

Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2023**

**TIME: 5:30 pm**

**PLACE: Meeting Rooms G.01 and G.02, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)

Councillor Gee (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Batool, Halford, Joel, Joshi, Pantling, Porter, Thalukdar and Westley

### **Youth Council Representatives**

To be advised

Members of the Committee are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

For Monitoring Officer

#### **Officer contacts:**

**Francis Connolly (Scrutiny Policy Officer)**

**Jacob Mann (Democratic Support Officer)**

Tel: 0116 454 5843, e-mail: [jacob.mann@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:jacob.mann@leicester.gov.uk)  
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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### 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](mailto: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**

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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 Overview Select Committee held on 9 February 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

#### **5. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING**

To note progress on actions agreed at the previous meeting and not reported elsewhere on the agenda (if any).

#### **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. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer to report on any petitions received.

**8. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT** [Appendix B](#)

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that updates Members on the monitoring of outstanding petitions. The Committee is asked to note the current outstanding petitions and agree to remove those petitions marked 'Petitions Process Complete' from the report.

**9. COST OF LIVING CRISIS UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health will provide an update on the Council's current position regarding the cost of living crisis.

**10. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY** [Appendix C](#)

The Strategic Director of Social Care and Education submits a presentation outlining the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy. A second presentation will also be provided by a care experienced young person. The Committee is asked to note the presentation.

**11. CARBON NEUTRAL ROADMAP** [Appendix D](#)

The Director of Estates and Buildings Services submits a report to present the findings of the Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap Study.

The Committee is asked to note the content of the Carbon Roadmap Study and note the use of the study to develop a new climate emergency action plan and work with partners in the city to reduce carbon and address climate change.

**12. REVENUE MONITORING APRIL- DECEMBER 2022** [Appendix E](#)

The Director of Finance submits the third report in the monitoring cycle for 2022/23 and presents a picture very similar to that presented at period 6.

The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations it sees fit.

**13. CAPITAL MONITORING APRIL - DECEMBER 2022** [Appendix F](#)

The Director of Finance submits a report to show the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2022 (Period 9).

The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented



within the report and make any observations it sees fit.

**14. 'ENCOURAGING WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES IN LEICESTER' A REPORT OF THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE, AND TOURISM SCRUTINY COMMISSION** **Appendix G**

The Chair of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure, and Tourism Scrutiny Commission submits a report on its review into women's sport and physical activity in Leicester.

The Committee is asked to endorse the report, to make any further comments and to request a response report to be brought back to the scrutiny commission.

**15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR**

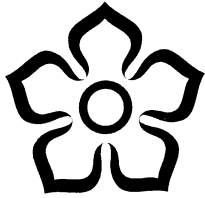
The City Mayor will answer questions raised by members of the Overview Select Committee on issues not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**16. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME** **Appendix H**

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

**17. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**





Leicester

City Council

minutes of the Meeting of the

OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2023 at 5:30 pm

## P R E S E N T :

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)

Councillor Gee (Vice Chair)

Councillor Batool  
Councillor Pantling

Councillor Porter  
Councillor Thalukdar

Councillor Westley

## Also present:

Sir Peter Soulsby  
Councillor Cutkelvin  
Councillor Myers

City Mayor  
Assistant City Mayor  
Assistant City Mayor

Alretaj Al-Showali  
Dena Al-Showali  
Henry Zawadzki

Youth Representative  
Youth Representative  
Youth Representative

Councillor Kitterick

\* \* \* \* \*

## **78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Halford, Joel, and Joshi.

## **79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to disclose any pecuniary or other interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillors Thalukdar and Westley make a declaration in relation to the report on the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24 that they had relatives who were Council tenants.

## **80. VARIATION OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

The Chair indicated he had agreed to take an item of Any Other Urgent Business under Rule 14 of Part 4E of the Constitution to consider the Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 as a matter of urgency as the report needed to be considered before the agenda for the Council meeting on 22 February was published. In accordance with Rule 11 of Part 4E of the Constitution the Chair indicated that he would be taking the item after item 8 on the agenda.

## **81. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **82. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair noted that Commission Members had received a note detailing the progress on actions agreed at the last meeting.

