

# Executive Decision Report

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## **Future funding for Lunch Clubs**

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Decision to be taken by: Assistant City Mayor Adult Social  
Care and Wellbeing

Decision to be taken on: 28 September 2018

Lead Strategic Director: Steven Forbes

## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Cathy Carter
- Author contact details: [cathy.carter@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.carter@leicester.gov.uk)
- Report version number: 25.07.18

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the findings of the consultation exercise that proposed to cease funding to the 13 lunch clubs subsidised by Adult Social Care (ASC) on a tapering basis over a 3-year period.
- 1.2 The report seeks agreement to introduce the proposed changes with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, with a view to ending the funding altogether by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 Adult Social Care (ASC) is required to make savings of £790k against its Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) spend of £1.9m.
- 2.2 On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Executive agreed that a 12-week consultation exercise should be undertaken with the 13 lunch clubs subsidised by ASC. The consultation ran from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- 2.3 The consultation exercise set out a proposal to cease the funding over a 3-year period on a tapering basis:
  - From January 2019: 25% reduction
  - From January 2020: 50% reduction
  - From January 2021: 75% reduction
  - From January 2022: Funding ends
- 2.4 The findings from the consultation showed that the lunch club providers understood the financial difficulties faced by the Council and welcomed the tapering over a 3-year period, if the funding was to cease. However, they reiterated the value they provide to individuals and the community.
- 2.5 A summary of the consultation is detailed at para.4.7 and the consultation report is at Appendix C.

- 2.6 If the proposal is agreed, then 3 months' notice will need to be conveyed to the lunch clubs by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, in order to reduce the funding with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. However, if this is not possible then the grant aid funding will be extended to ensure that the club receives the required 3 months' notice before the funding reduces.
- 2.7 At the same time, it is proposed to offer support and guidance to the lunch clubs to help them to become sustainable without ASC funding during the 3 years when funding would be phased out.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- a) note the outcomes of the consultation set out at paragraph 4.7 and Appendix C of the report;
- b) note the outcomes of the equality impact assessment set out at paragraph 4.9, and Appendix D;
- c) agree that new grant agreements are issued with effect from 1st January 2019, which include a phased reduction over 3 years, after which funding will end altogether on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

If this is agreed, 3 months' notice will need to be given by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (If this is not possible then the grant funding will be extended to ensure that the club receives the required 3 months' notice before the funding ends).

- d) that VAL and ASC offers support and guidance to the lunch clubs to help them to become sustainable without ASC funding during the 3 years when funding will be phased out.

### **4. Supporting information including options considered:**

- 4.1 ASC is required to deliver savings of £790k against its Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) budget of £1.9m for 2018/19.
- 4.2 A review of the VCS services funded by ASC has been completed to determine if they provide statutory support to those eligible for ASC support or if their contribution prevents or delays individuals from becoming eligible for a funded package of care.
- 4.3 The review includes funding for 13 lunch clubs at a total cost of £139,719 a year. Funding for each lunch club is shown at Appendix A. This information highlights the differing levels of grant, which has developed as a result of

historic decisions and not as a consequence of assessed needs or preventative value.

- 4.4 As part of the service review, officers contacted Leicester’s comparator authorities and those within the East Midlands region in February 2018 to determine their approach to funding lunch clubs. Thirteen of these authorities responded. Seven out of the 13 confirmed that they do not fund lunch clubs in their area. Of the remaining 6 authorities that do fund them, 2 have stated they are not planning to make any changes, 3 are currently reviewing the provision with a view to removing the funding, and 1 reviews the service annually as routine.
- 4.5 In addition, there are other similar activities for older people in the city that are not funded by Adult Social Care. See Appendix B, which provides details of groups that operate out of the council’s libraries and community centres, but there will be others that operate out of none council religious and community facilities.
- 4.6 Appendix A details the current funding for each lunch club and the effect of 3-year tapering on each one.
- 4.7 The consultation is now complete, and a report setting out the consultation methods and findings is at Appendix C. There were 172 responses to the survey.
- 4.8 In summary, the key points from the consultation are listed below, together with officers’ responses to the points raised:

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
The clubs help people to avoid isolation and provides a social life.	The value of the clubs is understood and appreciated by the council, and the council would like to see them continue in the future albeit without adult social care funding. However, ASC cannot afford them in the context of cuts to Government and the rising costs of providing social care support to people with eligible / high levels of need.
They help people with health problems by providing exercise and advice and support on keeping safe and well.	
The clubs do a lot more than provide lunch – providing both activities, and access to other sources of support such as advocacy in hospital, falls prevention, diabetes support, warm homes and also running activities such as fitness.	
Changes to lunch clubs will affect ethnic minorities more because they are culturally appropriate.	This is recognised and has been identified in the Equality Impact Assessment. However, there are also ethnic groups who are not catered for in

	the lunch clubs, so the status quo also represents an unfair pattern of provision.
The value of lunch clubs is reinvested in the community – because they are not businesses.	The council appreciates this point – which is about the wider value of the VCS. Ideally, the council would like to invest more in the VCS, but in the current financial climate this is very difficult, compared with the need to keep essential services going.
The wider issues that groups are facing – for example other cuts to the VCS – should be taken into account.	
Providers recognised the financial constraints facing the council and support for the proposal to phase out funding rather than remove it all at once	The council appreciates that this is recognised and that the proposed to taper funding will be helpful to the clubs and will help to develop sustainability plans.
Funding cuts are short-sighted as people will need formal care and support earlier if they are not accessing lunch clubs	The council recognises this risk, however there is a reducing amount of funding available for prevention services and these are having to be focussed on those most at risk. There are also other community-based facilities that do not receive council funding, which individuals could attend.
Clubs would need support to become self-sufficient, and for some this will be difficult as they have limited capacity.	This point is understood, and it is intended to offer support to clubs to find alternative funding and/or remodel their activities to reduce costs.

4.9 An equality impact assessment (EIA) of the proposal has been carried out, and this is at Appendix D. In summary, the main findings of the EIA are that a decision to reduce /end funding to lunch clubs could have a disproportionately negative impact on the following groups of people with protected characteristics:

- a. People over 55 – as this is the target group for the lunch clubs;
- b. Disabled people – as people over 55 are more likely to have disabilities or long-term health conditions;
- c. People from Asian or African Caribbean ethnic groups – as some of the clubs are aimed at these groups; and
- d. People with Hindu, Sikh or Jewish faiths, as some of the clubs are aimed at these faith groups.

4.10 If the recommendation is agreed, it is proposed to offer support to lunch clubs to help them become sustainable without ASC funding. This support will include:

- Providing information and signposting, for example via a workshop, to help lunch clubs find alternative sources of income, reduce costs and/or change to lower cost activities;
- Monitoring lunch clubs during the phasing period and offering information and advice if they are struggling to continue; and
- Signposting service users to alternative activities.

## **5. Details of Scrutiny**

5.1 The ASC Scrutiny Commission was provided with a report on the VCS prevention services review on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and a verbal update was given on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

5.2 A further report was presented to the ASC Scrutiny Commission meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018, where the proposals were supported.

## **6. Financial, legal and other implications**

### 6.1 Financial implications

The overall VCS budget is £1,929,200 with a savings target of £790k from 2018-19. The above includes a contribution of £139,719 in 2018-19 and the proposal is to taper and cease funding over the next three years (commencing January 2019 and end by December 2021); as previously briefed.

The purpose of the report is to highlight the feedback from the consultation and if agreed implement as proposed. However, if there are any changes, this may compromise in achieving the savings target on time.

Yogesh Patel – Accountant (ext 4011)

### 6.2 Legal implications

The responses to the consultation need to be given active consideration in a transparent manner in accordance with any information given as to how this will happen. No alternative proposals have been put forward by a respondent to the consultation that requires consideration however the responses need to be integrated into the decision-making process.

