

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED  
CITY-WIDE**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**Cabinet  
Council**

**24 March 2003  
27 March 2003**

---

**OUTLINE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS' FORUM AND  
FORUM FOR OLDER PEOPLE 1994 - 2003**

---

**Report of Service Director Older People**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report highlights the key achievements and success of the Senior Citizens Forum and the Forum for Older People in raising the profile of older people's needs in the City since the foundation of the Forum in 1994.
- 1.2 The report also details in supporting information, work scheduled for future meetings of the Forum for Older People.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People has its second anniversary on 27 March 2003 and the NSF has helpfully joined together both Local Authority and National Health Service responsibilities within one umbrella framework. However, in Leicester the Senior Citizens Forum had been in existence from 1994 - 2000 and with effect from August 2001, the Forum for Older People has developed its work.
- 2.2 Both fora provided and currently facilitate the opportunity for older people and their representative organisations to voice needs and concerns and to influence the Council's response through the planning and delivery of services.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Cabinet is recommended:
  - a) to note the achievements of both the Senior Citizens Forum and the Forum for Older People from 1994 – 2003;
  - b) to note Member commitment across all parties to support the work of both fora, acknowledge that the majority of Members who have served on these groups will

be retiring from the Council in the forthcoming election and that renewed commitment will be needed to continue to meet the aspirations of older people and to maintain the record of achievements to date;

c) to note the work scheduled for future meetings of the Forum for Older People.

#### **4. Financial and legal Implications**

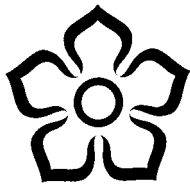
4.1 There are no specific financial or legal implications arising from this report.

#### **5. Report Author/Officer to contact:**

Elaine Yardley  
Service Director Older People (Tel: 8302)

#### **DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Reason</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	<b>Executive (Cabinet)</b>



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED  
CITY-WIDE**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**Cabinet  
Council**

**24 March 2003  
27 March 2003**

---

**OUTLINE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS' FORUM AND  
FORUM FOR OLDER PEOPLE 1994 - 2003**

---

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**1. Report**

- 1.1 The Senior Citizens Forum met from 1994 to June 2000. Subsequently, following Best Value Review of Older People's (Community Care) Services in 2000/01, the Forum for Older People was established and held its inaugural meeting in August 2001.
- 1.2 Common to both fora has been the involvement of Elected Members, older people's representative organisations, older members of the public and officers from each department in the City Council.
- 1.3 The Forum for Older People now has standing representatives from the City's Primary Care Trusts, which reflects the impact of the National Service Framework (NSF) Older People on developing partnerships between local authorities and the National Health Service in the delivery of services to older people and with their involvement.
- 1.4 The format of meetings has been broadly similar i.e 6 – 8 weekly and held in the Committee Rooms at New Walk Centre. More recently, the introduction of a sound system has greatly aided participation in meetings.

Key Achievements

- (i) Senior Citizens Forum (SCF)

1.5 The SCF campaigned actively to raise awareness of older people's needs in the Council, which, as noted above, pre-dated the advent of a National Service Framework. Themes which were presented and influenced Council policy included;

- Concessionary fares
- Commissioning a survey into the needs of older people
- Campaigning to central government on older peoples' issues i.e. against the introduction of VAT on fuel
- Commissioning community care and gardening projects

1.6 A specific event was held on 1 October 1999 to mark the International Day for Older People.

(ii) Forum for Older People (FOP)

Like its predecessor the FOP has actively campaigned to raise the profile of older people living in the City and accessing services.

Specific attention has been given to;

- Raising awareness of the new Pensions service, Benefits advice and charging regimes.
- Members' visits to Council managed and contracted services for older people.
- Consulting on the new plans for the access to and delivery of health and social care services i.e PALS (Patient Advisory Liaison Service in hospitals), new Health & Social Care Centres (LIFT schemes) and intermediate care.
- Addressing the accommodation needs of older people.
- The planning and provision of public conveniences in the City.
- Alerting Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees to the views of older people through the introduction of a standard clause in every report to Members detailing 'implications for elderly/people on low income'.
- Publicising services through the 'Grey Matters' event in April 2002 and through a general supplement in the Link paper.

1.7 Both the Senior Citizens Forum and the Forum for Older People have been well attended and in line with the NSF Older People, a Local Authority Elected Member Champion for Older People was designated. This role is currently undertaken by the Cabinet Lead for Social Care and Health who attends each meeting of the FOP.

1.8 In the future the FOP will work with partners and members on the forum to address proactively the targets contained in the NSF and specifically identify local needs. This will include addressing health inequalities and equality of access for older people from our diverse communities. Work will be undertaken through the FOP to improve older people's confidence in relation to crime and safety issues and raising income for older people through improved advice and information services.

1.9 In addition, representatives of the forum will feedback from regional meetings convened through the Better Government for Older People programme and it is anticipated that this will provide a useful reference point and benchmark for the City's forum.

2. Many current members on the FOP will not be standing in the forthcoming elections and this will leave a 'gap' in terms of personal experience and understanding of the agenda. To continue the Council's commitment to older people's involvement in shaping services, arrangements will be made to 'induct' new members to the forum and to provide them with key papers relating to the NSF and other national and local documents affecting service provision.

**FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**1. Financial Implications**

None

**2. Legal Implications**

None

**3. Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Paragraph 1.7	
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Paragraph 1.7	
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Throughout the report	

**4. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

Forum for Older People – Overview Report to: -

- a. Social Services and Personal Health Scrutiny Committee on 16 September 2002; and
- b. Cabinet 23 September 2002.

**5. Consultations**

None.

**6. Report Author**

Elaine Yardley  
 Service Director Older People (Tel: 8302)