## **83. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations and statements of case had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

## **84. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

## **85. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which provided an update on the status of outstanding petitions against the Council's target of providing a formal response within three months of being referred to the Divisional Director.

AGREED:

That the status of the outstanding petitions be noted, and to remove those petitions marked 'Petition Complete' Ref: from the report.

## **86. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Director of Housing submitted a late report on the Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24.

The Committee was asked to consider the Draft Budget and the comments and suggestions from the Housing Scrutiny Commission and the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum and pass its comments to the meeting of Council for

consideration.

The Strategic Director of City Development and Neighbourhoods presented the item, it was noted that

- The context to the budget was a 1% rent reduction from 2016-2020, inflationary costs, and lost income from right to buy sales. The budget was legally required to be balanced.
- The proposed rent changes were a 7% increase to core rent which was the cap, a 5% increase to Gypsy and Traveller Plot Rent, and a 10.1% increase to garage rent.
- Proposed service charges increases were increasing the charges for District Heating which would be covered in more detail shortly, a 100% increase in the charge for way lighting, and increases to all other service charges of 10.1%.

Councillor Westley as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission thanked Tenants Groups for their input into the Budget process. He noted that the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum supported a 200% increase in District Heating charges and that a metering programme would soon begin for properties receiving District Heating. He expressed frustrations at the Government's failure to support the Council in providing more social housing. It was noted that the Housing Scrutiny Commission supported that Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24 though sought further detail on an alternative proposal in relation to District Heating.

The Strategic Director of City Development and Neighbourhoods then gave a detailed presentation on proposed changes to District Heating charges as well as covering the Capital Programme, it was noted that:

- The energy crisis had resulted in a 300% increase in gas prices in 2022/23.
- The proposal was a 247% increase in District Heating charges, with charges standing at £3135 on average per property before metering and £2545 on average per property after metering. The management costs of District Heating would still be sustained with the HRA and it was highlighted that this alone would be cost £4.4m.
- In order to reduce usage and therefore reduce costs, it was proposed that meters would be installed into all properties using District Heating. The proposed metering programme would run from April-October 2023.
- If District Heating charges were not increased then a £4.5m cost to the General Fund and a £10.2m cost to the HRA would have to be sustained.
- The Energy Price Guarantee would continue for 12 months, other Government support included a £900 payment for households on benefits, £300 to pensioner households, and £150 for those on disability benefits.
- The Council provided Housing Benefit alongside support from various teams such as STAR.

- Reductions had been made in the Capital Programme to sustain the HRA.
- The proposals the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum and Councillor Kitterick had been modelled to look at the impact on the HRA and General Fund.

The Chair noted that Councillor Kitterick was present at the meeting. The Chair allowed Councillor Kitterick to speak on the issue of the proposed changes to District Heating charges. Councillor Kitterick noted that his proposal was to increase charges only to the point where the average cost for users was £1611, this was the proposal as it would be in-line with the price cap paid by customers on the open market for the same service due to the Energy Price Guarantee. This was proposed as a stop-gap measure while meters were installed, once meters were installed then the power to determine costs would be passed to the users. The proposed increases were felt to be unfair as users had no power over the charges as they were not currently based on usage and were a flat fee. It was noted that District Heating users were some of the poorest residents of the city on average. Councillor Kitterick also noted that if any issues caused the metering process to be delayed then this would further increase the burden on users as they would pay the increased flat costs for even longer.

Officers noted that if Councillor Kitterick's proposal was implemented it would result in a £859k impact on the HRA and a £386k impact on the General Fund.

The City Mayor spoke, noting that all were in favour of bringing in metering. The difference of opinion was in how charges should be handled in the meantime. The City Mayor reminded the Committee that the HRA was ringfenced and could not be subsidised from the General Fund, therefore any extra burden on the HRA would be funded by tenants' rents.

In response to questions from Members it was noted that:

- In relation to comparators Councils, it was noted that Sheffield had brought in a 200% increase in their District Heating Charges.
- The gas on District Heating was bought wholesale from the market at a rate of 9.5p per kwh.
- Metering would take around 4.5 hours per property with the bulk of work being in the enabling works beforehand.
- The additional cost to the HRA from Councillor Kitterick's proposal would require the removal of the environmental works programme from the HRA programme.