The attached Consultation report shows a robust analysis of consultation responses and allows an informed decision to be made on the future funding of these grants.

Jenis Taylor, Principal Solicitor (Commercial) Ext 37 -1405

### 6.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no significant climate change implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Duncan Bell, Corporate Environmental Consultant. Ext. 37 2249

### 6.4 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the public-sector equality duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

We need to be clear about any equalities implications of the course of action proposed. In doing so, we must consider the likely impact on those likely to be affected by the options in the report and, in particular, the proposed option; their protected characteristics; and (where negative impacts are anticipated) mitigating actions that can be taken to reduce or remove that negative impact.

Protected groups under the public-sector equality duty are characterised by age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Those who attend lunch clubs will be people who have particular protected characteristics, such as disability and age. However, it is important to recognise that people accessing the clubs will have a wide range of, and possibly multiple, protected characteristics. As such, it is important that the consideration of equalities implications influences decision making from an early stage and throughout the process.

An equality impact assessment of the proposal has been carried out. The main findings of which, are that a decision to reduce /end funding to lunch clubs could have a disproportionately negative impact on the following groups of people with protected characteristics:

- People over 55 – as this is the target group for the lunch clubs;
- Disabled people – as people over 55 are more likely to have disabilities or long-term health conditions;

- People from Asian or African Caribbean ethnic groups – as some of the clubs are aimed at these groups; and
- People with Hindu, Sikh or Jewish faiths, as some of the clubs are aimed at these faith groups.

Should the proposal be taken forward, the Equality Impact Assessment and consultation findings should continue to be used as a tool to aid consideration around whether we are meeting the aims of the Public-Sector Equality Duty, to further inform the development of proposals and to identify any potential mitigating actions, where a disproportionate negative impact is identified during the tapering period.

A commitment has been made to signpost service users to alternative activities and advise service users how to have an assessment for eligibility for ASC services.

Provided the organisations are able to continue to deliver provision as they currently are, there are likely to be minimal equalities impacts. However, consideration should also continue to be paid to the potential equalities risks of the loss of a lunch club, where there is not a guarantee that it will continue. As identified in the impact assessment, this could be achieved by signposting to similar provision in the local area. In order to be able to do this, mapping of local provision will need to be undertaken.

Surinder Singh Equalities Officer ext. 37 4148

6.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

**7. Background information and other papers:**

City Mayor's Briefing 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 *Consultation Proposal for the Adult Social Care Funded Lunch Clubs*

**8. Summary of appendices:**

- A: Lunch clubs current funding and effect of 3-year tapering
- B: Organisations that provide a lunch but do not receive council funding
- C: Consultation Report
- D: Equality Impact Assessment

**9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No



## 10. Is this a “key decision”?

No

### Appendix A

#### Lunch clubs – current funding and effect of 3-year tapering

Provider	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	Current funding	From Jan 2019 25% less	From Jan 2020 50% less	From Jan 2021 End of funding	
Age UK	£40,086	£37,581	£27,559	£17,538	£7,516
Asian Towers Club	£2,254	£2,113	£1,550	£986	£423
Belgrave Lunch Club	£9,601	£9,001	£6,601	£4,200	£1,800
East West Community Project	£16,932	£15,874	£11,641	£7,408	£3,175
Guru Nanak Community Centre	£7,058	£6,617	£4,852	£3,088	£1,323
Guru Tegh Bahadur Day Centre	£9,384	£8,798	£6,452	£4,106	£1,760
Hindu Community Centre Lunch Club	£421	£395	£289	£184	£79
Leicester Chinese Elderly Lunch Club	£5,493	£5,150	£3,776	£2,403	£1,030
Leicester Jamaica Community Service Group (WISCP)	£16,770	£15,722	£11,529	£7,337	£3,144
Leicester Shalom Club	£4,741	£4,445	£3,259	£2,074	£889
Leicester Sikh Centre Lunch Club (club decided to end grant in 2018)	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Ramgarhia Board Leicester	£9,216	£8,640	£6,336	£4,032	£1,728
Silver Strand	£12,500	£11,719	£8,594	£5,469	£2,344
St Peters Community Association	£5,263	£4,934	£3,618	£2,303	£987
<b>Total</b>	<b>£139,719</b>	<b>£130,987</b>	<b>£96,057</b>	<b>£61,127</b>	<b>£26,197</b>

## Appendix B

### **Organisations that provide a lunch but do not receive Council funding**

**New Parks Panel Lunch Club** - New Parks Centre (every Wednesday). Meals cost £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. Volunteers cook and clean up. They pay room hire at the centre. They will apply for ward funding for things like Christmas parties.

**Thurnby Lodge Lunch Club** - Thurnby Lodge Community Centre (weekly). Meals cost £4.00. Volunteers cook and clean up. They pay room hire at the centre.

**West End Neighbourhood Lunch Club** – West end Neighbourhood Centre (Wednesday). Meals cost £4.50. Volunteers cook and clean up. Space provided by LCIL who are looking at a community asset transfer of the building. Note ASC are looking to end the contract with LCIL for DUPLO service. In consultation at present.

**Knighton Lunch Club** – Money obtained from community fund to start up the club and rent a venue, still in its early days.

**The Centre Project** – Granby Street (Thursday, Friday). Funded from charitable donations and charge of £2.00 per meal, volunteers cook and clean up. For vulnerable isolated adults. Not sure if this relates mainly to homeless or asylum seekers.

**Open Hands Meal** – Upper Tichbourne Street (once a month). Funded from charitable donations and charge of £2.00 per meal, plus bingo and social outings. Volunteers cook and clean up.

**Gayatri Pariwar Centre** – Rendell Road. Operate three days a week. Now not taking on any new diners due to their aging voluntary cooks.

**Shri Guru Ravidas Gudwara** – 193 Harrison Road. Offer Langar (basic lunch time meal) to any members of the public for free

**Shri Guru Dashmesh Sahib Gudwara** – 40-50 Gipsy Lane. Offer Langar (basic lunch time meal) to any members of the public for free.

### **None lunch club activities for older people:**

<b>Bleys Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Story Cafe	A writer's group celebrating the written word in all its forms	Alternate Tuesdays 10:00 to 12:00 small charge for refreshments
Knit and natter	Knitting, crochet embroidery and lots of chat	Alternate Tuesdays 10.00 to 12.00 small charge for refreshments
Reading Group	Informal discussion centred around the set book.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month 2.30 to 3.30 small charge for refreshments
<b>Stocking Farm</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Knit and natter	Any needlework and lots of friendly chat	Monday 13.30 to 15.00 20p charge for refreshments
Marwood Brass Band	Making music together using brass instruments. Please bring your own instrument. There are	Thursday 19.00 to 21.00 £1.50/week

	some spare instruments if you just want to try.	
Revive	Arts and craft workshop	Friday 10.00 to 13.00 term time - £5/session
Making Friends TLC	Friendly fun social group. Come along to make new friends.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month 15.00to 16.15 No charge
<b>Pork Pie Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Semper Singers Choir	Choir	Every Monday 19:00 to 21:00 Chargeable
Saffron Art & Crafts	Make art & Crafts with a Refreshment	Mondays 12:00 to 14:00 Fridays 13:30 to 15:30 Free
Social Group Bingo	Bingo – win prizes	Wednesdays 13:30 to 14:30 Chargeable
Friendship Group	Friendship and Chat with Refreshments	Every Thursday 13:30 to 15:30 Chargeable
<b>Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Elderly Exercise-Group	Exercise Men’s Group	Mondays/Tuesdays/Fridays Time: 9.00-11.00am Cost-£10.00 per year
Elderly Exercise Group	Exercise Group-women	Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays Time: 11.00-12.00pm Cost: £ 7.00 per year
<b>Rushey Mead Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Learn My Way	Basic computer skills sessions	Monday and Friday afternoons. Free but we have a waiting list for places. Please call in or phone the library on 0116 266 5112.
Spoken English group	Improve your spoken English. Informal volunteer led group	Monday afternoons. Closed during summer period. Contact the library in September for restart date and time. 0116 266 5112
<b>Belgrave Library - group</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Belgrave Knitters	Knit and natter	every Thursday 10am-12. Free.
Learn My Way	Basic computer skills sessions	Monday morning, Thursday mornings and Sunday lunchtime. Free but we have a waiting list for places. Please call in or phone the library on 0116 299 5500.
Diabetes Group	Self- help group	Saturdays 10.30am-12.30pm Free. Contact Sonal at <a href="mailto:dgleicester@gmail.com">dgleicester@gmail.com</a> for more information.
<b>Aylestone Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Knit and Natter	Knit, chat & tea	Alternate Mondays 2.30-4.30pm -No charge

