

Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

DATE: THURSDAY, 1 JULY 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street,
Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Members of the Committee

Councillor Thalukdar (Chair)
Councillor Solanki (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Joshi, Nangreave, O'Donnell, Waddington and Westley
One unallocated Labour group place
One unallocated non group place

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Anita Patel (Scrutiny Policy Officer)
Jacob Mann (Democratic Support Officer),
Tel: 0116 454 5843, e-mail: Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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- wear face coverings throughout the meeting unless speaking or exempt;
- make use of the hand sanitiser available;
- when moving about the building to follow signs about traffic flows, lift capacities etc;
- comply with Test and Trace requirements by scanning the QR code at the entrance to the building and/or giving their name and contact details at reception prior to the meeting;
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- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact: **Jacob Mann, Democratic Support Officer on 0116 454 5843.** Alternatively, email Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk, or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151.**

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

NOTE:

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

[Appendix A](#)

The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 11 March 2021 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

5. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW [**Appendix B**](#)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a presentation outlining the portfolio of the Neighbourhood Services department.

8. COVID 19 RECOVERY UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services will present a verbal update on the recovery plans of the Neighbourhood Services department.

9. WARD ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDING ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 [**Appendix C**](#)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to provide an outline of how ward funding was spent across the city between April 2020 and March 2021. This report seeks to provide an insight into the various projects and initiatives that took place in wards and those that were important to residents locally.

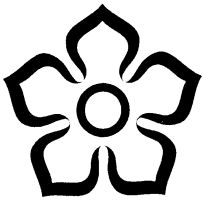
10. TREE STRATEGY REVIEW [**Appendix D**](#)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to provide members with an update on progress since the introduction of the Tree Strategy which was adopted by the City Council in November 2018.

11. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME [**Appendix E**](#)

The current work programme for the Commission is attached. The Commission is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 11 MARCH 2021 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Thalukdar (Chair)

Councillor Ali
Councillor Govind
Councillor Solanki

Councillor Aqbany
Councillor Joshi

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87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair led on introductions and it was noted that there were no apologies for absence.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

89. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission from 28 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

90. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

91. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

92. COVID 19 UPDATE

The Director for Neighbourhood and Environmental Services provided the meeting with current updates. It was noted that:

- Waste Management continued to deliver and had received great support from Biffa. It was suggested that the re-use shop would re-open soon at Gypsum Close
- Green waste and cleaning services had also re-commenced.
- Libraries were operating on an order and collection basis whilst community centres remained closed as advised by public health (some community centres remained open where testing centres had been set up).
- Allotments remained open.
- Community Safety Teams and Regulatory Services were delivering certain elements of their service.

As part of the discussions it was noted that any retailer who was required to close as part of the lockdown rules but was now operating as a food business would require being registered with the Food Safety Team.

The Deputy Director of Finance provided an update. It was noted that:

- The Revenue and Customer Services team continued to operate, with most staff working from home and some at City Hall. Members of the public were asked to use the online services.
- The Test and Trace team which had dealt with 9500 cases since December 2020 at a 90% success rate continued to deliver their service.
- The Service continued on administering the grant schemes that were available. 21,000 grants had been delivered to 5,400 businesses and charities, some of whom were repeat payments. It was suggested that the last grants would be made available in April.

As part of the discussions it was noted that information around energy efficiency grants would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting from the Deputy Director of Finance.

Financial Hardship grants were approved to 45% of applicants after being asked to isolate following Test and Trace. And 18% of the discretionary grant scheme had been approved. Voluntary Action Leicester were administering the grants for community organisations and this information would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting.

There had been support provided to some of the locally effected manufacturing businesses and it was suggested that the wider manufacturing sector needs to be observed.

Support for essential retail was only provided on a discretionary basis. It was suggested that if businesses were not required to close then no grants were available. Information on car mechanics and dry cleaners would also be circulated outside of the meeting.

Although discretionary grants were available to taxi drivers in other parts of the country, it was noted that the city council were aware of this but did not provide this scheme, but this was under review.

AGREED:

That the Services delivering the work be thanked for their continuous efforts.

93. SAFER LEICESTER PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2021-2024

The Deputy City Mayor and the Chair of the Safer Leicestershire Partnership Board introduced the current Safer Leicester Partnership Plan (SLP) item. It was noted that the consultation had been undertaken with partner organisations and the plan was brought to the Commission as the views of the Commission were valued to understand and reflect the needs of the local people. It was noted that the plan was reviewed annually.

The Head of Community Safety and Protection delivered the presentation on the Safer Leicester Partnership Plan

As part of the discussions it was noted that:

- It was suggested that the priorities were adequate whilst some priorities may need refreshing as time goes on. It was noted that elected Members were all emailed for their contributions as consultants as part of the consultation work.
- Members of the Commission welcomed the report and the initiative. It was suggested that Members agreed with the priorities set out in the presentation and suggested this item stayed on the work programme, for future Commission meetings to allow Members to monitor annually.
- A theme group of partners worked on individual agenda items to present to the SLP Executive meetings on their findings and if required, senior level involvement would be involved to resolve matters that emerge.
- It was suggested that as a collective there were actions that could be taken to resolve some of the priorities and concerns such as street drinking. It was noted that, Public Space Orders gave the police powers to confiscate alcohol from street drinkers whilst wider work with partners such as the City Wardens Team helped address concerns with litter created by street drinkers.
- It was suggested that the key enforcement powers were the public protection orders, with the potential of introducing extra signage or a scheme to educate the offenders.
- These priorities were monitored by the SLP where a team leader was responsible to present dashboard of information which indicated the team were meeting their priorities satisfactorily.
- It was suggested that a new strategy was being considered to tackle the different nuances of alcohol.
- Although the Noise Team had adapted to the new ways of working, it was suggested that there had been a slight delay in installing noise recording equipment as a result of the pandemic and analysing information collected by the noise recording equipment. Recording from outside of properties was still ongoing and appropriate action was being followed up, with seven seizures since September.
- It was noted that information on crime and disorder hotspots was shared from the Police Crime Commissioners office for both crime and anti-social

behaviour on a quarterly basis. It was suggested that information was available for the public on local crime on the police website.

- It was noted that the fund for the SLP had decreased over the years, but partners had come together to deliver the priorities with an additional support from the Police Crime Commissioners office where all the Community Safety Partnerships receive an allocation for the full financial year.

AGREED:

- 1) That Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission support the three-year plan and the priorities going forward;
- 2) That Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission request future updates on the final plan and progress reports on a quarterly basis;
- 3) And that, the members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission suggest a joint scrutiny meeting with the Health Scrutiny Commission around alcohol misuse and street drinking.

94. POLLUTION CONTROL

The Head of Regulatory Services introduced the item on Pollution Control and Delivered a presentation on the noise and pollution control work that had been undertaken.

As part of the discussions it was noted that:

- Members had complaints from residents during the lockdown period with concerns of garden bonfires. It was suggested that larger garden bonfires were likely to lead to complaints from neighbours, whereas incinerators that did not emit smoke were less likely to cause a nuisance. Officers suggested that residents should log their complaints on the website which would be followed up by a member of the team and advisory letters had been sent out to residents.
- It was noted that areas that had bigger garden spaces were common areas where complaints with bonfires would be received.
- Members shared their concerns with smaller garages where car repairs and service works were carried out leaving oil spills in public footpaths. It was noted that, the City Council were no longer responsible for the waste from smaller garages, who now sent their engine oil waste away. If the concerns were over oil going down the drains, then Severn Trent would be the point of contact and a health and safety inspection. If Members had concerns with particular garages, this information could be shared with the team and the City Warden Services could further investigate.
- Members of the Commission praised the team for the transformation of the site where the Morningside Arena now stands.
- It was noted that the Groby Road school site had a contaminated land condition attached to the plans and the Planning Department may be able to explain better why the work had seized to progress.
- It was noted that there were 29 licenses for petrol storage, 28 of which were petrol stations and one private company, which stored petrol for its own vehicles.