A Member urged any Councillors who were proposed to the District Heating proposals to vote against them at Full Council.

Councillor Westley noted that many District Heating users had informed him that they would rather not be on the service at all and be on the open market. Councillor Westley moved that the Committee would request the Council to consider a consultation on allowing District Heating users to enter the open

market instead. This was seconded by Councillor Porter, and upon being put to the vote that motion was CARRIED.

The Chair moved that the Committee note and endorse the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Committee and the Draft Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24, this was seconded by Councillor Westley, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee notes the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Commission and endorses the Draft Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24.
2. That the Committee requests that the Council consider a consultation for District Heating users on being able to enter the open market.
3. That the Committee requests that Officers circulate the modelling on the proposals of Councillor Kitterick and the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum.

## **87. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET**

The Director of Finance submitted the Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24 alongside the minute extracts from the Scrutiny Commissions discussion on the Budget.

The Committee was asked to consider the draft report and the comments made by the Scrutiny Commissions, and to pass its comments on those to the meeting of Council for consideration

The Director of Finance presented the item, it was noted that the context to the budget was a decade of austerity as well as cuts expected from 2025/26, inflationary costs, and the rising costs of Adult Social Care. The budget gap of £33m in 2023/24 was expected to rise to £66m by 2025/26. The final Government Finance Settlement had now been received, resulting in a slightly worsening budget gap position. The budget gap would be managed through the managed reserves strategy alongside identifying savings.

In response to questions from Members and Youth Representatives, it was noted that:

- The previous underspend for Adult Social Care had gone into the reserves which would be used to manage the overall budget gap.
- £1.2m was spent in 2022/23 on heating the Council's Leisure Centres.
- A 5% Council Tax increase was proposed, including a 2% Social Care Levy.
- Costs of SEND Taxi Contracts were rising significantly, due to this there was an effort to move towards Personal Transport Budgets for SEND children which were much cheaper and provided independence.

- There were efforts to move the Council's fleet over to electric vehicles which would be positive for the environment and save costs in the long run.

The Chair praised the leadership of the Council on the managed reserves strategy which had enabled the Council to have the reserves to manage the current budget gap.

A Member reminded the Committee that the financial crash of 2008 took place under a Labour Government and argued that the Labour Party was untrustworthy with the economy.

The Chair moved that the Committee note and endorse the Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24. This was seconded by Councillor Gee and upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee notes and endorses the Draft Revenue Budget for 2023/24.
2. That the Committee requests that Officers let Committee Members and Youth Representative know where joint funding for High Needs Children came from.

## **88. DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Director of Finance submitted the Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 alongside the minute extracts from the Scrutiny Commissions discussion on the Programme.

The Committee was asked to consider the draft report and the comments made by the Scrutiny Commissions, and to pass its comments on those to the meeting of Council for consideration.

The Director of Finance presented the item, it was noted that the context to the Capital Programme was similar to the revenue budget with economic uncertainty meaning that significant savings needed to be made. Additional issues were the volatility in the construction industry and the technical capacity to support new large capital projects with significant on-going schemes such as the three Levelling Up Schemes. Therefore, this was a 1-year limited scale programme. The majority of the programme was funded by grants and capital receipts.

In response to a question from a Youth Representative it was noted that the £2m invested in Libraries in the Programme was for improved technology for self-service to access Council Services at Libraries.

Councillor Porter raised concerns about the Council selling a number of



properties on Castle View, concern was raised about the lack of consultation of the sales. It was suggested that a private owner would not be able to properly preserve the historic buildings. The City Mayor responded to this point by noting that there was a press release about the sales, the City Mayor also noted various examples of the Council working with private owners to restore historic buildings in the city such as Wygston's House and Winstanley House.

The Chair thanked the Commission Chair's for their work in scrutinising the Draft Budget and Capital Programme.

The Chair moved that the Committee note and endorse the Draft Capital Programme 2023/24. This was seconded by Councillor Gee, and upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee notes and endorses the Draft Capital Programme 2023/24.