Over 55's coffee morning	Cuppa and chat	Every Thursday – donation
ALC Coffee Group	Cuppa and Chat	Monday and Thursdays 11.30-1pm - Charge tbc.
<b>Central Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Knit and Natter	Knit, chat & tea	Thursdays 10-12pm -No charge
English conversation	Informal English conversation	Wednesdays 5.30-6.30pm- No charge
<b>Hamilton Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Armchair Aerobics	Gentle aerobics	10.00 – 11.00 - £1.50
<b>Netherall Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Avago craft group	Craft sessions	Every Monday (term time) 9.15 – 11.15
Twilight Bingo	Cup of Tea and a game of Bingo	Every Thursday 14.00 -16.00
<b>St Barnabas Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Knit and Natter	Informal knitting	Every Monday (term time) 13.00 – 15.00
<b>New Park library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Krafter's Hub	Craft Group	Every Mondays 12noon – 3pm £2.00 each week
New Parks New Friends	Cuppa, Cakes, social	Every Tuesday 10am-12noon Free
Lunch Club	Meal & dessert, social	Every Wednesday 12non - 1pm - £1.50 each week
Reading Café	Reading group, social	Every Wednesday 10.30am-12noon – Free
Arty Fartys	Craft group	Every Thursday 12.30-2.30pm (will re-start in autumn)
Blue Army	Craft group	Every Friday 10am-1pm
<b>Tudor Centre</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Social group	Bingo	13.00 to 15.00 on Tuesday. £8.20.per session.
Craft club	Art and craft	Thursdays 13.00 to 15.00
<b>Thurnby Lodge Centre</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Silver Threads	Bingo + Activities	Mondays 13.30 – 15.30
Whist Club	Card Game	Mondays 20.00 – 22.00
Lunch Club	Home cooked Food	Tuesdays 12.30 – 13.30
Seabrook Group	Activities and outings and Featured Guests	Tuesdays 14.00 – 16.00
Bar/Bingo	Bingo Bar Open	Tuesday 19.30 21.30
Wednesday Club	Bingo	Wednesday 13.30 – 15.30
Card Craft	Make greeting cards	Wednesday 14.00 – 16.00
Pop in Café	Food and Snacks	Thursdays 10.00 – 12.30
Mundella Group	Activities + Featured Guests	Thursdays 14.00 – 16.00
Tea Dance	Dancing to old classics/ Tea	Thursdays 14.00 – 16.00
Bar/Bingo	Bingo Bar Open	Fridays 19.30 – 21.30
Photography Club	Photography	Sundays 11.00 – 13.00
<b>St Matthews centre</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
60+ Groups	Sports	Thurs 9.00-12.00 £1.80 per person

<b>African Caribbean centre</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Community Learning Project – Pamela Campbell-Morris	Social, Recreational & Educational Activities	Every Monday Time: 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Panetiquete – Pat Munroe	Learning to play Steel Pans – Have a number of 50+ attending the session	Monday's (Term time) Time: 7.00 – 8.30pm
Ladies Sewing Circle	Ladies meet, share items, swap tips on sewing. Helped and instructed by a voluntary tutor	Every Tuesday Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm
Table Tennis	Playing table tennis – for any age group	Every Monday Time: 7.00 – 8.30pm £2.00 per session
Golden Fellowship Group	Morning worship, exercise and group activities. – for any age group	Every Wednesday Time: 10.30 – 3.00pm
Yoga Class	Yoga with a qualified instructor – for any age group Free charge	Wednesday's (Term Time) Time: 18.30 – 19.30pm Saturday's (Term Time) Time: 10.30 – 11.30am (Re-Start September 2018)
Exotics Group	A vibrant group for the active and young at heart – for any age group	Every Thursday Time: 10.45 – 12.45pm
Vitality Circuits	Fun cardio and resistance exercise to tone body and strengthen for increase vitality.	Friday's (Term Time) Time: 6.30 – 7.30pm (Re-Start September 2018) Ladies over the Free charge age of 40
Beaded Jewellery Class	Learn the fundamental of beaded jewellery making	Every Wednesday Time: 3.30 – 5.30pm - Fee charge: £5.00 per hour
Sandra's Sewing Class	Pattern cutting and making up procedures, quality finishes	Every Friday Time: 15.30 – 17.30 -Fee charge: £5.00 per hour
<b>Coleman centre</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Monday Bowls	indoor bowling with a cup of tea	every Monday 10am to 12pm
Tuesday Bowls	indoor bowling with a cup of tea	every Tuesday 1:30pm to 3:30pm
<b>Knighton Library</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time and cost</b>
Basic English Group	Improve their English	Mondays (Term time only) No Charge
Knighton Library Reading Group	Book Discussion	Wednesday 10-12pm No charge

## **Appendix C**

### **Consultation Report – Lunch Clubs**

#### **1. Purpose of the consultation**

Adult Social Care carried out a formal consultation from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to seek feedback on a proposal to implement phased reductions to the grants to lunch clubs over 3 years, after which funding would end, as follows:

- From January 2019: 25% reduction
- From January 2020: 50% reduction
- From January 2021: 75% reduction
- From January 2022: Funding ends

#### **2. Consultation methods**

##### **2.1 Survey**

The consultation was advertised using a poster distributed to all council facilities and GP surgeries in the city, publicity via the weekly VAL E-Briefing and letters to all current providers.

The survey was carried out online using the council's Consultation Hub. The questionnaire was also made available in printed form for those who were not able to complete it online.

##### **2.2 Consultation meetings**

A number of meetings were held or attended as part of the consultation, and these are listed at the end of this report in Annex A.

Meetings with each of the providers scoped into the review were organised in advance.

At the meetings, officers explained the consultation, and then talked through the survey document – copies of which were provided at the meetings. Providers asked questions and made comments during the presentation of the proposals, and then there were further opportunities for questions, comments and feedback.

Officers attended further meetings with providers where requested, and also asked providers to enable officers to meet with service users.

Notes were taken at each meeting, which were then sent to attendees asking if they would like to make any amendments.

##### **2.3 Petitions**

The council also received two petitions in response to the consultation:

- Annex B1: East West Community Association signed by 56 people.
- Annex B2 Guru Tegh Bahadur Lunch Club signed by 39 people

### 3. Consultation findings

#### 3.1 Profile of survey respondents

There were 172 responses to the survey, either online or on paper.

The main demographic characteristics of respondents were:

**Age** 67% of respondents were aged 60 to 79, and 22% were age 80 or over.

**Gender** 74% were female.

**Ethnicity** The largest ethnic group was Indian at 77%, the next biggest group was Caribbean at 11%

**Religion** 42% of respondents were Hindu. The next largest group was Muslim 16%, then Sikh 15% then Christian 12%.

**Disability** 55% said they were disabled, 30% said they were not. The remainder either said they preferred not to say or did not answer the question.