- It was noted that the service would investigate any complaint that was raised related to odour from local commercial activity. This included takeaways, restaurants, food production and dye houses. Odour from domestic properties was an area that the service could not investigate.

AGREED:

- 1) That the Director of Neighbourhoods and Environmental Services be requested to bring the results of the government funded pollution pilot project when they are available;
- 2) And that, the Officers be thanked for their informative presentation and this item be added to future work programmes.

95. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair suggested that Members should contact the Chair or the Scrutiny Policy Officer, if they had any items they wish to have considered.

96. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no items of urgent business, the meeting closed at 8:03pm.

Neighbourhood and Environmental Services - Overview

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission 1st July 2021



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John Leach
Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

Overview

- **Neighbourhood and Environmental Services Operating in our Great City**
- **Services Areas**
- ∞
 - **Priorities – A Snapshot**
 - **Contact Details**

Neighbourhood and Environmental Services Operating in Our Great City



Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

Director of
Neighbourhood and
Environmental Services

John Leach

Head of
Regulatory
Services

Nicola Preston

Head of Parks
and Open Spaces

Stewart Doughty
and Michael
Walker

Head of
Neighbourhood
Services

Lee Warner

Head of
Community Safety
and Protection

Daxa Pancholi

Head of Waste
Management

Mark Loran

Head of
Standards and
Development

Bob Mullins

Service Areas – Waste Management



- Contract with Biffa Leicester until 2028 covering collection and disposal of domestic waste.
- Maintenance of an effective waste and recycling collection service with over 13 million collections per year
- Garden waste service delivered with over 4,900 customers - over 1,100 tonnes collected and composted
- Two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and a network of bring banks
- Reuse Shop and Trade Waste facility on Gypsum Close HWRC
- Policy Work – Government Resources and Waste Strategy

Service Areas – Community Safety and Protection



- Safer Leicester Partnership (Community Safety Partnership)
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (Crasbu)
- Domestic and Sexual Violence
- ↻ Prevent
- Private Sector Housing – Tackling Rogue Landlords and promoting good ones! (Reports to Housing Scrutiny Commission)
- Work to embed a multi-agency response to Street Lifestyle issues in Leicester.
- Modern Slavery & Labour Abuse
- Hate crime and incident work

Service Areas - Standards and Development



- CCTV - £1.2 Million of Investment
- ↪ Allotments
- City Wardens
- Pest and Dog Control
- Play Facilities
- Public Realm projects – such as Victoria Park Centenary Walk
- Performance and Intelligence Unit

Service Areas- Neighbourhood Services



Neighbourhood Services

- 28 neighbourhood facilities including 9 multi-service centres
- 16 library service points and 16 centres offering room hire and 2 book buses
- 4 Ward Meetings and Ward Funding
- Focus on four “Universal Offers”: Reading, Digital Inclusion, Cultural & Creativity and Health & Wellbeing
- Events and activities including the Summer Reading Challenge!
- In previous years we have seen: -
 - **2.3 million visits** to Neighbourhood facilities
 - 170,000 hours access to **public computers**, and 100,000 **Wi-Fi** accesses!
 - Delivery of **Our Best Book, Reading Rampage & Black History** programmes

Service Areas – Regulatory Services



- **Food Safety** - The Food Safety Team inspect over 3100 food establishments in order to seek to ensure they meet legal food safety requirements (taking action where required).
- **Public Safety** - delivers the Council's statutory duties under a range of public safety related legislation such as the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975,
- **Trading Standards** Team work to protect consumers and support legitimate business.
- **Noise and Pollution Control** deal with a range of statutory nuisances and are responsible for petroleum licensing; monitoring and coordinating action on controlling emissions from industrial processes and dealing with contaminated land.
- **Licensing licence** a range of activities (sale of alcohol, entertainment, gambling etc) and their duties include developing and implementing licensing policies, processing and issuing licences, promoting best practice, ensuring compliance with licensing requirements and enforcement where it is deemed necessary.
- **Building Control** - seek to protect the safety of the public from dangerous structures and demolitions

Service Areas – Parks and Open Spaces



- Parks Services, Bereavement Services, Trees and Woodlands Service, Landscape Services, Cleansing Services
- 153 local parks and open spaces
- 9 → Bereavement Services undertook 941 burials and 2,189 cremations during 2020.
- Management of tree stock of 150K individual registered trees and 109 hectares of woodland.
- Over 600 miles of city streets receive street cleaning services
- Fleet of 9 footway sweepers and two street hot washers
- Removal of 6,157 graffiti tags from 1,990 sites in 2020
- Emptied 3,200 litter bins every day / week inc 354 daily in the City Centre.
- Over 3,000 tonnes of waste collected from the highway and recycled (exc leaf litter).
- Removal of over 9,883 fly-tips in 2020

Delivery, Communications & Political Governance Division

Neighbourhoods and Communities

Complimentary Activities



Support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE), including community and neighbourhood groups:

- VCSE Infrastructure Support – commissioned arrangement provided by Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL)
- Crowdfunding – enabled through the CrowdFundLeicester - <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crowdfundleicester>
- City Mayor’s ‘Community Engagement Fund’ - £100,000 fund to support innovative projects that address the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- VCSE Sector Support Strategy – in development

Priorities – A Snapshot

- **Deliver on Manifesto Commitments across service areas.**

Community Safety and Protection

- Work with partners to establish and deliver against a city-wide knife crime strategy
- Tackling Street Lifestyles in Leicester

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Waste Management

- Continue to deliver an effective and efficient waste collection service for a growing city, including addressing any problem areas
- Engage with matters relating to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy

Priorities – A Snapshot

Regulatory Services

- Continue to support businesses with respect to compliance with COVID-19 restrictions whilst they are required.
- Recovery work – for example food safety inspections

Standards and Development and Parks and Open Spaces

- Recovery work – for example through a new Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy

Priorities – A Snapshot

Neighbourhood Services

- Recovery Work – Ensuring the public are safely welcomed back to libraries and community centres when appropriate to do so.
- Expand our reading projects – Our Best Book, Reading Rampage and the Summer Reading Challenge
- Further expand and promote online library resources to deliver a wider range of e-books and e-audio resources which are easier to find and use.

Contact Details

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Head of Parks and Open Spaces
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Ward Engagement & Funding



Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Annual Report 2020/21 ward engagement

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of how ward funding was spent across the city between April 2020 and March 2021. This report seeks to provide an insight into the various projects and initiatives that took place in wards and those that were important to residents locally.

Summary

The past year has presented exceptional challenges for local communities responding to the unprecedented situation brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. Whilst community groups and organisations have had to find new and creative ways of operating in lockdown and under social distancing restrictions, there has been a truly impressive response from local residents and voluntary organisations from every background and across all areas of the city to support those in need and boost the health and wellbeing of all.

Ward community funding has been crucial in supporting the needs of local communities to deliver much needed interventions. The Neighbourhood Services Ward and Community Engagement Team have continued to operate throughout the pandemic, supporting residents and community organisations by phone and online. The team have had an expanded function during this period. Whilst continuing to support ward Councillors in the administration of ward funding and supporting community organisations to make applications, they have also managed a telephone response group for all neighbourhood service enquiries, providing advice and information where possible, and signposting residents to the appropriate services and agencies as required.

The total ward funding allocation across 18 wards for 2020-21 was £393,650 consisting of £378,000 allocation for this year and £15,650 carried forward from the previous year, 2019-20. 288 applications were approved across all 18 wards with total ward funding of £370,703.88 allocated. Unallocated funding will be carried over to support projects in the next financial year. In addition to the standard ward community funding allocation, in 2020-21 the Council made available £105,000 of one off funding for the Community Mobilisation Fund to support community action during the pandemic. The Community Mobilisation Fund has provided support through a number of ways including food banks and provision of hot meals to isolating residents unable to leave their homes.