#### **89. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Chair noted that the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 and the Investment Strategy 2023/24 would be considered together.

The Chief Operating Officer submitted the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 and the Investment Strategy 2023/24.

The Director of Finance presented the reports, noting that the Treasury Management Strategy set out how the Council managed borrowing and cash balances. The Investment Strategy defined the Council's approach to making and holding investments.

In response to a Member question it was noted that the return rates for investments were varied depending on the length of the investment. Current return rates were under 5% but that would increase as more investments were put in. It was also noted that interest rates for the Public Works Loan Board varied daily, however Government rules made it too expensive to pay back outstanding loans early, this could change with increased interest rates.

The Chair noted that these Strategies could be used as an example to other Councils as to how these issues could be managed.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee notes the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 and the Investment Strategy 2023/24.

#### **90. INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2023/24**

This report was considered under item 89.

## 91. KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

It was The Director of Delivery, Communications, and Political Governance submitted a report outlining a presentation from the Assistant City Mayor for Jobs, Skills, Policy Delivery and Communications setting out a summary of progress in relation to the key strategic priorities and commitments of the Council.

The Assistant City Mayor for Jobs, Skills, Policy Delivery and Communications gave the presentation, it was noted that upon Labour winning the 2019 Council election, their manifesto commitments became the key strategic priorities for the Council over the 4-year term. Of the 96 original commitments, 76% had been classed as completed and 19% were still in progress, 5 of the commitments were no longer appropriate. The commitments were broken down into 9 theme areas, highlights of progress in each theme area were as follows:

- A Fair City
- Residents had been supported through the Covid pandemic with advice and financial support.
- The second round of the Anti-Poverty Strategy would be launched soon.
- 16 'warm spaces' had been set up to support residents struggling with energy costs.
- Homes for All
- A private rental sector strategy had been launched alongside a selective licensing scheme in 3 areas.
- £89m had been invested in an improvement programme for Council Homes.
- £10m of external funding had been secured to enhance homelessness services.
- Connecting Leicester
- Alongside new cycling infrastructure there had been a 61% increase in cycling numbers since 2014.
- A 20mph programme had been delivered to 510 streets against a target of 230 streets.
- The Leicester Bus Partnership had introduced a universal tap-on tap-off fare cap to the city.
- Sustainable Leicester
- Leicester was one of the few Councils to maintain weekly bin collections.
- The tree canopy coverage in Leicester was one of the best in the country.
- A carbon road map had been completed to inform the next climate action plan.
- Regenerating Leicester
- The Waterside Regeneration Area had brought 1k homes to rent as well as student homes and homes for sale. Extra amenities would be new hotels and a school.
- At the Ashton Green site 407 homes had been completed or were under construction.

- Health and Care
- Leisure Centre services had remained in-house and £5m had been invested in the facilities.
- A mental health support programme was being provided for schools.
- Defibrillator provision had been improved across the city.
- Lifelong Learning
- There had been 20k enrolments in the Adult Education service.
- A Construction Hub at Ashton Green had been established, giving opportunities for those looking to enter the construction industry.
- Library services across the city had been protected.
- A City to Enjoy
- Over 20k community events and activities had been supported each year.
- Website had been launched for Visit Leicester, the Story of Leicester, and the Museums service.
- The redeveloped Jewry Wall Museum was scheduled to open in summer 2024.
- Safe and Inclusive City
- A city-wide knife crime strategy had been launched.
- There had been investment to improve safety in parks including improving lighting and CCTV.
- Partnership working had been strengthened to tackle ASB and street lifestyles.

It was noted that further key achievements in the term were a successful £46m levelling up funding bid, and £3.5m of grant funding to support energy improvements in over 500 homes.

It was suggested that a site visit for Members to see the regeneration at Waterside could be arranged.

Members suggested that more should be done to publicise the success stories of the Council through benchmarking. It was also suggested that Officials from other Local Authorities and bodies could be brought to the city and shown the success stories.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee congratulates the Council and recognises the hard work and efforts of officers to deliver on the progress against the key strategic priorities.
2. That the Committee requests that the presentation slides be circulated to Members.
3. That the Committee requests that a site visit be arranged for all Members around the Waterside regeneration site.

