reduce the gaps in performance between different groups of pupils.
- 10.3.9 Considerable progress has been made in recent years to reduce the persistent absence rate in city schools and permanent exclusions are now almost non-existent. Four years ago absenteeism for secondary schools was poor (and placed the city toward the bottom of the national league table). Now performance is considerably better than that achieved by comparable local authorities. Steps to reduce persistent absenteeism continue to be taken.

NI87 – Secondary school persistent absence rate

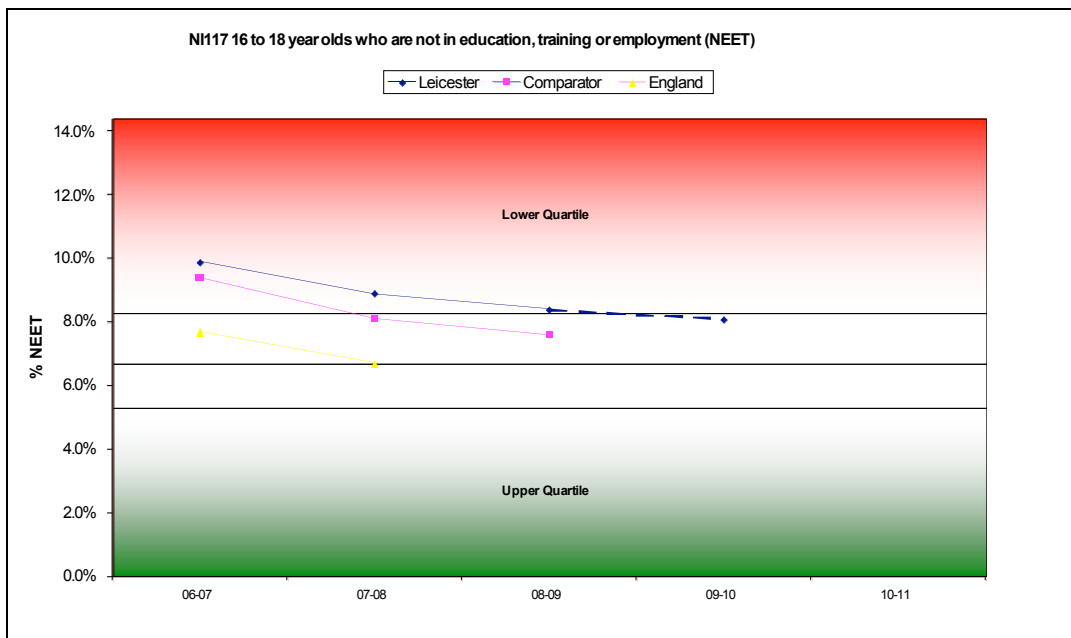
Baseline Information



10.3.10 The number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training has fallen to around the national average. Currently there are around 900 young people in this position. There are differences in rates between young people from different backgrounds.

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training

Priority/Indicator	Baseline	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	09/10 Target	10/11 Target
NI 117 * 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	8.9% Nov 07-Jan 08 average	8.4%**	8.4%	8.1%**	7.7%**



Case Study

Fullhurst

In Braunstone, using capital funding from the Braunstone New Deal funding, a specialist centre for young people has been developed on the site of Fullhurst School. The centre, which provides vocational training in construction, motor engineering and literacy and numeracy development, supports 190 young people each week to build their skills and work towards vocational qualifications. This is a creative partnership between the Braunstone community, the local school and the council.

10.3.11 Progress has been made on increasing the number of children benefiting from early years provision. In the past too many children, particularly those from more disadvantaged communities, were disadvantaged at the start of their school lives from not having had pre-school experience. Early years' provision in Leicester is generally of good quality. Although the number of providers of early years services (usually nursery schooling, childcare and childminding) has reduced since 2005 the number of places has increased by 7.9%, putting the city ahead of the national average. Access to nursery education for eligible three to four year olds is also in line with the national average. Maintaining and improving the quality of early years' provision is a priority as this is the foundation for future educational achievement. Much work has been done to co-locate children's centres onto school sites and build good quality foundation stage provision.

Case study

Q cards quality work

To support early year's settings in developing good quality provision early year's staff have produced a range of support services. These include a resource pack to promote good practice on the curriculum content. The resource builds on the theme that quality matters and provides advice, guidance and support for early year's providers in meeting the standards set out by Ofsted. Along with network meetings to support providers to share practice, development and learning opportunities these visual aids support providers to recognise that the early years are critical to long term success.