**Sexual orientation** 53% were heterosexual/straight. 44% said they preferred not to say or did not answer the question.

More detailed information about the characteristics of those completing the survey is available if required.

The survey also asked respondents to say in what role they were completing the questionnaire:

**Service users** 66% said they were completing the questionnaire as a service user of one of the lunch clubs.

**Representatives of service users** 33% of respondents said they were completing the survey on behalf of a service user.

**Current providers or other organisation** 3 people (2%) said they were completing the survey as a current provider. None of the respondents said they were completing the survey as a representative of another organisation.

#### 3.2 Survey findings

The survey outlined the proposal and respondents were then asked to select: 'agree', 'disagree' or 'not sure/don't know'

The majority of people disagreed with the proposals:

I agree with the proposal	8	5%
I disagree with the proposal	153	89%
Not sure / don't know	9	5%
Not answered	2	1%
Total	172	100%

Respondents were then asked: *Please provide comments. If you disagree with the proposal, please suggest an alternative.*

The comments have been categorised below. The number of respondents making each point listed below adds up to more than the total number of respondents as some respondents made more than one point. The full list of comments is available if required.

Category	No. of respondents who made this comment
The club provides enjoyable social activities and / or helps avoid isolation	78
I want lunch club to continue - no specific reason given	30
The clubs helps me with health problems / keeps me healthy	21
I cannot afford to pay for the lunch myself	20
The club provides a hot/nutritious meal	17
The club helps me with existing depression or helps avoid depression	12
The club reduces burden on social care and/or NHS	6
Other comments	14

## 4. Points made at meetings during the consultation

### 4.1 Meetings with current providers

All lunch club providers were given a choice of 4 consultation meetings to attend. Seven providers attended these meetings. The attendees, and main points made at these meetings are set out below. The full notes of the meetings with the providers is available to decision makers if required.

#### **Lunch club provider meeting 1: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**

No attendees.

#### **Lunch Club provider meeting 2: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Attendees: WISCP; St Peters Community Project

Key points made:

- Lunch clubs support people living in isolation – which is a key risk for many people, especially in the inner city.
- Lunch clubs are seeing increasingly older people – and some who are not elderly but have mental health problems.
- Groups will need support to become self-sufficient, and for some this will be difficult as they have limited capacity.
- The support given to help them manage without ASC funding will need to take account of the limited capacity of groups – e.g. visiting the lunch club could be helpful.
- There was support for the proposal to phase out funding rather than all at once, and some suggestion that people attending might be able to pay the cost of meals, however this would not always be the case as some lunch club attendees had limited means.
- The clubs do a lot more than provide lunch – providing access to other sources of support such as advocacy in hospital, falls prevention, diabetes support, warm homes and also running activities such as fitness.



### **Lunch Club provider meeting 3: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Attendees: East West Community Project; Guru Nanak Community Centre; Guru Tegh Bahadur Centre.

Key points made:

- Lunch clubs provide more value than just the lunch itself – other activities such as exercise are provided.
- These activities, plus the chance to socialise, help to promote wellbeing.
- The value of lunch clubs is reinvested in the community – because they are not businesses
- Changes to lunch clubs will affect ethnic minorities more because they are culturally appropriate
- Nutritious meal is important for many people – who can't cook at home.
- Lunch clubs support volunteering – which is free. So reducing funding is a false economy
- Getting support to become sustainable is difficult. VAL does not necessarily provide the support that groups need.
- The wider issues that groups are facing – for example other cuts – should be taken into account. If voluntary groups end we will stop being a healthy city.

### **Lunch Club provider meeting 4: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018**

Attendees: Shalom Club; Belgrave Lunch Club.

Key points made:

- Understand the constraints of the council
- Welcome a tapered approach to reducing funding
- Believe funding cuts are short-sighted as people will need formal care and support earlier if they are not accessing lunch clubs
- Some of the attendees are already eligible for formal care and support and lunch clubs need to know how to access funding
- Would welcome opportunities to visit other lunch clubs and share ideas
- Transport and funding it is a major issue and any support for this would be welcomed

### **Lunch club provider meeting: Age UK 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Key points made:

- Largely accept situation.
- Will attempt to continue to run the lunch clubs but will sell off Catherine House to fund and relocate to London Rd (old Red Cross building). Will also have to buy in food.
- In return for the above asked for relaxed reporting requirements for lunch clubs.
- Reducing loneliness and isolation important.

- Warned that there isn't an endless supply of volunteers. Younger volunteers aren't interested in long term placements e.g. Christmas meal only.
- Capacity to assist other organisations with venues and transport.
- Don't think lunch clubs will play such a large part in the next generation of older people's lives, or at least not in their current form. Possibly a move to more of a gathering – light refreshments only.

#### **4.2 Meetings with service users**

Officers held meetings with service users from 5 of the lunch clubs. The key points made at these meetings are summarised below. The full notes of the meetings are available to decision makers if required.

##### **Shalom Lunch Club service users : 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Key points made:

- Attendees hadn't been advised by the lunch club managers of proposed cuts prior to meeting so was a shock and uncomfortable situation with attendees needing reassurance that the club could still continue
- Club interested in the council securing discounts for their trips
- Club interested in visiting other clubs to share experiences/ways of working
- Club interested in exploring a transport service initiative
- Club keen to continue in spite of funding cuts

##### **East West Lunch Club service users : 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Key points made:

The lunch club manager gave a presentation at the beginning of the meeting, which made the following points:

- We are not just a lunch club – we offer a great deal more to the community
- We offer a wide range of activities to our community [long list provided]
- The lunch club is a preventative service.

Many of the points made are also echoed in the petition submitted by East West Lunch Club, shown at Annex B1.

Key points made after the presentation:

- Lunch club is like a second home – risk of depression, plus some cannot cook for themselves
- There should be lunch clubs just as there is free access to leisure centres
- Lunch clubs reduce the burden on formal care
- Staff give confidence and encouragement
- Some religious groups get funding eg. but we can't get donations because we are not affiliated to a religious organisation.
- Have had help from VAL to seek other funding but none of 10-15 bids have been successful

- Lunch club it is not just providing meals we are actively engaging to support the community. Free tai chi, yoga, Zumba and relaxation (many other examples also given).
- EWCP provides volunteering opportunities
- There are limited alternative places where some of the ladies can engage socially – eg pubs or clubs – because of their culture.

### **Guru Tegh Bahadur Lunch Club service users : 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Key points made:

- The group was very clear that removal of this service will impact negatively on people's mental health and wellbeing.
- Inevitably leading to an increased demand for ASC & NHS services.
- Families would require additional support if the club was not available to ensure the safety of their relatives while they work
- The club has taken steps to reduce their costs to be able to keep up with the demand for places
- Older people feel that this will discriminate against them

Guru Tegh Bahadur lunch clubs also submitted a petition – shown at Annex B2

### **Age UK Lunch Club service users: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Key points made:

- Club helps to reduce isolation and loneliness
- It reduces the burden on health and social care
- Helps recovery from ill-health/ depression

### **Silver Strand Lunch Club service users: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Key points made:

- The club helps avoid social isolation / loneliness
- Helps identify people's problems and find sources of support for them
- Club could think about doing different activities that bring people together
- Older people have worked hard and deserve support. But older people find it hard to find alternatives because of disability or frailty.
- Many people are losing support these days eg parents Therefore they are then less able to look after their elders.
- Concern about where they would go after 3 years.
- Communities do not ask for much and work hard for each other.
- Keen to look at alternative sources of funding and to get VAL to help.