Ward Community Meetings and events have not been permitted to take place in usual way over the past year. Despite the restrictions on physical meetings alternative methods were piloted over the winter period with 11 online meetings taking place. Democratic Services Officers working with the Ward & Community Engagement Team have supported Councillors to undertake this activity

Annual Report 2020/21 ward engagement

using the Zoom platform. Consideration is given to options for future approaches to ward community meetings and early feedback from the pilot meetings.

What is Ward Community Funding?

Each of Leicester's 21 electoral wards hold community events where members of the public have the opportunity to meet councillors and council partners to help shape the services provided in their community. Each ward is allocated an annual budget of £18,000 which can be used to support projects that bring benefits to that ward. In 2020/2021 a total of **422** applications for ward funding were received and of these **72** were withdrawn, leaving **350** for consideration. The table below provides an outline of the number of applications received and of those, the number withdrawn:

Constituency	Number of applications received
East	129 (22)
South	147 (30)
West	146 (20)
Total	422 (72)

Case study

Ward:	Abbey
Amount awarded:	4 x £2,000
Project name:	I.T for all

Summary of activity/event:

Four Primary schools in Abbey Ward applied for ward funding to purchase extra ipads, laptops or kindles to ensure that children from low income families were not disadvantaged and to enable them to remote/home learn in the same way as the rest of the school during the Coronavirus pandemic

Outcome:

Across the four schools, over thirty items of equipment were purchased, which ensured the continuation of home learning for children in Abbey Ward schools during these unprecedented times.

The application process

Councillors are supportive of projects that bring benefits to their ward and those that address local priorities. Councillors tend to want to support as wide a range of activities as possible and for this reason generally do not support many proposals which would take up a large proportion of their funds. To assist with this, Councillors have the flexibility to make local arrangements for their ward to set limits on how much funding can be allocated to each application.

Each application is reviewed against key priorities defined locally by ward councillors and against predefined criteria ensuring applications do not breach any of the funding conditions as set out within the guidance for Ward Funding, as outlined below.

What cannot be funded?

Ward Community funding **cannot** be used for the following:

- Staffing, except temporary staff or specialists brought in to do a specific and short term piece of work
- Full costs of infrastructure, running costs or capital investment
- Recoverable VAT
- Any liability arising out of illegality or negligence
- Any form of gambling (except small fundraising activities e.g. raffle, tombola etc)
- Exclusively religious activity
- Political activity
- An event or activity which has already taken place
- Applications from organisations from which previous evaluation information and funding has not been accounted for.

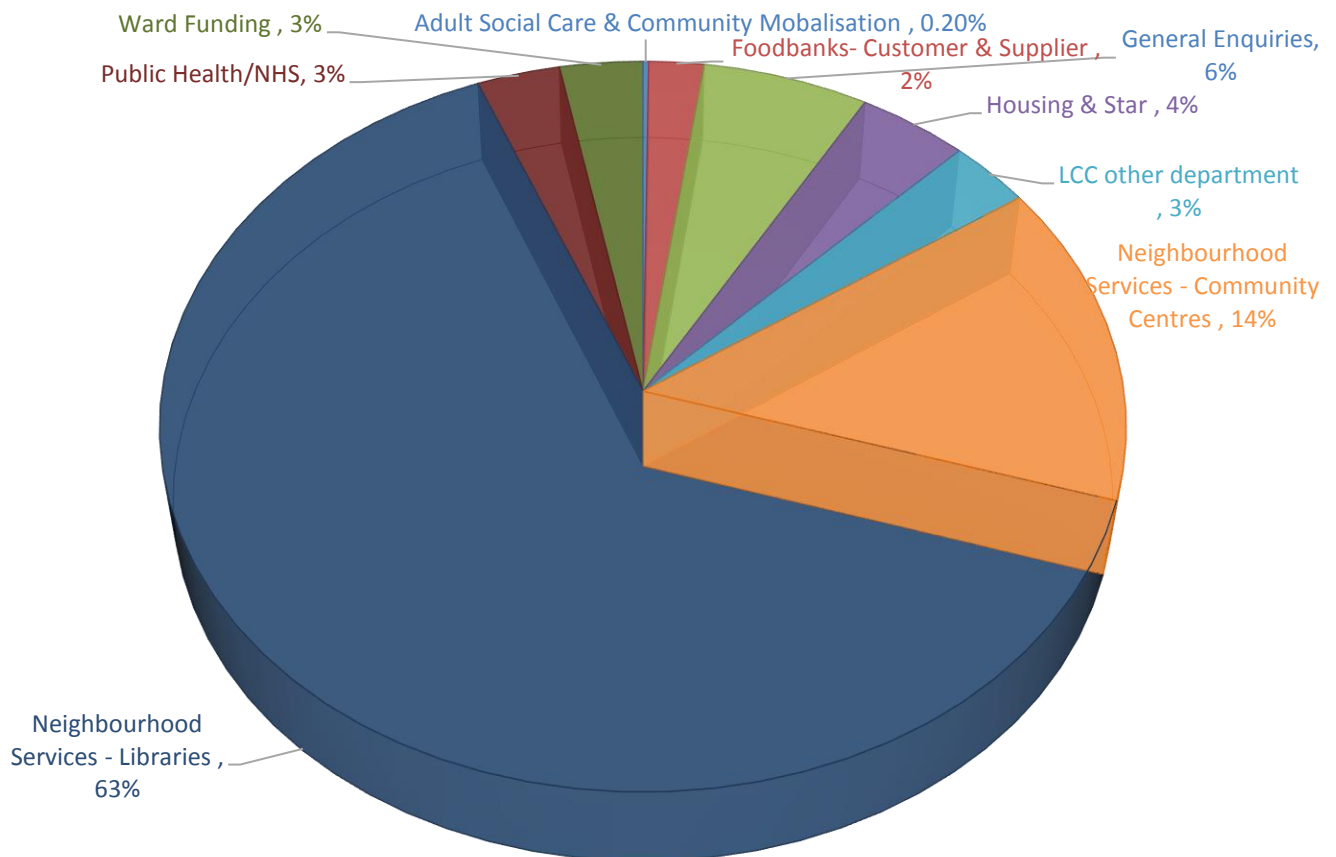
Following the review of each application, Councillors are presented with an assessment, summarising the key points of the application and any additional information received on request. It will include a recommendation to Support or Reject based on compliance with ward funding guidelines and also highlight the merits and/or limitations of the application. Ward Councillors are asked to consider these assessments to determine whether to support applications for funding.

Annual Report 2020/21 ward engagement

Ward Engagement Helpline

The ward engagement helpline allows applicants to call the team for information, advice and guidance around any stage of the application process. As a direct and swift response to Covid-19, from 23rd March 2020, all community centre and library phone lines were diverted to this helpline, and the ward engagement team were tasked with providing signposting and information for a wide range of enquiries from the public. A total of 2,511 phone calls have been recorded. The breakdown of types of enquiry is as follows:

- Adult Social Care & Community Mobilisation
- Foodbank Enquiries – Customer and Supplier
- General Enquiries
- Housing and Supporting Tenants And Residents (STAR)
- LCC - other department
- Neighbourhood Services – Community Centres
- Neighbourhood Services – Libraries
- Public Health/NHS enquiries
- Ward Funding



Ward Engagement and Neighbourhood Services Helpline – Call Type

Neighbourhood Services – Libraries 63%

Telephone calls during the early and mid-part of the restrictions covered queries relating to the library services opening, and book loan returns. Call queries also included requests for access to online library services, printing, and computers. More general calls included requests for orange refuse bags, telephone number requests for other, non-council services, and general information.

As the restrictions eased after the first lockdown, Neighbourhood Services expanded the services being delivered. Order and collect, books at home, and the telephone contact service, resulted in a slight reduction of calls to the helpline, however calls relating to libraries remained consistently high.