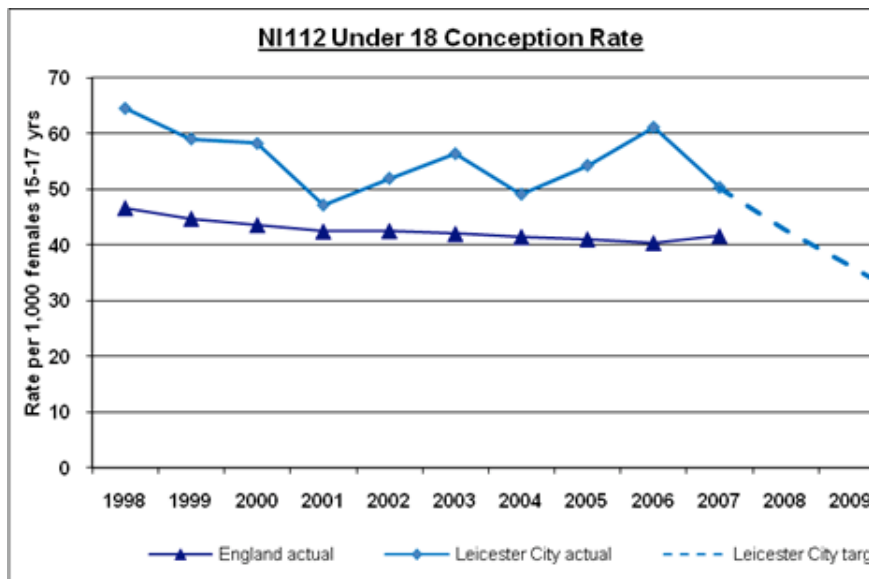
10.3.12 Ofsted rates children's services in Leicester, including education, social care and child protection, as adequate overall. Services to make sure children are safe and protected from harm are good, as are services for those children who are looked after by the council. There are fewer serious road accidents involving children, but more children are being admitted to hospital because of other injuries.

10.4 Improving wellbeing and health

- 10.4.1 Leicester has had significant health problems for many years. The health of the city's people is generally worse than in many other parts of the country. Although life expectancy is improving it is not improving as fast as elsewhere in the country, even when Leicester is compared to other places that have similar problems.
- 10.4.2 Mortality rates in the city are at least 20% higher than they should be. On average, men in Leicester live two-and-a-half years less than men elsewhere in the country, and women two years less. The level of deaths of children aged under one year is reducing but is higher than the national average. A higher proportion of babies are born with low or very low birth rates than in other parts of the country.
- 10.4.3 Cardio-vascular disease, including coronary heart disease, heart failure and stroke, remains the single biggest cause of death in Leicester (32.4%), followed by cancer (23.4%).
- 10.4.4 Diabetes rates in Leicester are twice the national average, but people from the city's south Asian communities are three or four times more likely to have diabetes than the white population and, although difficult to quantify, there are a substantial number of premature deaths, mainly from heart disease and stroke, where diabetes is an important contributory factor.
- 10.4.5 Lifestyle and hereditary factors contribute to this shortening of life. It is estimated that 13,500 years of potential life are lost to Leicester's under-75 population every year, in large part the result of smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, lack of exercise and poor diet.
- 10.4.6 27% of city adults are obese, as are 10% of 5-6 year old children and 18% of 10-11 year-olds. 23% of adults smoke, with around 425 smoking related deaths each year. Around 22% of the adult population drink over the recommended limits, with 17% of adults regularly binge drinking.
- 10.4.7 In 2008/09, over 6500 admissions were attributable to alcohol. Leicester has the 22nd highest alcohol-related hospital admission rate in the country (out of 354 local authority areas) and the second highest in the East Midlands. Alcohol related hospital admissions have doubled in the last five years, costing the NHS around £10 million a year in the cost of bed occupation alone. The seriousness of these figures is emphasised by the fact that Leicester has more people who do not drink alcohol than elsewhere in England.
- 10.4.8 Poor health is not spread evenly across the city's neighbourhoods and communities. People living in the most deprived areas are the most likely to die prematurely, with men in these areas dying on average six years younger than those in the least deprived neighbourhoods.
- 10.4.9 Smoking rates, for instance, are much higher in deprived areas. The level of deaths among older people increases significantly during winter months (by an average of 20% between 2003 and 2006). However, in the most affluent parts of the city there was an 11% increase while there was a 24% increase in the most disadvantaged areas. Too many people in Leicester end up being admitted to hospital when better

health services at an earlier stage would have prevented this. Again, too many of these people come from the most deprived parts of the city.