**Lunch Clubs Consultation Report: Annex A: List of meetings held during the consultation**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>Lunch club providers</b>	
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	WISCP Lunch Club: St Peter's Lunch Club
30 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	East West Community Project; Guru Nanak Community Centre; Guru Tegh Bahadur Centre.
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2018	Shalom Club; Belgrave lunch club
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Age UK Lunch Club
<b>Lunch club service users</b>	
14 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Shalom Lunch Club
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	East West Lunch Club
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Guru Tegh Bahadur Lunch Club
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Age UK Lunch Club
28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Silver Strand Lunch Club

**Lunch Clubs Consultation Report: Annex B1:  
Petition from East West Community Centre signed by 55 people**

**EAST WEST**  
COMMUNITY CENTRE LIMITED



10 WILBERFORCE ROAD  
LEICESTER  
LE3 0GT  
TEL: (0116) 255 0575  
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www.eastwestcentre.org.uk  
Company Number 8086925

FAO : MS TRACIE REES  
DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND COMMISSIONING  
ADULT SOCIAL CARE  
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018

Dear Ms Tracie Rees,

**RE : END OF LUNCHEON CLUB FUNDING BY LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL**

We the undersigned are vehemently opposed to the withdrawal of Funding for our Lunch Club.

The decision is fundamentally flawed, as Lunch Club should not be taken in isolation. Many of our daytime Activities, which includes Lunch facility, gives the Service user, many of whom are disabled and housebound, the opportunity to become more independent and resilient.

This is a reckless decision that targets the most vulnerable in our Community and does not save money (in the long-run) as this is a spurious claim (with no evidence) built on a lack of understanding of the needs of the Community, whom we serve and continue to serve with unswerving devotion.

Many of our Service users have participated fully, by becoming Committee Members and can see the damaging impact your proposal will have on the Community: as Lunch Club and providing meaningful Activities are inextricably linked.

End of lunch club funding will have an adverse effect on the community and we would hope the council re-consider their decision in view of the number of members who have objected to the phasing out of funding at the end of 3 years as proposed by the Council.

**Cc: Hon. Liz Kendall- MP for Leicester West**

**Lunch Clubs Consultation Report: Annex B2:  
Petition from Guru Tegh Bahadur Lunch Club signed by 39 people**

**Transcript of handwritten petition with 39 signatures received by post 28.06.18**

Peter Soulsby

13<sup>th</sup> June 2018

1. What is your rationale for deciding to close the luncheon club?
2. What service will replace it (if any)
3. What do you think the service users are going to do when the club is closed? Where will they go? What will they do? Who will they see?
4. If u close this club do u realise that the service users of this club will become isolated in their homes. Due to them not meeting ur new criteria /threshold. This will leave us feeling vulnerable and alone in our homes.
5. As a tax payer the elderly are being overlooked again. Services are already reduced. Do u not put a value on the ageing population?
6. The club provides the elderly with a space to meet others, socialise and get important information which helps support our mental health and wellbeing by providing exercise classes. It will put a strain on already stretched services such as NHS. By keeping this service going the elderly can have regular exercise in a safe environment and have a hot meal as well as meet others the same age as themselves
7. With crime being so high especially in the Midlands with the elderly being victims of attacks there are not enough services to support the elderly. If this club closes that will be another factor to isolate us further in society. The council should integrate services and support the community needs not cut costs.
8. If the council needs to save money, then the people in high places need to take a pay cut and remember the little people who are working hard. The elderly have paid into the system over 50 years. So why target the ageing population. People are busy being greedy and not thinking about the ones who have made sacrifices over the years to support and sustain the groups.

Thank you

### Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Lunch Clubs

Title of spending review/service change/proposal	Phased reductions in funding to lunch clubs
Name of division/service	Adult Social Care – Commissioning and Care Services
Name of lead officer completing this assessment	Cathy Carter
Date EIA assessment completed	27 07 18
Decision maker	Assistant City Mayor Councillor Vi Dempster
Date decision taken	Decision due on 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018 City Mayor's Briefing

<b>EIA sign off on completion:</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Lead officer Cathy Carter	Cathy Carter	27 07 18
Equalities officer Surinder Singh	Surinder Singh	27 07 18
Divisional director Tracie Rees	Tracie Rees	27 07 18

**Please ensure the following:**

- (a) That the document is understandable to a reader who has not read any other documents, and explains (on its own) how the Public Sector Equality Duty is met. This does not need to be lengthy, but must be complete.

- (b) That available support information and data is identified and where it can be found. Also be clear about highlighting gaps in existing data or evidence that you hold, and how you have sought to address these knowledge gaps.
- (c) That the equality impacts are capable of aggregation with those of other EIAs to identify the cumulative impact of all service changes made by the council on different groups of people.

**1. Setting the context**

Describe the proposal, the reasons it is being made, and the intended change or outcome. Will current service users' needs continue to be met?

The proposal is to implement phased reductions to grants provided by Adult Social Care (ASC) to 14 lunch clubs for older people. The lunch clubs are mainly located in the central areas of the city – a map showing the locations is at Appendix 1.

Adult Social Care (ASC) has funded these lunch clubs for many years. The funding was originally provided in order to provide nutritious, culturally appropriate meals for groups of older people from ethnic minority groups.

However, the Care Act 2014 changed the landscape of Adult Social Care in a way that more clearly distinguished the duties of councils to provide care and support for people who are assessed as eligible for council social care, from the duties of councils to prevent, delay or reduce the development of such needs. Under the Care Act, people who appear to have a need for support, for example to meet their nutritional needs or to mix socially, can have an assessment. If the assessment finds that they are eligible because of such needs they can have a package of care which could include statutory services such as domiciliary care to help with meals, community opportunities to provide social interaction and so on, or a Direct Payment with which to buy the support they need themselves. This would include culturally appropriate food or social opportunities if needed.

Lunch clubs are not statutory services – that is they are not aimed at people who have been assessed as having eligible needs. Their purpose has therefore tended to have been seen as 'preventative'. In addition, new grant agreements issued to



them on 2016 reduced the emphasis on meal provision. As the funding is in the form of grants, and is not statutory, the contractual requirements to provide detailed monitoring and quality assurance information is not as significant as it would be for statutory services

The 'choice' of which club is funded and how much they are funded had developed over time in an ad hoc way, and there was no specific analysis of need, or preventative value. In addition, there is no particular rationale for funding these specific 14 groups to provide social activities for older people, when there are many other activities for older people that do not get adult social care funding.

ASC hopes that the lunch clubs will be able to continue without council funding and will provide advice to assist them to do this. However, unlike statutory services, there is no obligation to find alternatives for service users if they are unable to do so. Having said this, where a disproportionate negative impact on a protected group is identified as part of this impact assessment, we will identify mitigating actions to remove or reduce the impact.

The lunch clubs affected, current and phased reductions in funding are shown below:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	Current	From Jan 2019 25% less	From Jan 2020 50% less	From Jan 2021 25% less	From Jan 2022 End of funding
Provider A	£40,086	£37,581	£27,559	£17,538	£7,516
Provider B	£2,254	£2,113	£1,550	£986	£423
Provider C	£9,601	£9,001	£6,601	£4,200	£1,800
Provider D	£16,932	£15,874	£11,641	£7,408	£3,175
Provider E	£7,058	£6,617	£4,852	£3,088	£1,323
Provider F	£9,384	£8,798	£6,452	£4,106	£1,760

Provider G	£421	£395	£289	£184	£79
Provider H	£5,493	£5,150	£3,776	£2,403	£1,030
Provider I	£16,770	£15,722	£11,529	£7,337	£3,144
Provider J	£4,741	£4,445	£3,259	£2,074	£889
Provider K	£308	£289	£212	£135	£58
Provider L	£9,216	£8,640	£6,336	£4,032	£1,728
Provider M	£12,500	£11,719	£8,594	£5,469	£2,344
Provider N	£5,263	£4,934	£3,618	£2,303	£987
<b>Total</b>	<b>£140,027</b>	<b>£131,275</b>	<b>£96,269</b>	<b>£61,262</b>	<b>£26,255</b>