Neighbourhood Services - Community Centres 14%

Telephone calls concerning community centres remained consistent, with queries that covered:

- Opening Times
- Queries concerning eat in and take away food availability, in particular, at the African Caribbean Centre
- Room hire availability
- Availability of Adult Learning classes

General Enquiries – 6%

General enquiry calls cover enquiries relating to people who were experiencing very difficult situations, and circumstances as a result of the restrictions. The calls under general enquiry included requests for help with;

- Domestic violence
- Families with no food

People who were alone and isolated

Housing and STAR (Supporting Tenants and Residents) – 4%

Telephone calls relating to both Housing and STAR, which are based in some Neighbourhood Services Centres, reduced mid-way through the restrictions. In the early stages some customers needed signposting to the separate helpline service and contact point for the housing department, or STAR services.

Ward Funding – 3%

Overall telephone calls relating to ward funding have decreased over the restriction period. Ward engagement work continued as normal over this time frame. The majority of calls related to people enquiring about funding to support;

- Food Parcel supplies and delivery

Annual Report 2020/21 ward engagement

- Online activities
- Positive mental health related projects

Public Health / NHS – 3%

Telephone calls relating to public health and the NHS increased in the later stages of the restrictions. This was following the opening of additional test and rapid testing centres based in some of the Neighbourhood Services centres, along with the availability of the vaccine. The calls cover information request on:

- Booking a test
- Test results
- Opening times

Other Council Services 3%

The helpline received the majority of the calls to other Council services in the early stages of the first lockdown. These calls were varied ranging from requests for waste management, the community safety ASB team and electoral services.

Food Bank Enquiries – 2%

The food bank related calls were in the main from families who said they were suffering from hardship and required urgent assistance.

Case study

Ward: Eyres Monsell

Amount awarded: £750.00

Project name: Perfect You – Covid Virtual Befriending Project.

Summary of activity/event:

'Perfect You' – a Covid Virtual Befriending Service, was set up, a qualified counsellor and four volunteer counsellors. The project aimed to assist and support residents within the Eyres Monsell ward, who were experiencing mental health, social isolation, and loneliness issues, due to the imposed restrictions. The befriending service project provided weekly contact, via telephone and zoom calls, with people who had either seen the service advertised locally or had been referred by other services. The contact service was also supported by an online website, that provided suggestions and exercises that people could read, and follow, in order to gain positive reinforcement and self-esteem building tools.

Outcome:

'Perfect You' – Covid Virtual Befriending Project received over 100 calls from December 2020 to March 2021 from people within the Eyres Monsell ward. The calls ranged from people who just wanted to talk, to people who expressed concerns over their mental health, due to their regular services being temporarily closed. The Project was able to provide support, and a friendly 'ear' when people most needed it.

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Successful applications

Between April 2020 and March 2021, a total of **288** applications were successful in receiving ward funding. The following table provides details of the number of successful applications per ward.

Constituency	Number of applications received for consideration	Number supported over £500	Number supported up to £500	Total Number of applications supported
East	107	46	31	77
South	117	73	32	105
West	126	47	59	106
Total	350	166	122	288

Types of ward funded activity

Ward funding was provided for a number of local priorities and events determined by ward councillors. As part of analysing the successful applications each project/activity was identified under the most appropriate category relating to the purpose of funding. The categories are identified as follows:

Category	Description
Education and Improving Skills	Projects that support the community in gaining further skills, e.g. computer, numeracy, and literacy, back to work and self-confidence.
Community and Social Events	A way of promoting community cohesion, to integrate and network. Examples include family fun days, day trips and lunch clubs.
Environmental events/projects	Improving the environment throughout neighbourhoods and communities. Examples include City Warden clean ups, clearing fly tipping and litter picking campaigns, and work in Parks with volunteers
Sports and Leisure	A way of improving health and well-being through sports and leisure. Examples include football teams, various sporting activities, indoor bowls, knitting clubs, art groups and exhibitions
Developing and Supporting Communities	To meet the current needs of the community, making neighbourhoods stronger and empowering for sustainable

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	development. For example, Coronavirus initiatives, mental health advice in schools projects, community events and foodbanks
Arts /Cultural/Celebration Events	Events that are specified as key cultural aspects, can sometimes be inclusive around religion for example Holi Celebrations, Eid Celebrations, Christmas, and Halloween events that are open and welcome to all.
Traffic and Highways	Work/initiatives around highway improvements, speeding and raising awareness throughout the community, and traffic safety including installation of bollards.

The table below provides an outline of the number of applications supported across the different types of activity.

Constituency	Type of activity						Total
	Community / Social events	Arts & Culture/ Celebration Events	Developing & Supporting Communities / Volunteering & Other	Education and Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Sports/ Leisure	
East	7	3	32	9	11	15	77
South	6	7	62	13	8	9	105
West	3	11	47	22	8	15	106
Total	16	21	141	44	27	39	288

The following table provides details of the amount of funding awarded in support of activities across the different categories. The total awarded was **£378,233**.

Constituency	Community/social events	Cultural/celebration events	Developing & Supporting Communities / Volunteering & Other	Education and improving skills	Environmental event/projects	Sports and leisure	Total
East	£5,423	£1,780	£47,291	£11,020	£39,155	£17,850	£122,519
South	£12,700	£4,840	£72,412	£32,298	£10,467	£12,579	£145,296
West	£1,100	£6,760	£48,136	£28,566	£13,510	£12,346	£110,418

Case study

Ward: Evington / Thurncourt / Troon.

Amount awarded: £1,500 - £500 per ward.

Project name: Covid -19 Food Share.

Summary of activity/event:

The Covid-19 Government restriction saw the temporary closure of local lunch clubs for many vulnerable older people across the city. To ensure that older, vulnerable, isolated people in the Evington, Thurncourt, and Troon wards, received hot meals, regular contact and support during the Covid 'lockdown', ward councillors funded a local food share to include cooked meals in their service provision. The project was organised to enable the cooks from the existing lunch clubs to cook hot, wholesome meals in the food share kitchens. The meals were then distributed across the wards to the people who would ordinarily attend the lunch club for their meals. The delivery volunteers safely delivered the hot meals following public health covid-19 guidelines. They were also able to check on the lunch club members isolating at home and provide support if needed. In addition to the hot meals and support, the volunteers would make contact with vulnerable people, who did not ordinarily attend a lunch club, to ensure that hot meals were available if needed, to many of the other vulnerable people and families within the wards.

Outcome: Across three wards, 250 hot meals were prepared and delivered twice a week, by the food share. In addition to hot meals, the Foodshare Project delivered 300 food parcels a week to vulnerable families in the areas.

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Covid-19 Specific Ward Funded Projects

Ward Councillors utilised their ward funding budgets to support Covid-19 specific projects and initiatives, that significantly helped in building strong community resilience, cohesion, and community action. These included food banks, online fitness, socially distanced befriending and support accessing essential services, devices for schools to support with home learning and health awareness support.

The total amount of ward funding spent on Covid-19 specific projects was **£128,536**, which amounts to **41%** of the total amount of funding awarded in 2020/2021.

Constituency	Number of Projects Supported	Total Funding Amount
East	25	£28,450
South	37	£50,100
West	38	£49,986
TOTAL	100	£128,536

Public participation

The following table provides a breakdown of the estimated number of people participating and/or considered beneficiaries of ward funded activity. The table also provides a comparison of the number of beneficiaries against the amount of funding awarded.

Constituency	Number of estimated attendees within the ward	Number of estimated attendees from outside of the ward	Total Estimated Number of attendees
East	41,437	23,598	65,035
South	89,948	75,738	165,686
West	51,327	10,062	61,389
Grand Total	182,712	109,398	292,110

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Volunteer engagement

The table below provides information about the estimated number of volunteers engaged in organising, coordinating, and delivering ward funded activities.