- 10.4.10 People with disabilities in Leicester are in the lowest income bracket and often experience the worst housing conditions in areas of multiple deprivation. 47% of city people with disabilities experience mental ill-health.



- 10.4.11 Teenage pregnancy rates in Leicester are much higher than the England average. There is a national target to reduce teenage pregnancy rates from 1998 baseline by 55% by 2010 (1998: 64.6, 2010:29.1). Though there have been recent improvements this remains a very challenging target, with nearly half of Leicester's wards showing higher rates than England; more resources are being deployed to further reduce the rate.

Case study

Hey Babe

In 2009 NHS Leicester together with the Local Authority launched a viral video to combat teenage pregnancy. Building on ideas from young people, who said that to give them messages they would take away the medium had to be powerful, either shocking or funny, the video showed footage shot from a mobile phone. The scene involving actors, showed a young girl giving birth on a school playing field. Over the course of three weeks the video got three million hits worldwide and was featured on national and international media.

- 10.4.12 People in some parts of the city find it hard to access health services. Three new GP practices have been opened in the areas where need is greatest. Seeing an NHS dentist is more difficult than it should be and the rates of dental decay in Leicester are higher than the national average.
- 10.4.13 Services aimed at preventing disease are not reaching enough people in the city. The Leicester Partnership is investing in health screening, for example for heart disease and strokes, but further work is needed on taking the blood pressure of more people. Services to manage diabetes are insufficient given the large number of people in the city with the condition.

- 10.4.14 The Leicester Partnership is working to help people live healthy lifestyles. Progress has been made in people stopping smoking, but more needs to be done on giving advice on weight. The 'healthy weight and healthy lives' initiative introduced in 2009 will help to address this.
- 10.4.15 The council has invested in sports facilities and introduced a number of initiatives such as free swimming for under-16s, the 3x30 initiative (a three-year project aiming to increase the numbers of over-16s taking part in physical activity and sport and encouraging them to undertake three 30 minute activities each week) and the development of outdoor gyms at Braunstone and Evington Parks. An £11m investment in a programme to transform grassroots football across the city is also underway. But too few children are physically active and the numbers of adults taking part in sport has fallen, in contrast with the national picture.
- 10.4.16 Although drug and alcohol misuse is higher than the national average, Leicester has good substance misuse services. Good progress is being made on reducing the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions and more drug users are being treated. The city council, together with Leicestershire County Council and the local NHS, are involved in the Total Place project looking at how money is spent in tackling drugs and alcohol, with a view to improving the quality and effectiveness of these services.
- 10.4.17 To reduce health inequalities, the city council and the local NHS have agreed an improvement action plan and implementing this will be a priority.

11. Individual and collective self esteem

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 A key aim of the *One Leicester* strategy is that Leicester people should have happier and more satisfied lives and live in thriving, confident and caring communities where people respect each other. As one of the most diverse cities in the country, it is vital that Leicester continues to take forward its strong track record in building community cohesion. It is also important that every resident has the best possible chance of living an independent, happy and fulfilled life. The city's adult social care services in particular support people in having independent lives. This section looks at:

- Supporting vulnerable residents
- Building community cohesion
- Building active communities

11.2 Supporting vulnerable residents

11.2.1 The council's adult social care services have been adjudged to be performing well. Partners, including voluntary sector organisations, are doing some excellent work to enable people who need care to get personalised services. More older people and people with disabilities are being helped to live independently. More people are taking control of their own care arrangements through direct payments so they can decide what support will be of most benefit to them. People from all communities are influencing the development and delivery of services.

11.2.2 A major transformation of adult social care services is currently underway. The changes are a result of Putting People First, a new directive from the Department of Health, which recognises that care services need to be personalised to individuals. The council's aim is to give people:

- greater choice and control
- a wider range of services to help improve quality of life for the whole community
- better variety of service providers from the independent and voluntary sectors
- quick and easy access to services
- support to promote independence and help people to remain in their own homes
- excellent, easy to understand information that is accessible
- advice so that people can make informed choices
- a flexible approach to the way services respond to people's needs.