Part of the basis for the proposal is that it is argued that lunch clubs could continue without ASC funding if they change their 'business model'. This is evidenced by the fact that many lunch clubs or similar community activities are able to operate without council funding, especially low-cost activities – for example coffee mornings. Options for the lunch clubs include charging for meals, finding cheaper sources of food, stopping providing lunches and moving to cheaper activities, finding cheaper venues to meet in, making more use of volunteers, seeking donations, seeking funding from other sources. It is intended to provide information and signposting to lunch clubs to give them advice and support to do this – e.g. via

- VAL's Group Support Service and other sources. VAL's Group Support Service offers a wide range of support on setting up and running a group and finding funding. <https://www.valonline.org.uk/groups/advice-support/setting>
- Leicestershire Cares – specifically ProHelp which is a group of professional firms who are committed to making a difference in the community by offering their services for free to community organisations in need of support <http://www.leicestershirecares.co.uk/prohelp/> .
- DMU Square Mile <https://dmusquaremile.our.dmu.ac.uk/> who could help with skills training for those that run the clubs

- **Spacehive & CrowdFundLeicester**– these are the new funding opportunities for communities and groups that the Mayor is also jointly supporting with the Community Engagement Fund, <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crowdfundleicester>
- Sports funding for those that carry out physical activities - <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-and-leisure/other-sports/sports-development/funding/>

The reasons for the proposal are:

- That there is no evidence that lunch clubs prevent people from developing needs for statutory ASC care and support. This is because the only requirement is that service users are over 55 and this on its own is not a significant risk factor for developing statutory needs;
- That the current provision is ad hoc, based on historic funding arrangements, and is not based on priority needs (such as having a complex health condition or mental health problem etc); and
- There is a requirement to make savings in adult social care. This funding forms part of a wider review of ASC prevention services commissioned from the VCS. Although there are equalities implications for taking forward this proposal, this should be weighed against the potential equalities implications should the council be unable to afford to deliver statutory ASC care and support.

## 2. Equality implications/obligations

Which aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) are likely be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes.

	<b>Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?</b>
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**Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation**

How does the proposal/service ensure that there is no barrier or disproportionate impact for anyone with a particular protected characteristic

The funding reductions are proposed to take place across all lunch clubs. The lunch clubs are for older people (55+) and although they state they are open to all, in practice are targeted at people from specific ethnic and faith communities. There may therefore be a disproportionate impact in these groups, plus on people with disability or long-term health conditions, as these characteristics are more prevalent amongst older people. In order to respond to this potential disproportionate impact we have identified the following mitigating actions:

To provide information, guidance and contacts which will help lunch clubs to develop alternative business models and/or alternative sources of funding.

However, the majority of older people in the city, including those from the ethnic or faith groups who would be affected by the proposal, do not have access to a council funded lunch club. In addition, the lunch clubs do not cover other communities who may have an equal or greater need, for example people living on the outer estates of the city.

If the lunch club is able to continue by using donations, making more use of voluntary workers, charging those who attend the full cost of the meal and/or finding other sources of funding, service users may see no change. The lunch club may decide to meet less often, or if the club is no longer able

	to continue, service users may need to find alternative activities to attend.
<p><b>Advance equality of opportunity between different groups</b> How does the proposal/service ensure that its intended outcomes promote equality of opportunity for users? Identify inequalities faced by those with specific protected characteristic(s).</p>	The original proposal was to end funding all in one go from January 2019. The proposal has been amended to take a phased approach to ending funding in order to enable lunch clubs to find alternative sources of funding and/or change their business model to reduce costs. This change should provide a better chance for lunch clubs to continue, which, if this happens, would mitigate the risk to the attendees across protected characteristics.
<p><b>Foster good relations between different groups</b> Does the service contribute to good relations or to broader community cohesion objectives? How does it achieve this aim?</p>	As above.

### 3. Who is affected?

Outline who could be affected, and how they could be affected by the proposal/service change. Include current service users and those who could benefit from but do not currently access the service.

The 14 lunch clubs receive small grants from ASC. For this reason, it is not required that they provide detailed monitoring information. The specification sets targets for the number of meals provided, but not for the number of unique individuals accessing these meals. It is therefore difficult to provide an accurate picture of service users. In addition, the meal itself is not the

key benefit. People who do struggle to meet their nutritional needs because of a social care need can be assessed for a package of care. The main benefit of lunch clubs is to provide a source of social support.

Some of the lunch clubs do submit demographic data – and the list below shows which ones did and what they submitted for quarter 3 2018-19, which gives us a partial picture of the characteristics of some service users:

Provider	Ethnicity	Disability	Age	Religion	Gender	Sex Orientation
Provider A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provider B	No	No	No	No	No	No
Provider C	No	No	No	No	No	No
Provider D	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Provider E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provider F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Provider G	No	No	No	No	No	No
Provider H	No	No	No	No	No	No
Provider I	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provider J	No	No	No	No	No	No
Provider K	No	No	No	No	No	No
Provider L	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Provider M	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

Provider N	Yes	Don't Know	No	No	No	No
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From those that did submit demographic data a broad summary is shown below:

The full data from those that submitted is shown in Appendix 2.

Of 520 service users,:

- There were 306 females and 214 males.
- There were 28 aged under 65, 204 aged 65-74, 230 aged 75-84 and 58 aged 85 or over
- The predominant ethnic group was Indian (404 people), with Caribbean second (103)
- The predominant disability was 'learning difficulty' (267 people) with physical disability second (80)
- The predominant faith group was Hindu (277 people), with Sikh second (103).

It must be stressed that **this only represents data from less than half of the lunch clubs**. None of the lunch clubs submit data on sexual orientation.

This means that the data alone does not give a full picture of the equality impact of the proposed decision. However, because of the target user groups for the lunch clubs, it is likely that the proposal to taper and cease funding would be likely to result in a disproportionate negative impact on:

- People over 55 years
- People with disability or a long-term health condition (because of the higher prevalence of these amongst older people)
- People from Asian and African Caribbean ethnic groups

- People from minority faith groups: Hindu, Sikh, Jewish.

Therefore it has been identified, as part of the proposal that work must be undertaken to support the organisations who will be affected by the proposal, to make changes to their business model or to identify other sources of funding which would aid them in being able to continue to offer lunch clubs.

#### **4. Information used to inform the equality impact assessment**

What **data, research, or trend analysis** have you used? Describe how you have got your information and what it tells you. Are there any gaps or limitations in the information you currently hold, and how you have sought to address this, e.g. proxy data, national trends, etc.

As described above, data has been used from monitoring returns submitted by some of the lunch clubs, the service specification (which specifies that the club should be for people over 55) and observation about the target group for the lunch club and observations made on visits during quarterly monitoring and as part of engagement and consultation during the review.

#### **5. Consultation**

What **consultation** have you undertaken about the proposal with current service users, potential users and other stakeholders? What did they say about:

- What is important to them regarding the current service?
- How does (or could) the service meet their needs?
- How will they be affected by the proposal? What potential impacts did they identify because of their protected characteristic(s)?
- Did they identify any potential barriers they may face in accessing services/other opportunities that meet their needs?



Consultation on the proposal was undertaken from 9<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The consultation consisted of a survey, which people could complete online or on paper, together with a range of meetings with lunch club providers and with service users at the lunch clubs themselves.