**92. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR**

There were no questions for the City Mayor.

**93. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme for the Committee was noted.

It was requested that an item on ASB enforcement be considered.

**94. CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.59pm.

Date Petition referred to Divisional Director	Received From	Subject	Type - Cncr (C) Public (P)	No. of Sig	Ward	Date Receipt Reported to Council (C) / Committee (Ctee)	Lead Divisional Director	Current Position	Scrutiny Chair Involvement	Date of Final Response Letter Sent to Lead Petitioner	Current Status
16/06/2022	Ayisha Tayoub	Petition regarding disabled bay Baggrave Street	(p)	37	North Evington		Andrew L Smith	The petition has not been completed within three months as consultation continues with ward councillors as the period was extended to take into consideration the by-election in the ward, with a deadline of 28th October given. The final letter will be sent to the lead petitioner shortly.	Pro-forma had received additional comments and requires re-signing from the scrutiny chair.		GREEN
28/06/2022	Shah Ali	Against the Safer Streets Healthier Neighbourhoods scheme for Evington	(p)	535	Evington	C 7th July 2022	Andrew L Smith	The three ward councillors for Evington were consulted on the petition, and had a deadline of 28th October in which to respond. No comments were received in the consultation period. The pro-forma is being prepared.	Pro-forma had received additional comments and had been sent to the scrutiny chair for sign off.		GREEN
28/06/2022	Stephen Cooper	Against the Safer Streets Healthier Neighbourhoods scheme for Evington	(p)	560	Evington	C 7th July 2022	Andrew L Smith	The proforma has been prepared and will be sent to the scrutiny chair in due course. It is expected the petition will be closed before the next OSC meeting.	Pro-forma had received additional comments and had been sent to the scrutiny chair for sign off.		GREEN
09/08/2022	Salma Ahmed	Senior Residents Parking, Gwendolen Road. Issues: Illegal parking (non-resident long-term, drug dealing, excessive loud music and litter from vehicles), vandalism and theft, littering (particularly by children during school time dropping and stuffing into letter boxes). Intimidation of elderly/inform vulnerable adults	(p)	21	Spinney Hills		Sean Atterbury / Andrew L Smith	CRASBU are preparing the pro-forma, with observations from Highways and Housing staff. The pro-forma is expected to be completed and the petition closed before the next OSC meeting.	Pro-forma returned by the executive member who is content with the response.		GREEN
13/10/2022	Ursula Bilson	Petition asking for traffic calming and speed reduction measures on Saffron Lane Estate	(p)	254	Evington		Andrew L Smith	Officers were dealing with the request and had not received a response from the lead petitioner, Councillors and the Police. A pro-forma had been prepared and will be sent to the scrutiny chair.	Pro-forma returned by the Scrutiny Chair who is content with the response.		GREEN
08/12/2022	Neil Sargent	Petition for the Council, to address speeding on Heather Road, Sutton Road and Aston Hill.	(p)	85	Knighton		Andrew L Smith	Petition sent to lead director	Pro-forma returned by the executive member with additional comments.		GREEN
25/01/2023	Sanjay Rajpra	Issue at Gayton Avenue	(p)	12	Belgrave		Andrew L Smith	Petition sent to lead director			GREEN
09/02/2023	Stephen Cooper	Silent Firework Display	(p)	13	Citywide		Sean Atterbury	Petition sent to lead director			GREEN
07/03/2023	Jankhana Morkar	Request for parking permit on Lancashire Street.	(p)	76	Belgrave		Andrew L Smith	Petition sent to lead director			GREEN
07/03/2023	Linzi Nash	Road safety measures for Woodstock Primary Academy pupils	(p)	35	Abbey		Andrew L Smith	Petition sent to lead director			GREEN





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## ***Developing our Corporate Parenting Strategy***

Lead director: Martin Samuels

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: David Thrussell
- Author contact details: 0116 454 1657
- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database: v1