11.2.3 The council is committed to ensuring that more older people and adults with either physical disabilities or mental health problems are able to live in their homes. Services for people who are dying will be improved, and adaptations to the homes of those with physical disabilities will be done more quickly. The council is working with partners to ensure that the additional 1,000 extra care units of accommodation that are needed will be provided; of these, 450 will be social housing.

- 11.2.4 The council has taken a lead by employing people with a learning disability. In 2009 Leicester held the national Special Olympics; it is the only city to have done this twice.

11.3 Building community cohesion

- 11.3.1 Leicester is the 11th most diverse local authority area and the most diverse city in England. More than three quarters of Leicester residents think that their area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Whilst this is below the national average, it is very high for areas with large, ethnically-diverse populations, with only a couple of London boroughs achieving slightly higher scores.

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?

Definitely agree:	25%
Tend to agree	52%
Tend to disagree:	11%
Definitely disagree:	7%
All the same background:	1%
Don't know:	4%

Source: Ipsos Mori Leicester City Council Residents Survey 2008

- 11.3.2 When these answers are broken down between the various communities within the city, some differences emerge. Asian residents were more likely to agree than white residents that people from different backgrounds get on well. People in work were more positive about this than people not in work, while more older residents felt that people got on well together than younger residents.
- 11.3.3 In terms of a sense of belonging, Leicester residents are becoming more likely to identify with the city or the country than they are with their own street. Older residents and Asian residents are the most likely to identify with their street, while younger residents and residents in higher social categories are the least likely to identify either with their street or the city.
- 11.3.4 Leicester does good work in helping people newly arrived to the city, such as refugees and asylum seekers, to settle and feel welcome. Citizenship and English classes are held in libraries, while help and advice is provided to enable people to find accommodation and safety advice is given by the fire service.
- 11.3.5 Leicester is rightly renowned for the scale and quality of its festivals and events, which both celebrate different faiths, cultures and communities and bring the city's people together, including the largest Diwali celebrations outside India. There is also an annual comedy festival, the Riverside Festival and the Heritage Festival, as well as music festivals in De Montfort Hall and its gardens. In 2008 Summer Sundae was voted the best small festival in the country, while in 2009 there was a week-long celebration of St George's Day events. Other activities specifically aimed at building community cohesion also take place, such as a 'making it real' event on creating strong and cohesive communities.

11.4 Building active communities

- 11.4.1 The Leicester Partnership has an active community engagement strategy, to enable neighbourhoods and communities of interest to influence what is happening in the city. The council has now developed regular meetings in each ward across the city, led by the local councillors and attended by other partners such as the police.

These give residents the opportunity to raise local issues and directly question providers, increasing the sense of belonging in neighbourhoods. As part of this initiative, key frontline services such as environmental services, are being made more locally responsive. Following a successful pilot, each ward will now have a dedicated street warden to identify and tackle problems such as graffiti and fly-tipping.

11.4.2 Around one in five Leicester residents gives unpaid help to local groups, clubs or organisations, with 45% doing so at least once a week. One in ten residents participates in groups that made decisions affecting their local area.

11.4.3 Leicester benefits from a strong, vibrant and diverse voluntary and community sector. The latest figures indicate that over one in five Leicester people give unpaid help to groups, clubs or organisations, with nearly half of these helping out at least once a week.

12. Managing the council's finances

12.1 This section of the report provides a summary of the council's financial performance for 2008/09 and our spending plans for 2009/10 and beyond.

12.2 Summary of the year

12.2.1 The council's spending in 2008/09 amounted to £1 billion - around £2.7m every day of the year. £0.9bn paid for day to day running costs of services like schools, museums, parks and care for older people. £0.1bn was invested in capital projects such as Curve and a programme of rebuilding and reinvesting in our secondary schools.

Bird's eye view of spending

	£bn		£bn
Children and education	0.4	Government grants	0.8
Adult social care	0.1	Council tax	0.1
Housing benefits	0.1	Fees, charges and other income	0.1
Other services	0.2		
Housing revenue account	0.1		
Capital projects	0.1		
Total Spending	1.0	Total Income	1.0

12.2.2 The council's track record of effective budget management and early identification of budget pressures enabled spending to be contained within budget. Despite financial constraints, service departments managed their spending to within a small under-spend of £0.3m. A significant saving materialised against the capital financing budget, which was predicted early in the year and was taken into account when making budget decisions for 2009/10.