Constituency	Number of volunteers						Total
	Community /Social Events	Cultural/ Celebration Events	Developing & Supporting Communities / Volunteering & Other	Education and Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Sports/ Leisure	
East	53	36	273	12	10	68	452
South	32	36	312	12	44	109	545
West	13	53	333	20	15	76	510
Grand Total	98	125	918	44	69	253	1507

Council led schemes

Through discussions with local residents and Council services were able to deliver ward specific priorities through ward funding projects. A total of 45 applications for Council led projects/schemes were awarded Ward Funding to a total value of **£129,825.00** (this represents 34% of the total amount of funding awarded) to support identified local priorities. The table below provides details of the service areas that delivered ward funded projects to support local priorities in 2020/21.

Service area	Number of schemes	Amount of funding
Children /Youth Services	9	£6510
City Wardens	7	£32,340
Community Safety	4	£11,650
Highways/Transport	13	£50,310
Housing	6	£7,900
Libraries	1	£750
Parks	5	£20,365
Total	45	£129,825

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Declared 'Other Sources' Funding

Ward funding applicants are required to itemise other sources of matched funding drawn in to support the full delivery of projects. The additional funding contributions made possible by the ward funding programme in 2020-21 are summarised in the table below:

Constituency	Amount
East	£154,958
South	£212,360
West	£174,693
Total	£542,011

Community Mobilisation Fund (Amy Oliver)

The Council allocated £105,000 in a Community Mobilisation Fund to support community action during the pandemic. This fund supported various organisations such as foodbanks, homeless charities and other voluntary groups. Some of the ways these organisations assisted communities are provided below:

- Providing additional funding to the foodbanks & homeless charities to support with additional demand.
- Delivering food or collecting prescriptions to those who were shielding.
- Providing activity packs to children.

The spend by constituency is provided in the table below:

Constituency	Total
East	38,063.48
South	32,814.95
West	31,638.94
TOTALS	102,517.37

Ward Community Meetings (Matthew Reeves)

Background

The Council has been holding Ward Community Meetings in their current ward based format for over a decade. They are an open, transparent and effective means of Councillors engaging with their communities and within neighbourhoods where discussion and debates can be held on matters of local importance and they offer an outlet for communities to express their views directly with their representatives, relevant officers or other agencies. There is also a budget associated with the work of Ward Community meetings and this can be spent on matters of local priority identified at Ward Community Meetings, as detailed elsewhere in this report.

The framework which determines the meetings objectives and how they operate is detailed at part 3 of the Council's Constitution. Whilst they aren't formally part of the Council's decision making structure, they offer a clear route for matters of concern to be raised with decision makers. Each ward in the City has the opportunity to undertake 3 meetings or other forms of engagement (such

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as a patch walk) per year. Most wards however utilise a familiar meeting format within a suitable accessible venue within each ward which tends to have good public recognition.

Prior to the pandemic, most wards would hold meetings in community venues, often covering different parts of their ward throughout the year. These would be held in a traditional meeting format with an agenda and action notes arising.

Other wards have explored different approaches to holding meetings. This has included a 'hybrid' type format where part of the meeting is more formal ie receive updates on ward matters, and the other part is informal where elected members and officers are available to speak with residents on a one to one basis. There are also examples where the entire event has been informal discussions. Some wards have also used meetings to invite guest speakers along, such as the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Another format which has been used has been to hold patchwalks where officers and residents gather in a particular location and walk through a defined area and any local issues can be identified and passed on to relevant service officers to look into.

Current status

In common with all the Council's formal meetings and other forms of Member / community engagement, the holding of Ward Community Meetings has been restricted over the past year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Holding public meetings in community venues was understandably not possible. However, towards the end of 2020, several pilot / trial meetings, were developed following efforts to explore how they could work in a virtual format. A call for interest was made to elected Members, and plans were put in place to hold meetings which covered a range of areas across the City to see if the public were willing to engage using virtual meeting formats.

These initial meetings worked well, most had good levels of attendance and engagement and they were able to act as a positive part of the consultations into the City's Local Plan and hospital reconfiguration proposals. It does however have to be acknowledged that not everyone was willing or able to access virtual meetings and some feedback on this basis was received.

Moving forward

It is anticipated that in the new municipal year, as restrictions ease, the programme will be more in line with the usual meetings or engagement events for each ward.

The format of these meetings very much depends on the progress of the government's roadmap, availability of suitable venues and willingness of people to engage in public meetings. It is therefore anticipated that some further meetings may be held in a virtual format and moving towards in person events as it becomes safe to do so and there is public willingness to engage in this way. Whilst it is difficult at this point to give a clear indication of when it may be possible to hold physical meetings events in a public format, officers will keep this under review and raise this with Members when this will be possible.

Ward Community Engagement officers are meeting with elected Members from each ward to discuss possible options for holding meetings or events in their ward. The option to hold virtual meetings remains an option going forward and this can be considered alongside the other possible formats. Elected Members are very much welcomed to consider the wide range of different types

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of meetings or events and discuss the feasibility of holding these with their Ward Community Engagement officer once it is safe to do so.

Executive report to Scrutiny

Scrutiny Commission: Neighbourhood Services & Community Involvement

Date of scrutiny commission: 01 July 2021

Title: Tree Strategy Review

Lead executive decision maker: Councillor Adam Clarke
Deputy City Mayor for Environment & Transportation.

Lead director: John Leach, Director of Neighbourhood Services & Enforcement

Useful Information:

Ward(s) affected: All Wards
Report author: Stewart Doughty
Report Version: 1

1. Summary

To provide members with an update on progress since the introduction of the Tree Strategy which was adopted by the City Council in November 2018.
<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/185470/trees-strategy-2018-23-v2.pdf>

2. Recommendations

Scrutiny Commission is asked to comment on the report and suggest any amendments to its content and format prior to publishing the review document on the Council's web pages.

3. Introduction

The first Leicester Tree Strategy was formally adopted in November 2018 during National Tree Week.

It is a five-year strategy which aims to sustain and increase the tree stock in Council ownership and to improve the quality of the city's trees. It also promotes the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment, reducing air pollution and contributing to flood risk management.

The strategy outlines how we manage the city's trees to ensure that we sustain and enhance Leicester's urban forest for future generations.

A formal review of all of the aims and actions within the strategy has been undertaken and the data collated in a table for ease of reference as attached at appendix 1.

4. Report

The Tree Strategy review considers the two financial years since its adoption 2019/20 and 2020/21. The annual review in 2019/20 was delayed due to COVID 19 and has been combined into one review document.

The review aims to monitor the delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy via the five key strategic objectives:

- Promoting amenity
- Promoting habitat and wildlife
- Responding to global obligations
- Managing the pressure on trees in others ownership
- Delivering this strategy

And a series of 22 actions as specified in the Tree Strategy.

The review document gives the current position statement and identifies what has been achieved over the 24 months period, with a series of measures.

Each section is colour coded for ease of reference.

There are a series of headline key facts included in the start of the document on page 3 which give an overview.

5. Consultations

Cllr Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor for Environment & Transportation.

CMB

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

The works associated with the management of the Councils tree stock are met from existing revenue budgets with some tree planting funded from various capital projects and Section 106 funding. In addition a series of successful external funding bids has supported tree planting projects, including EarthWatch and the Urban Tree Challenge funds – Amy Oliver, Head of Finance, ext. 37 5667

6.2. Legal Implications

The Leicester Tree Strategy was adopted in November 2018. The Tree Strategy Review aims to monitor delivery of the aims of the Leicester Tree Strategy to date. There are no legal implications arising from this update report.

Katherine Hall, Locum Solicitor, Planning & Highways

6.3. Equality Implications

The strategy aims to sustain and increase the tree stock in Council ownership and to improve the quality of the city's trees. It also promotes the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment, reducing air pollution.