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide an overview and update of the work undertaken with care experienced children and young people to develop a Corporate Parenting Strategy.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The two presentations outline the work undertaken to develop a corporate parenting strategy with our looked after children, young people, and care leavers.
- 2.2 The first presentation provides a summary of the principles of corporate parenting and our approach to working in partnership with children and young people informed by the Lundy Model of participation. This includes developing the council's pledges to our children in care and care leavers.
- 2.3 The second presentation by a care experienced young person provides an overview of the approach taken to engage with a group of our looked after young people on developing our corporate parenting strategy together with the young people's suggested priorities and recommendations.
- 2.4 The presentation will outline our corporate parenting priorities for the coming year together with opportunities for elected members and officers to engage in further training and induction in both the Lundy Model of participation and being a good corporate parent.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the proposed Corporate Parenting Strategy and endorse the commitment to the principle of 'as if this were my child' for our children looked after and care leavers.
- 3.2 To acknowledge the work undertaken by the Generation Select Commission and Care Experienced Consultants in shaping the councils' priorities for Corporate Parenting.



3.3 To support the councils' pledges to our children in care and care leavers and the priority themes identified in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

#### **4. Report**

4.1 Refer to attached report Corporate Parenting Strategy 'As if they were my child.'

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

#### 5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance, Tel: 0116 454 4101

#### 5.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report which demonstrates the work undertaken to develop a corporate parenting strategy.

Pretty Patel, Head of Law- Social care & Safeguarding Tel: 0116 454 1457

#### 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Tel: 0116 454 2284

#### 5.4 Equalities Implications

Quality implications have been sought and will be obtained prior to approval of the final strategy.

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

None

### **6. Background information and other papers:**

#### **6.1 Children in Care Generation Select – What makes a good corporate parent?**

**7. Summary of appendices:**

N/A

**8. 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

**9. Is this a “key decision”?**

No

**10. If a key decision, please explain reason**

N/A

# Corporate Parenting Strategy



# Introduction

Every employee, elected member and partner agency should have concern for a child who is looked after in the same way that a good parent would act for their own child. We use the term 'Corporate Parenting' when we talk about this responsibility.

As corporate parents we must make sure that children and young people who are looked after or care experienced are given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

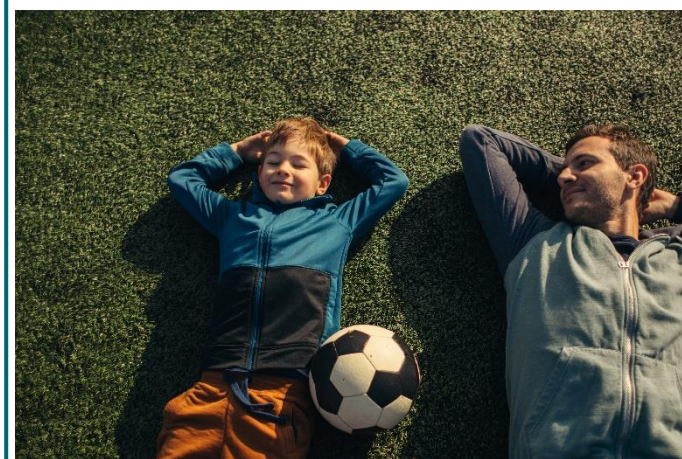
The idea of a corporate parent does not refer to a single person or point of contact, instead it is a culture and a commitment. Corporate parenting is all about providing care to children and young people so that they are supported to thrive, and they feel safe and loved.

Being a good corporate parent means we should:

- Accept responsibility for children who are looked after and make their needs a priority.
- Seek the same outcomes for these young people that any good parent would want for their own children.
- Promote the life chances of all children who are looked after, and care experienced young people.
- Consider the impact of decision making on our children who are looked after, and care experienced young people.
- Make sure that children and young people have a strong sense of belonging, ensuring that they are cared about as well as cared for.
- Be ambitious for our young people and help them develop a sense of aspiration and self-belief.

Having a Corporate Parenting Strategy is important as it will help people to be clear what they are expected to do as a corporate parent. It will also help children and young people to know what they can expect from their corporate parents.

The strategy sets out exactly what a corporate parent is, outlines our vision for corporate parenting and says what our plans are to be the best corporate parents that we can.