12.2.3 2008/09 was characterised by substantial economic volatility. This resulted in significant reductions in our investment income returns in the latter half of the year. Energy costs increased substantially in the early part of the year. This resulted in higher than budgeted costs. Onset of recession during the financial year has been mostly felt in reduced income for some services, and reduced ability to dispose of assets to finance future capital spending.

12.2.4 The council had no money at risk in any failed banking institutions.

12.2.5 The council's uncommitted general reserves, which are held as a contingency against any unforeseen circumstances, stood at £6.5m. This is higher than the recommended minimum level (£5m) but below the £7m the financial strategy aims to achieve. At just 2.5% of the budget our reserves are low when compared to similar local authorities.

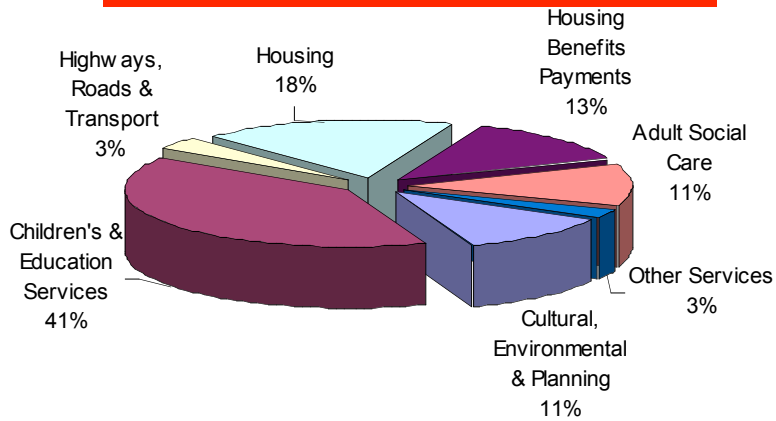
12.3 Summary of the statutory accounts

12.3.1 The following sections provide a more summarised version of the council's main financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2009. The full statutory statement of accounts can be obtained from our customer services centre at New Walk Centre or at www.leicester.gov.uk. The full accounts incorporate other key statements setting out responsibilities for the accounts, a statement of accounting policies, and a statement setting out the annual governance framework.

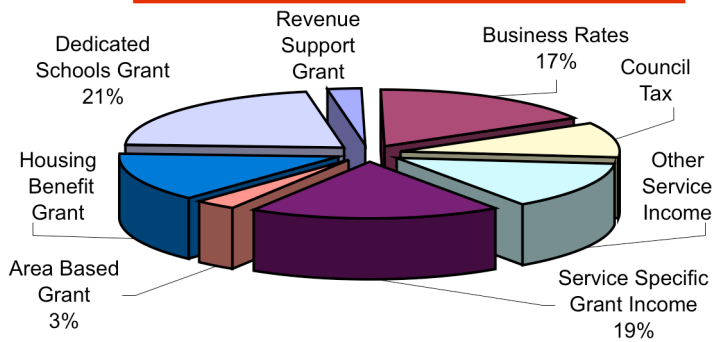
Revenue income and expenditure account

12.3.2 The income and expenditure account reports the net cost of all services and functions for which the council is responsible. The following charts provide an analysis of the total revenue cost (£928m) of the various services provided by the authority together with the main sources of income to meet this spending.

Proportion of spending on each service



How the council's services are funded



This chart demonstrates that around 86% of the income we receive is controlled by the government through general and service specific grants, leaving real local discretion of just 14% of our total income.

12.3.3 For the purposes of the summary overleaf the income and expenditure account has been combined with the statement of movement on the general fund balance.