172 people responded to the survey. In response to the survey, 89% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to end the funding to the lunch clubs. From both the survey and from the meetings with the lunch clubs, the key points made in the consultation were:

- a. the majority of people disagreed with the proposal
- b. the clubs helps people to avoid isolation and provides a social life,
- c. they help people with health problems by providing exercise and advice and support on keeping safe and well.
- d. the clubs do a lot more than provide lunch – providing both activities, and access to other sources of support such as advocacy in hospital, falls prevention, diabetes support, warm homes and also running activities such as fitness.
- e. changes to lunch clubs will affect ethnic minorities more because they are culturally appropriate.
- f. the value of lunch clubs is reinvested in the community – because they are not businesses.
- g. providers recognised the financial constraints facing the council and support for the proposal to phase out funding rather than remove it all at once
- h. funding cuts are short-sighted as people will need formal care and support earlier if they are not accessing lunch clubs
- i. clubs would need support to become self-sufficient, and for some this will be difficult as they have limited capacity. Some felt that VAL does not necessarily provide the support that groups need; and
- j. the wider issues that groups are facing – for example other cuts to the VCS – should be taken into account.

A consultation report is available which sets out the findings in more detail.

## 6. Potential equality Impact

Based on your understanding of the service area, any specific evidence you may have on service users and potential service users, and the findings of any consultation you have undertaken, use the table below to explain which individuals or community groups are likely to be affected by the proposal because of their protected characteristic(s). Describe what the impact is likely to be, how significant that impact is for individual or group well-being, and what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts.

Looking at potential impacts from a different perspective, this section also asks you to consider whether any other particular groups, especially vulnerable groups, are likely to be affected by the proposal. List the relevant that may be affected, along with their likely impact, potential risks and mitigating actions that would reduce or remove any negative impacts. These groups do not have to be defined by their protected characteristic(s).

<b>Protected characteristics</b>	<b>Impact of proposal:</b> Describe the likely impact of the proposal on people because of their protected characteristic and how they may be affected. Why is this protected characteristic relevant to the proposal?	<b>Risk of negative impact:</b> How likely is it that people with this protected characteristic will be negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?	<b>Mitigating actions:</b> For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact? These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA.

	How does the protected characteristic determine/shape the potential impact of the proposal?		
<b>Age<sup>1</sup></b>	The lunch clubs are for people over 55 years of age.	May not have a lunch club to attend if the club is unable to continue without ASC funding. This could lead to loneliness and isolation for some.	Advice/Support to be provided to lunch clubs to help them continue without ASC funding. Signposting to other activities for older people. Signposting to ASC for an assessment to see if they are eligible for statutory ASC support
<b>Disability<sup>2</sup></b>	Over 55 years – more likely to have a disability or long term health condition.	May not have a lunch club to attend if the club is unable to continue without ASC funding. This could lead to loneliness and isolation for some.	Support to be provided to lunch clubs to help them continue without ASC funding.  Signposting to other accessible activities for people.  Signposting to ASC for an assessment to see if they are eligible for statutory ASC support
<b>Gender Reassignment<sup>3</sup></b>	No impact identified at this stage.	As above	Signposting to other accessible activities for people.

<sup>1</sup> Age: Indicate which age group is most affected, either specify general age group - children, young people working age people or older people or specific age bands

<sup>2</sup> Disability: if specific impairments are affected by the proposal, specify which these are. Our standard categories are on our equality monitoring form – physical impairment, sensory impairment, mental health condition, learning disability, long standing illness or health condition.

<sup>3</sup> Gender reassignment: indicate whether the proposal has potential impact on trans men or trans women, and if so, which group is affected.

<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No impact identified at this stage.		
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	Unlikely to be an impact – service is for older people		
<b>Race<sup>4</sup></b>	Indian and Caribbean	Some service users converse in languages other than English, for example at one Lunch club Gujarati is widely spoken. This could limit options for people to attend other groups or activities in the local community.	If a lunch club was to close, seek to signpost to groups or activities for similar communities, where same language spoken as far as possible. Where appropriate, where people require help with their language skills, signpost them to local ESOL classes.
<b>Religion or Belief<sup>5</sup></b>	People from different faiths use the lunch clubs, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, Christian	May not have a lunch club to attend if the club is unable to continue without ASC funding.	Advice/Support to be provided to lunch club to help them continue without ASC funding.  Signposting to other activities for people.
<b>Sex<sup>6</sup></b>	More women than men use the lunch clubs.	May not have a lunch club to attend if the club is unable to continue without ASC funding.	Advice/Support to be provided to lunch club to help them continue without ASC funding.

<sup>4</sup> Race: given the city's racial diversity it is useful that we collect information on which racial groups are affected by the proposal. Our equalities monitoring form follows ONS general census categories and uses broad categories in the first instance with the opportunity to identify more specific racial groups such as Gypsies/Travellers. Use the most relevant classification for the proposal.

<sup>5</sup> Religion or Belief: If specific religious or faith groups are affected by the proposal, our equalities monitoring form sets out categories reflective of the city's population. Given the diversity of the city there is always scope to include any group that is not listed.

<sup>6</sup> Sex: Indicate whether this has potential impact on either males or females

			Signposting to other activities for people.
<b>Sexual Orientation<sup>7</sup></b>	No impact identified at this stage.		
<p><b>Summarise why the protected characteristics you have commented on, are relevant to the proposal?</b>  Those who attend lunch clubs will be people who have particular protected characteristics, such as disability and age. However, it is important to recognise that people accessing the clubs will have a wide range of, and possibly multiple, protected characteristics.</p> <p><b>Summarise why the protected characteristics you have not commented on, are not relevant to the proposal?</b>  We will continue to monitor as the proposed changes are implemented, and should any disproportionate negative impact become apparent we will identify mitigating actions where possible to reduce or remove the impact.</p>			

<b>Other groups</b>	<p><b>Impact of proposal:</b>  Describe the likely impact of the proposal on children in poverty or any other people who we consider to be vulnerable. List any vulnerable groups likely to be affected. Will their needs continue to be met? What issues will affect their take up of services/other opportunities that meet their needs/address inequalities they face?</p>	<p><b>Risk of negative impact:</b>  How likely is it that this group of people will be negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?</p>	<p><b>Mitigating actions:</b>  For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact for this vulnerable group of people? These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA.</p>
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<sup>7</sup> Sexual Orientation: It is important to remember when considering the potential impact of the proposal on LGBT communities, that they are each separate communities with differing needs. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people should be considered separately and not as one group. The gender reassignment category above considers the needs of trans men and trans women.

<b>Children in poverty</b>	No specific impact		
<b>Other vulnerable groups</b>			
<b>Other (describe)</b>	Many service users will be on low incomes will mean it is more difficult to charge the service users for the costs of the meal	More difficult to attract donations from the community or sponsorship from private sector organisations.	One mitigating action could be for attendees to be asked to pay what they can even if it is not the full cost of the meal. In addition, finding other sources of funding other than from the local community itself may be possible.

**7. Other sources of potential negative impacts**

Are there any other potential negative impacts external to the service that could further disadvantage service users over the next three years that should be considered? For example, these could include: other proposed changes to council services that would affect the same group of service users; Government policies or proposed changes to current provision by public agencies (such as new benefit arrangements) that would negatively affect residents; external economic impacts such as an economic downturn.

The wider reduction in funding available to VCS groups will mean that finding alternative funding for the groups will be more challenging.

Some of the groups are also affected by: cuts to community groups by Neighbourhood Services; re-commissioning of Community Opportunities services; and the end of the 5 year BIG Lottery funded Leicester Ageing Together programme funding in 2019. <https://www.leicesteraeingtogether.org.uk/>

Economic downturn – and the fact that many service users will be on low incomes will mean it is more difficult to charge the service users for the costs of the meal and more difficult to attract donations from the community or sponsorship from private sector organisations.

**8. Human Rights Implications**

Are there any human rights implications which need to be considered (please see the list at the end of the template), if so please complete the Human Rights Template and list the main implications below:

None.