**“Corporate parenting is everyone’s role... if you think about what all parents want, they want their children to feel safe, they want them to be healthy, they want them to have a good school, they want them to enjoy themselves and have access to the right activities and leisure; as a parent you want all those things, and that is where we as corporate parents want to get assurance.”**

– David Thrussell, Head of Service,  
Corporate Parenting

# Our Vision, Principles and Values

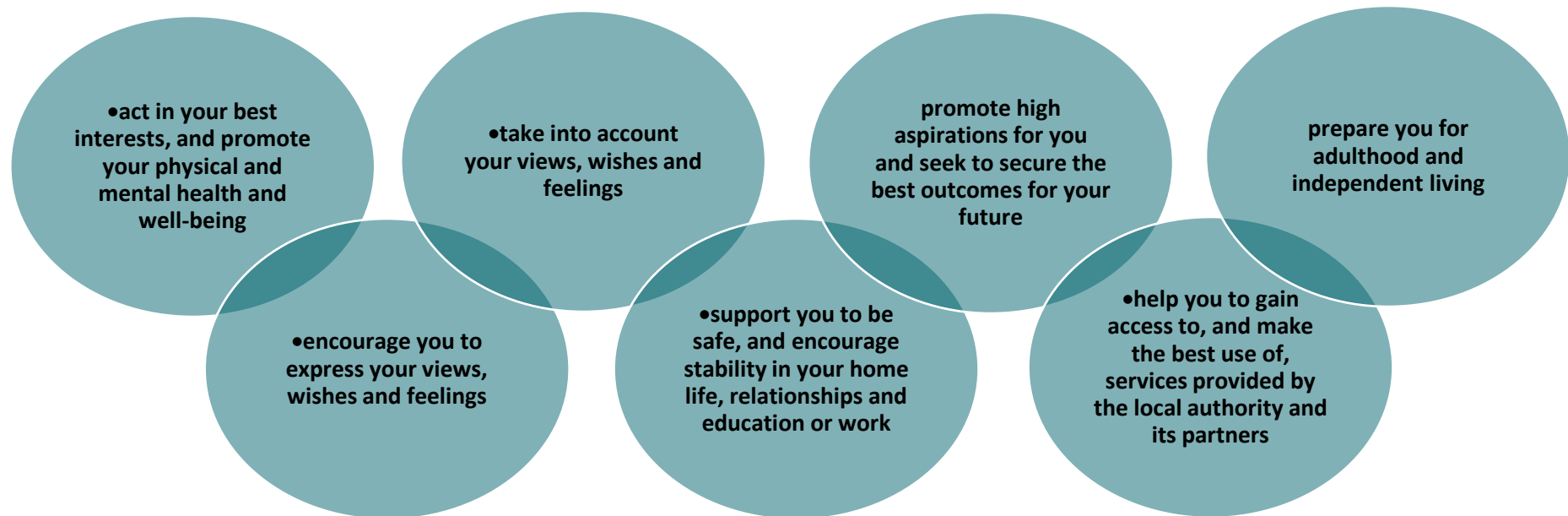
**“It’s important that everything you can expect from a parent you can expect and get from the council, and people in the council know that everything you can expect from a parent you can get.”**

–Martin Samuels, Strategic Director for Social Care and Education

Leicester City Council’s Social Care and Education department is committed to supporting children, young people, vulnerable adults, and families to be safe, be independent, be ambitious for themselves, and live the best life they can. We believe that it is not just the staff in our department who have a responsibility for ensuring that children in care and care leavers achieve good outcomes. The responsibility lies across the whole of Leicester City Council and our partners. We expect all people to act as if a child who is looked after is their own child.

## Corporate Parenting Principles

For our children who are looked after and our care experienced young people, we will:



## Embracing participation and co-production

As part of their enquiry in 2021, our Children in Care Generation Select panel suggested that we should use the Let's T.A.L.K (Think About Leicester's Kids) principle to remember children and young people when decision makers plan services.

The use of the Let's T.A.L.K principle reflects our wider approach to participation and co-production based on the Lundy model of participation. Reflecting children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Child, we will put children and young people at the heart of everything we do.