There are no direct equality implications arising from this update report. It is important to note that although air pollution can be harmful to everyone, some people are more affected because they live in a polluted area, are exposed to higher levels of air pollution in their day-to-day lives, or are more susceptible to health problems caused by air pollution. The most vulnerable face all of these disadvantages.

Groups that are more affected by air pollution include:

- older people
- children
- individuals with existing CVD or respiratory disease
- pregnant women
- communities in areas of higher pollution, such as close to busy roads
- low-income communities

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Ext 37 4148

7. Author

Stewart Doughty, Head of Parks & Open Spaces





Trees bring enormous environmental and ecological benefits to our city.

They enhance our streets and grace our parks, making a huge contribution to our health and wellbeing.

This five-year strategy will guide us in sustaining and increasing our tree stock and help us improve the quality of the city's trees.

It will also help promote the important role trees can play in maintaining a high-quality city environment, reducing air pollution and contributing to flood risk management.

Sir Peter Soulsby
CITY MAYOR

Cllr Adam Clarke
DEPUTY CITY MAYOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Our Aims

The city council will:

- Ensure that the current level of tree canopy and tree numbers under the city council's control are extended and the quality improved.
- Ensure trees under the council's control are managed with the intention of resolving conflicts and problems in a rational, consistent and economic way - listening to the different views, taking them into account but ultimately taking responsibility for, sometimes difficult, decisions.
- Encourage other landowners to plant and manage their trees through advice, guidance and where necessary, the use of tree protection legislation.

It will also:

- Compensate adequately for the loss of significant trees in the landscape by planting more than one replacement - wherever practical at, or near, the location of the removed trees.
- Ensure that public realm infrastructure schemes that involve tree removal or tree planting will incorporate quality planting and design and that designers and lead agents liaise with the council at appropriate stages of planning, design and implementation.

Review:

- The delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy is via five key strategic objectives, with a series of identified actions. The strategy will be judged against these actions.

Trees & Woodlands Portfolio Key Facts

Management of tree stock of 150k individual registered trees and 109 hectares of woodland.

In-house team comprising of an establishment of 33.68 staff, as appendix 1. Annual maintenance budget of £1.5m

Trees planted 8,771 small trees and 748 heavy stock (total 9,519) 1,054 trees felled 2019/20 – 2020/21 as part of stock management. That's 9 trees planted for every tree felled.

Only LA accredited as an Arboricultural Association contractor. 100% of team trained to HSE standards.

100% of by-product waste recycled, combination of biofuel woodchip material, logs or milled timber. Average 963 tonnes per annum saving £109k in landfill costs plus transport costs.

In partnership with The Tree Council, established 15 volunteer Tree Warden's

A total of 177 mature trees have been surveyed which meet the Local Wildlife Site criteria for designation (inc 9 new locations).

Establishment of the Climate Woods group with representatives from a range of services, scoping opportunity for mass tree planting projects.

3 additional Tree Protection Orders established giving a total of 535 TPO's offering a level of amenity protection.

293 planning consultations undertaken relating to TPO applications and notifications of trees in conservation areas.

Partnership working with the Forestry Commission, Earth Watch and the Tree Council to develop and introduce a range of projects.

Development of a Tree Trail template to be used across a range of sites.



Watermead Tree Planting



Aylestone Meadows Urban Tree Challenge



Timber Mill in operation



Mulching Tiny Forest, Queensmead Primary Academy

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
1	Promoting amenity	Monitor the health of the council's trees.	Inspection and survey programme.	T&W	Schools, Highway, Housing and Parks tree stock inspections undertaken to identify works required to manage the health of the tree stock. 2019/20 - 194 surveys completed 2020/21 - 174 surveys completed This equates to 29% of all of the sites with trees were surveyed (total 1,281 sites). Sites include 208 parks, 185 housing transects, 642 highway transects etc.
			Continue to expand the council's tree stock	T&W	Replacement planting of heavy stock has been undertaken in the highway, housing areas and parks and open spaces, along with new developments. 2019/20 - 445 trees were planted 2020/21 - 303 trees were planted Examples: 23 Watermead Memorial Walk 16 Bede Park avenue 19 Victoria Park new band stand area
			Engage a team of volunteer Tree Wardens.	LEV	In partnership with The Tree Council an initial 15 Tree Wardens have been established and registered as a constituted group, trained to assess and report issues and assist in tree planting and establishment, eg. early identification of Ash Die Back etc.
2	Promoting amenity (cont)		Level of complaints.	T&W	Formal complaints received: 2019/20 - 9 complaints

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
		Maintain trees with the aim of reducing nuisance, hazard and complaint			2020/21 - 2 complaints No complaints have been upheld by the LG Ombudsman.
			Tree inspection programme to identify and eliminate potential risk. Maintain inventory register for each tree on Ezytreev database.	T&W	Visual tree inspection regime as ref 1 above: Sites inspection frequency 3 – 7 years based on potential risk depending on location: This identifies the condition and health of the tree stock and any impact the whole tree, might provide in terms of nuisance, hazard and complaint, typical examples being, obstruction of highway/street lamp, removal of deadwood, tree disease and potential tree failure, etc.
			Aim for two thirds of available budget to be targeted on proactive maintenance, rather than emergency works.	T&W	Annual programme of works identified following site surveys with the aim to manage the stock in a safe and healthy condition and reduce the reliance on emergency reaction works. 2019/20 Reactive spend £299k (47%) Proactive spend £341k (53%) 2020/21 Reactive spend £252k (45%) Proactive spend £305k (55%) Reactive spend impacted by storm frequency:

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					<p>Storms played a factor during the life of the Tree Strategy, with 14 recorded included Storm Hannah, Storm Ciara, Storm Francis and Storm Ellen being the most notable of the past 50 years and resulting in tree damage and losses. It is important to note with Climate Change the likelihood for storms to disrupt planned survey work is likely to increase.</p> <p>In addition COVID-19 brought its own disruption during 2020..</p>
3	Promoting amenity (cont)	Use a variety of species and cultivars.	Planting plans	T&W	<p>Tree species are chosen to meet the suitability to location being planted using a range of native trees but also recognising that exotic trees have a place in the landscape.</p> <p>e.g. Watermead memorial trail predominantly native tree stock utilised, Bede Park Liquidambar styraciflua 'Slender Silhouette' (Sweet gum), planted due to its fastigiate form, i.e. will have minimal impact on area CCTV coverage.</p>
			Promote the wide selection of species and cultivars used at key parks	P&OS	Development of a tree trail template which can be downloaded or used as an App to showcase and promote core species across a site encouraging the user to visit the whole site. Abbey Park developed as a trial.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
4	Promoting amenity (cont)	Reduce problems that can be associated with the presence of trees when making decisions about planting design and the positioning of trees in the landscape.	Right tree right place	T&W Planning	<p>Early engagement between planning team and developer as part of the design process to build in tree stock which provides appropriate amenity suitable for the location.</p> <p>e.g. Ashton Green, green infrastructure planning with Morris Homes. 93 tree's planted in phase one along with 368 hedgerow whips.</p>
5	Promoting amenity (cont)	Purchase planting stock of good quality and prepare an underground environment that is conducive to good tree growth.	Procurement policy to ensure quality and scope of species.	T&W	Tender developed for a procurement exercise to establish a framework contract for the supply of a range of species and cultivars to meet the needs of the council.
			Successful establishment of heavy tree stock.	T&W	<p>Preparation of suitable tree pits with appropriate soil conditioner, drainage and irrigation systems to ensure successful establishment.</p> <p>2019/20 – 97% establishment rate 2020/21 – 98% establishment rate</p> <p>Any establishment failures are replanted within the following planting season.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
6	Promoting habitat and wildlife	Encourage the planting and management of woodland and groups of trees.	Identify sites with scope for planting of woodland groups and seek funding to support projects.	P&OS	<p>Climate Woods group established, with representatives from a range of services, scoping opportunity for mass tree planting undertaken and agreed. Successful projects to date include:</p> <p>2019/20 Anstey Lane road widening compensation tree planting at Castle Hill Country Park 2,544 trees planted.</p> <p>2020/21 Urban Tree Challenge, funded by the Forestry Commission, schemes for planting 4,848 small trees at Knighton Park and Aylestone Meadows.</p> <p>Tiny Forest, in partnership with Earthwatch 600 trees planted in a space the size of a tennis court.</p> <p>Schools fruit tree project, in partnership with the Tree Council, to plant 60 fruit trees at, Queensmead, Merrydale Junior and Mellor Primary.</p>
7	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Where it is compatible with amenity, seek to retain old tree stock, including trees in decline and manage them in a way that promotes their value to wildlife.	Number of trees identified and surveyed.	T&W & Nature Conservation	A total of 177 mature trees have been surveyed which meet the Local Wildlife Site criteria for designation due to the size (girth) generally being over 3.77m and containing features likely to be of value for wildlife such as cracks, fissures and crevices.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					Where practicable large standing dead trunks (habitat poles) are retained to support wildlife, as they are valuable eco systems.
8	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Favour native trees over exotics when specifying, planning and implementing new planting.	Species type and quantities	T&W/Planning	<p>Examples of schemes utilising British native tree stock, including Oak, Silver Birch, Hornbeam, Field Maple, Hazel.</p> <p>2019/20 Anstey Lane road widening compensation tree planting at Castle Hill Country Park 2,544 trees planted.</p> <p>2020/21 Urban Tree Challenge, funded by the Forestry Commission, schemes for planting 4,848 small trees at Knighton Park and Aylestone Meadows.</p> <p>Watermead memorial walk.</p>
9	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Protect and conserve protected or rare species through appropriate compensation when loss cannot be avoided.	Staff training. Bio diversity action plan	T&W/Planning	<p>Tree inspection prior to felling to determine presence of protected bats species, team are LANTRA trained to utilise specialist endoscope.</p> <p>T&W work with Nature Conservation team to ensure Bio Diversity Action Plan is adhered to.</p> <p>Ensure that the Wildlife & Countryside Act is taken into consideration when undertaking any maintenance works to protect active bird nests during the nesting season.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
10	Responding to global obligations	Respond appropriately and proportionately to the threat of pests and disease epidemics.	Monitor the impact of Ash Dieback.	T&W	<p>Ash dieback disease is a phenomenon that will potentially have a significant impact on the tree stock in the city. Nationally the disease has been under reported and public awareness of it is low. In addition, practitioners are unfamiliar with it and are having to learn what should be done in practice as it starts to affect their areas. So, it is still unclear how fast the disease will establish itself in the city and start to cause practical problems, but experience of other parts of the country points to this occurring much faster than first suggested.</p> <p>Initial outbreak identified in woodland plantations in the north of the City, however the disease is now more widespread across the City.</p> <p>Contingency budget in capital programme for 2021/22 to react and manage.</p>
			Through tree surveys identify concerns on individual tree's health & condition and where necessary review a site for potential pathogens.	T&W	Western Park has a large number of Pine trees infected with Needle Blight. This fungus infects the needles and gradually defoliates the tree. Also present is Phytophthora a fungus that affects many host trees and has already required the felling of several trees within the park.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					Contingency budget in capital programme for 2021/22 to react and manage.
11	Responding to global obligations (cont)	Recycle the materials that arise from the management of trees, including the use of wood as a carbon-neutral fuel.	Volume of material diverted from landfill and recycled.	T&W	By diverting by-product waste from landfill a saving of £109k per annum on landfill costs plus transporting costs has been achieved. Woodchip is recycled for bio fuel. Recycled by tonnage/total sale value/percentage recycled 2019/20 – 1,015t / 100% 2020/21 – 911t / 100%
12	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership	Seek to preserve amenity afforded by trees when considering our response to tree work applications made under planning controls.	Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) created.	Planning	3 additional Tree Protection Orders established giving a total of 535 TPO's offering a level of amenity protection. (Stoneygate Baptist Church, Coles Close, Dukes Drive).
			Revise policy to support tree preservation.	Planning	Adoption of the Pine Tree Avenue tree preservation strategy, protection of a significant avenue of Giant Redwood trees (Wellingtonia). In planning terms, the document represents Informal Guidance. It promotes the trees as a "material consideration" when planning or assessing works that might affect their retention.
13	Managing the pressure on	When assessing planning applications, take into account the effect on trees	Consider all planning	Planning	2019/20 – 118 (all with timeframe) 2020/21 – 159 (99% within timeframe)

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
	trees in others' ownership (cont)	and protect them where the balance of factors favours preservation.	applications within timeframe.		
14	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Where landscaping that includes tree planting is made a condition of planning consent, incorporate quality design and specification.	Process to ensure conditions issued provide suitable design outputs.	Planning	<p>All Planning consents issued seek to secure the standard and specification as requested by Trees and Woodlands officers. Where this cannot be negotiated the reasons are reported and recorded in the Decision Report.</p> <p>Standard Planning Condition wording is being reviewed in respect of the Environment Bill and quality specifications are being considered as part of this review.</p>
15	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Work directly with landowners and developers to support them with the management, inclusion and retention of trees affected by the planning process.	Number of planning consultations undertaken.	Planning	<p>Planning consultations undertaken relating to TPO applications and notifications of trees in conservation areas.</p> <p>2019-20 - 134</p> <p>2020/21 - 159</p> <p>T&W offer British Standard 5837 surveys required to ensure all trees are considered as a material consideration for all planning applications, e.g. St Margaret's Bus Station, Anstey Lane and Ashton Green.</p> <p>Planning, Development and Transportation team work with each developer as part of the design process to ensure that existing landscape features can be retained and preserved and are enhanced with new design features.</p>