	2007/08		2008/09	
	Gross £m	Net £m	Gross £m	Net £m
Cultural, environmental and planning service	104.2	54.6	103.4	61.7
Childrens and education services	361.5	72.5	370.6	79.3
Highways, roads and transport	29.7	19.5	31.4	20.8
Housing	212.4	(0.9)	290.6	66.9
Adult social care	103.7	67.9	105.7	80.6
Corporate, central and other services	20.4	14.7	26.8	22.7
Cost of all services	831.9	228.3	928.5	332
Net operating expenditure and adjustments to reflect statutory and proper practices		13.6		(45.6)
Net Expenditure for the Year		241.9		286.4
General government grants		159.0		199.4
Council tax		82.8		87.5
(Increase)/decrease in general fund balance		0.1		(0.5)
General Sources of Finance		241.9		286.4

Capital expenditure and financing

12.3.4 When the council constructs a building or purchases a piece of land this type of expenditure is known as capital expenditure. The very nature of this spending is that it will provide some value to the community for some years to come. The council's capital spending in 2008/09 totalled £123m.

<u>Capital Expenditure</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>Capital Financing</u>	<u>£m</u>
Childrens Services - including rebuilding and reinvesting in secondary schools	41.4	Grants and Contributions	58.0
Housing - including kitchen and bathroom improvements	27.0	Borrowing	40.7
Regeneration and transport - including Curve, the digital media centre and city centre developments	44.5	Reserves and budget contribution	17.6
Adults and Corporate	10.2	Receipts from the sale of land and buildings	6.8
Total Expenditure	123.1	Total Financing	123.1

Balance sheet

12.3.5 The balance sheet sets out what the council owns (assets) and what the council owes (liabilities) as at 31st March each year. The balance of these two items is represented by reserves and balances. The table below provides a more summarised version of the balance sheet as at 31st March 2009.

	2008 £m	2009 £m
Assets		
Fixed and long term assets	2,177	2,196
Money owed to the council	74	73
Investments and stock	67	73
Total assets	2,318	2,342
Liabilities		
Items owed by the Council	112	113
Borrowing	323	315
Pension scheme	102	229
Other	198	256
Total liabilities	735	913
Net assets	1,583	1,429
Non - spendable reserves	1,499	1,321
Spendable reserves	84	108
Net worth	1,583	1,429

Fixed and long-term assets include land and buildings, council dwellings, roads, vehicles, plant and equipment owned by the council.

This figure (**£73m**) includes £29m owed by the government and other local authorities, £13m in business rates and council tax and £11m relates to capital grants and contributions outstanding.

The non-spendable reserves (**£1,321m**) are amounts arising from the financing and revaluation of fixed assets. This sum is not available to spend on council services.

Spendable reserves and balances of £108m include: £56m earmarked for specific items in the future including grants we have received for later years, £20m in balances held by individual schools, £10m towards capital investment and £6m for insurance purposes.

Cash flow statement

12.3.6 The cash flow statement is one of the main financial statements contained within the accounts. Whilst for a commercial company this is an important statement it is of less significance within a local authority context. This statement has been reproduced below in a slightly more user-friendly format.

	£m		£m
Cash as at 31st March 2008	58		
Cash In	1,000	→	
Cash out	(996)		
Cash as at 31st March 2009	62	→	
			Rents, council tax, business rates, government grants and cash received for other goods and services
			896
			Capital receipts and contributions
			101
			Interest received
			3
			Cash in
			1,000
			Cash paid to and on behalf of employee
			(376)
			Operating and other revenue costs
			(476)
			Interest paid
			(15)
			Capital spending
			(113)
			Movement in loans and investments
			(16)
			Cash out
			(996)

12.4 Spending plans

12.4.1 In February 2009, the council agreed a three year financial strategy to cover the years 2009/10 to 2011/12. It is currently being revised for the years 2010/11 to 2012/13. The budget for 2009/10 is set out in summary below – these figures are shown net of grant for specific purposes and other services related income (such as fees and charges for sports facilities).

<u>General fund service spending plans</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>General sources of finance</u>	<u>£m</u>
Childrens services	70.8	Government grant	177.4
Adult services	88.5	Council tax	91.9
Housing	9.0	Use of reserves	1.5
Regeneration, culture & highways	73.0		
Central and support services	29.5		
Total Net Service Expenditure	270.8	Total Financing	270.8

12.5 Council tax – where your money goes

12.5.1 The council's spending plans are heavily influenced by the level of grant we receive from central government. Whilst council tax is only a small source of the council's funding, as can be seen in the diagram below, it helps to pay for a large range of local services.

This is how your weekly council tax payment (based on a Band A property) contributes to local services:

Weekly council tax of a Band A property: £17.70



* Most of the funding for education comes from the Government's dedicated school's grant. Only a proportion is paid from council tax.
 ** Excludes income from housing rents.