### 9. Monitoring Impact

You will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics and human rights after the decision has been implemented. Describe the systems which are set up to:

- monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups
- monitor barriers for different groups
- enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities
- ensure that the EIA action plan (below) is delivered.

ASC will maintain contact with the clubs on a regular basis during the phasing out of the funding to monitor their wellbeing and to provide support to help them find a sustainable way forward.  
Information on alternative activities in the local neighbourhood will be provided.

### 10. EIA action plan

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from this Assessment (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Outcome	Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date
Seek to enable lunch clubs to become sustainable without ASC funding	Phase out funding, rather than ending it all in one go, to help lunch clubs adjust and, if possible find other ways of continuing such as using donations, increasing use of volunteers, charging those who attend the full cost of the meal or asking them to pay what they can; and/or finding other sources		

	of funding. Support for groups to do this is available from Voluntary Action Leicester.		
Seek to enable lunch clubs to become sustainable without ASC funding	<p>Hold a workshop and provide written advice on sources of support: e.g</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VAL – group support</li> <li>2. Leicestershire Cares – ProHelp</li> <li>3. DMU Square Mile</li> </ol> <p>Funding opportunities, e.g:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spacehive &amp; CrowdFundLeicester</li> <li>2. Ward funding</li> <li>3. Sports funding</li> </ol>	Cathy Carter	July 2019
Monitor lunch clubs during phasing period	Quarterly reports by lunch clubs to ASC Contracts and Assurance Team. This will identify whether any groups are failing, and enable us to offer support.	Neil Lester	Quarterly until funding ends 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021.
Signpost clubs/ service users to alternative activities. Include food banks	Information leaflets provided for service users	Cathy Carter	July 2019



Advise service users how to have an assessment for eligibility for ASC services	Information leaflets provided for service users	Cathy Carter	July 2019
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## **Human Rights Articles:**

### **Part 1: The Convention Rights and Freedoms**

- Article 2:** Right to Life
- Article 3:** Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way
- Article 4:** Right not to be subjected to slavery/forced labour
- Article 5:** Right to liberty and security
- Article 6:** Right to a fair trial
- Article 7:** No punishment without law
- Article 8:** Right to respect for private and family life
- Article 9:** Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Article 10:** Right to freedom of expression
- Article 11:** Right to freedom of assembly and association
- Article 12:** Right to marry
- Article 14:** Right not to be discriminated against

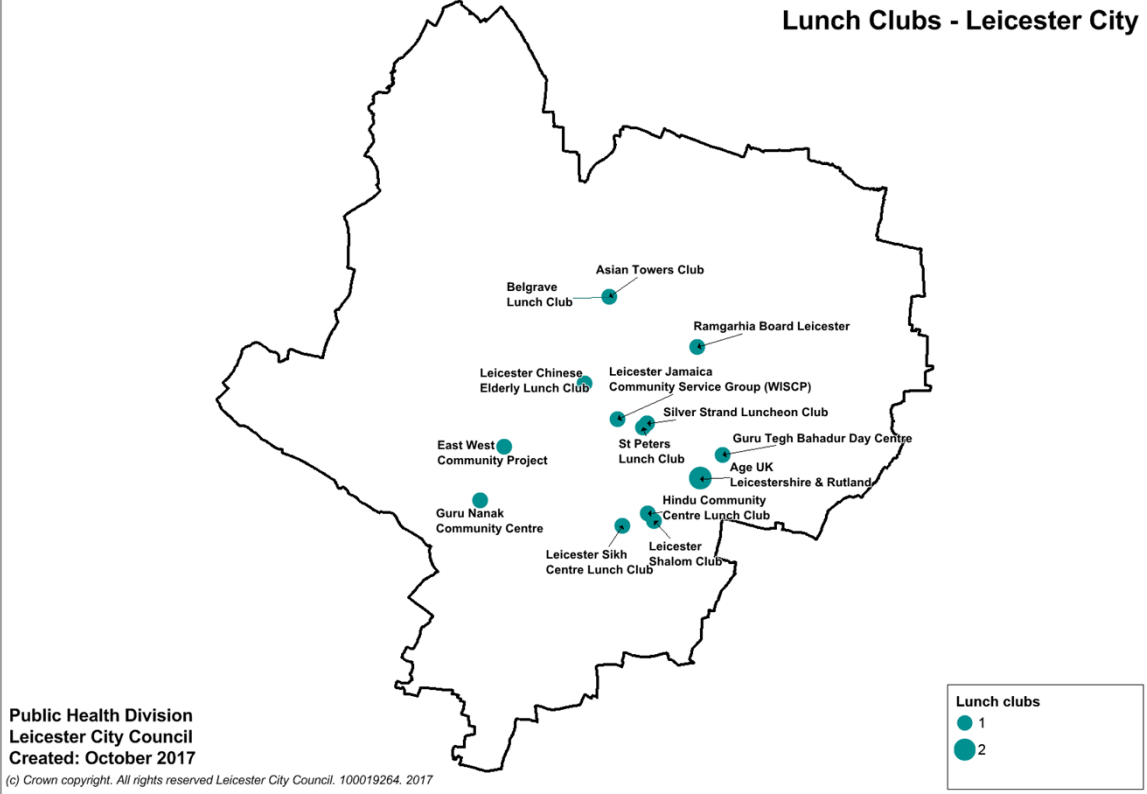
## **Part 2: First Protocol**

**Article 1:** Protection of property/peaceful enjoyment

**Article 2:** Right to education

**Article 3:** Right to free elections

EIA Appendix 1 – Locations of lunch clubs



EIA Appendix 2 – data on lunch club users

Lunch Club User Information Q1 - Q3 2017-2018					
No.	Lunch Club Providers	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Total Number
1	Provider A	94	95	93	<b>282</b>
2	Provider B	147	129	No Data	<b>276</b>
3	Provider C	65	95	No Data	<b>160</b>
4	Provider D	273	276	276	<b>825</b>
5	Provider E	28	13	11	<b>52</b>
6	Provider F	26	36	35	<b>97</b>
7	Provider G	269	227	225	<b>721</b>
8	Provider H	164	197	No Data	<b>361</b>
9	Provider I	22	31	35	<b>88</b>
10	Provider J	156	196	210	<b>562</b>
11	Provider K	636	641	595	<b>1872</b>
12	Provider L	70	70	70	<b>210</b>
13	Provider M	123	116	103	<b>342</b>
14	Provider N	37	44	37	<b>118</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2110</b>	<b>2166</b>	<b>1690</b>	<b>5966</b>

<b>Lunch club Age Groups Q3 Period 2017-2018</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
18-64	8	20	28
65-74	85	119	204
75-84	82	148	230
85+	39	19	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>520</b>

<b>Lunch club Ethnicity Groups Q3 Period 2017-2018</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bangladeshi	0	0	0
Indian	172	232	404
Pakistani	3	17	20
Other Asian Background	32	39	71
Caribbean	23	80	103
African	0	0	0
British	16	5	21
Europe	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>622</b>

<b>Lunch club Disability Groups Q3 Period 2017-2018</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dementia	1	18	19
Brain/Head Injury	0	1	1
Hearing Impairment	6	9	15
Learning Difficulty	143	124	267
Long Term Illness/Condition	9	13	22
Mental Health	13	12	25
Mobility	9	31	40
Physical Disability	14	66	80
Visual Impairment	1	1	2
Prefer Not to Say	0	2	2
Other (Specify below)	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>473</b>

<b>Lunch club Religion Groups Q3 Period 2017-2018</b>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bahai	0	0	0
Buddhist	0	0	0
Christian	13	24	37
Hindu	146	131	277
Jain	0	0	0
Jewish	0	0	0
Muslim	12	86	98
Sikh	41	62	103
Atheist	0	0	0
No Religion	0	0	0
Prefer Not Say	0	5	5
Other (Specify below)	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>520</b>