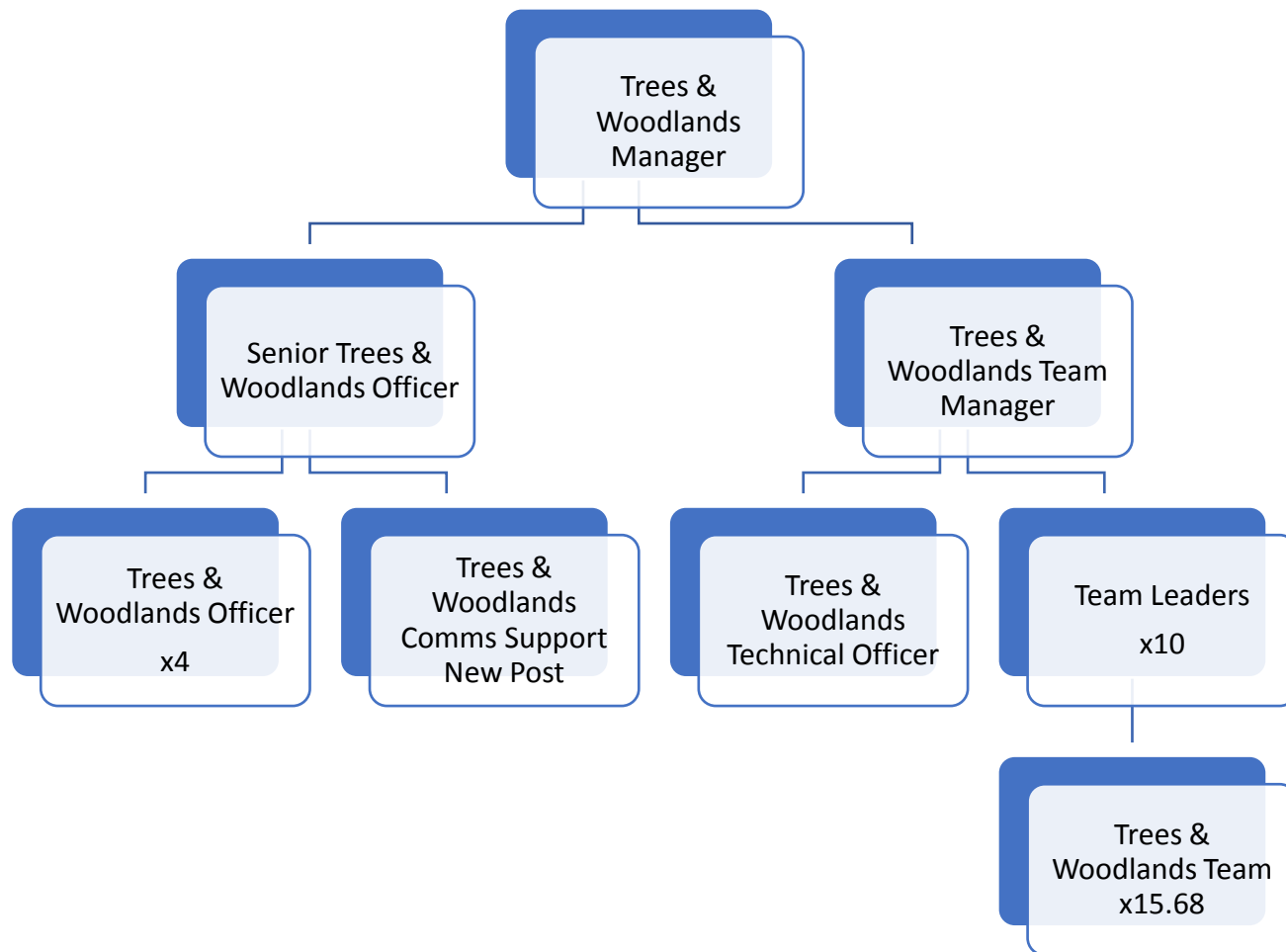
Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					e.g. Ashton Green, green infrastructure planning with Morris Homes. 93 tree's planted in phase one along with 368 hedgerow whips.
16	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Provide a 24/7 call out service ensuring a response to tree emergencies at any time.	100% of emergencies responded to within two hours.	T&W	Responding to a range of situations, e.g., tree failure, road traffic accident. storms etc. 2019/20 454 total emergencies responded to. 69 out of hours 2020/21 316 total emergencies responded to 41out of hours
17	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Respond within 24 hours to reports of other contraventions, actionable nuisance and hazards and deal with these quickly and proportionately - making appropriate resources available.	Number of contraventions responded to within timeframe.	Planning	2019-20 - 14 tree related cases received and a site visit was undertaken in 100% of the cases within the 24 hour target. 2020-21 - 30 tree related cases received and a site visit was undertaken in 73% of the cases within the 24 hour target. Tree related cases received on Saturday and Sunday can easily miss these targets.
18	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Be bound by the relevant planning practice guidance when managing protected tree regulations.	Consider planning enforcement action as required.	Planning	2019/20 - 14 enforcement actions. 1 Prosecution action taken but appealed and conviction overturned, 4 informal warning, 8 No breaches, 1 No action taken as tree was removed being dangerous.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					2020/21 - 3 – 2 No Breaches, 1 resolved (Planting replacement trees).
19	Delivering this strategy	Adequate financial resources from council budgets and income generation.	Annual review of budget allocation and income forecast.	P&OS	<p>2019/20 budget £000 £1,137 - Salaries £ 164 - Running costs £ (777)- Income £ 524 - Net</p> <p>2020/21 budget £1,149 - Salaries £ 164 - Running costs £ (627)- Income £ 686 - Net</p> <p>Salaries budget reduction due to centralisation of employee insurance costs in 2021/21.</p> <p>All vehicle and plant expenditure budget held centrally by Fleet, annual budget £226,261</p> <p>Income target reduction by £150k in recognition of reducing income from client expenditure.</p> <p>Additional £500k contingency budget for management of Ash Die Back and Western Park sanitisation and replacement planting approved as Policy Provision for 2021/22.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
20	Delivering this strategy (cont)	Appropriately qualified, skilled, motivated and experienced staff	Certificates of competence and CPD for all staff.	T&W	<p>100% of operative's have achieved the required certificate of competence for the range of tasks undertaken.</p> <p>2019/20 - 152 refresher and novice training 2020/21 - 42 refresher and novice training</p> <p>The majority of operative training is a legal requirement as nearly every function requires certification, leading to some operatives holding as many as 50 certificates, many of which require regular refreshment, eg. climbing at height, use of chain saw, pesticides use etc.</p> <p>All staff training and competency is reviewed as part of the quality conversations.</p>
21	Delivering this strategy (cont)	The organisation, systems, depots, facilities and good quality equipment that our staff need.	Infrastructure in place to support T&W team in service delivery.	T&W	<p>Health and safety audit identified pressures on Beaumont Park Depot capacity, identified opportunities to relocate part of service to reduce pressure on available space.</p> <p>4 Transit vehicles have been upgraded to 6.5 tonne tippers to ensure weight capacity is managed appropriately.</p> <p>Ongoing replacement programme of chippers and chainsaw equipment.</p> <p>Ezytreev software system in place to manage tree stock.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
			Accreditation to the Arboricultural Association as an approved contractor.	T&W	<p>The Arb Approved Contractor programme is the only comprehensive accreditation scheme for Tree Surgery businesses in the UK. Every approved contractor has been thoroughly assessed and found to carry out tree work to the highest standard. Assuring customers of good quality tree care undertaken safely and efficiently.</p> <p>Leicester City Council is the only LA to hold the AA accreditation.</p> <p>2020/21 - Accreditation refreshed and awarded.</p>
22	Delivering this strategy (cont)	Support from all appropriate sections of the council.	Awareness and understanding of the Tree Strategy within departments and with core clients.	Marketing & Comms	<p>Tree Strategy marketed with clients and council divisions, including Members via a limited supply of hard copy prints.</p> <p>Directing officers to online documents and reiterating policy on replacement planting.</p> <p>General understanding of the Tree Strategy with officers aware of the replacement policy.</p>

Trees & Woodlands Team Structure



Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2021 to 2022

Meeting date	Meeting items	Actions Arising	Progress
1 July 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of N/hoods Services Scrutiny portfolio 2. Covid 19 Recovery plans – brief update (John Leach) 3. Ward Meetings and Ward Funding reports (Lee Warner and John Leach) 4. Tree Strategy Review (Steve Doughty) 		
9 September 2021	Executive response report re: Scrutiny review report of findings into ‘The Viability and Appropriateness of a Community Lottery’ (Colin Sharpe and Exec lead Cllr Clair)		
21 October 2021			
9 December 2021			
27 January 2022			

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2021 to 2022

17 March 2022			
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FORWARD PLAN / SUGGESTED ITEMS		
Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
KEY DECISIONS & NON-KEY DECISIONS	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider relevant items to this commission, from the councils Corporate Plan of Key & Non-Key Decisions	Ongoing / watching brief
CONSULTATIONS	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider relevant items to this commission from planned or live consultations to provide scrutiny comments and views	Ongoing / watching brief
COUNCIL BUDGET	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider any budget impacts relevant to this commission, as necessary.	Ongoing / watching brief
Possible items – forward planning:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Domestic Violence Strategy update</i> • <i>Public Safety Team update</i> • <i>Waste & Recycling Services</i> • <i>Pilot on Modern Day Slavery – results</i> • <i>Cyber Fraud – enhancing support outside city centre to n/hoods (community safety)</i> • <i>Community Gold project – update</i> • <i>Council Annual Budget 2021/22 reports relating to N/hoods Services portfolio - Capital and Revenue (Jan 2022)</i> • <i>Voluntary and Community Sector strategy / engagement and support</i> 		