Using the Lundy model, we will listen to and act upon the views of young people and their families to inform service development, intervention and decision making.

We are proud that young people's voices have been at the heart of corporate parenting subgroups and that they have played a role in shaping the important priorities for us to work on.

## Our pledges

To help our children and young people understand how we will meet the corporate parenting principles, we have made a pledge to children in care and a pledge to care leavers. These pledges set out our promises to all children and young people in care.

The pledges tell our children who are looked after and our care experienced young people what they can expect from their corporate parents, how we will support them to stay safe, achieve their goals and have their wishes and feelings heard and acted upon.

The pledges help us to ensure that children who are looked after and care experienced young people are supported in every aspect of their lives.

## Language

We recognise the significance of language and that the way we speak to and about our young people plays a part in creating the right space, as referenced in the Lundy model of participation, to feel respected and valued. That is why we plan to no longer use "looked after child" or "LAC" and instead chose person-first language "child looked after"/ "child who is looked after" or "CLA".





# Children in Care Pledge



We will tell all children and young people in care of their rights.

We will listen to your views and opinions and involve you in decisions about your care.

We will provide a safe place for you to live.

We will celebrate your 18th birthday with you.

We will make sure that all social workers receive participation training on the Lundy Model.

We will support our Care Experienced Consultants.

We will offer opportunities for young people aged 11 - 16 years to take part in service evaluation.

We will provide opportunities for you to relax, have fun and enjoy yourself.

We will support you with your education, both formal and informal.

We will not do anything that will make you stand out as a child in care.

We will show you how to contact your social worker.

We will plan your transition from care that makes sure you are prepared and ready.

We will give you access to an advocate if you need support to have your voice heard.

We will support you to have hopes and dreams.

We will respect your personal property.

We will help you to access all the services that you need to keep you healthy and safe.

We will support you to understand why you are in care, and explain how you will maintain relationships with family members and other people important to you.

We will respect you for who you are. We will help you to develop a strong sense of personal identity and maintain your cultural and religious beliefs.



# CARE LEAVERS' PLEDGE

## Leicester City

### EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

#### We will:

- Support you with your goals and aspirations for the future
- Provide training and work experience opportunities within our organisation ensuring that you are not financially disadvantaged
- Help you prepare for interviews, writing your CV, giving you the tools to help you succeed
- Support you to have access to appropriate transport to attend your training & employment interviews
- Support you to access funding for a laptop for your education or training
- Celebrate your successes and achievements with you
- Encourage your hobbies and access to leisure and recreational activities

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### We will:

- Help you to maintain good health and wellbeing to prevent you from feeling isolated
- Agree contact from your Leaving Care Advisor and help to maintain a social network
- Provide you with advice and support to access appropriate health services
- Support you to arrange your medical appointments when needed

### A PLACE TO LIVE

#### We will:

- Support you with finding a suitable place to live
- Help you to make a house your home
- Make sure you know your entitlements with regards to benefits & grants
- Offer support to help you manage your money
- Provide you with support to enable you to live successfully in the community

### PREPARING FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING

#### We will:

- Respect you as an individual and recognise you as an adult capable of making your own decisions about your life
- Treat you fairly and support you to maximise your opportunities regardless of your situation, ethnicity, or disability and will always be transparent about how we support you
- Provide you with access to the Leaving Care Team if you no longer have an allocated worker or are returning for assistance, advice, or support
- Provide you with assistance with the cost of learning to drive

### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

#### We will:

- Ensure that you know your rights including your right to vote
- Recognise that you are the experts by experience on decisions that impact on your life
- Encourage you to shape our policies and procedures that effect you
- Promote your active involvement and participation in decision making
- Create the right space, voice, and audience for you to be able to influence the decisions that impact on you as underpinned by the Lundy model
- Advocate on your behalf for additional support when needed
- Provide specialist support if you are an asylum seeker or were an unaccompanied child

### TRANSITIONS

#### We will:

- Guide you through your transition before you leave care
- Provide you with information and advice and a timeline for your transitions
- Support you in remaining in contact with your friends & family members
- Aim to keep and not change your Leaving Care Advisor

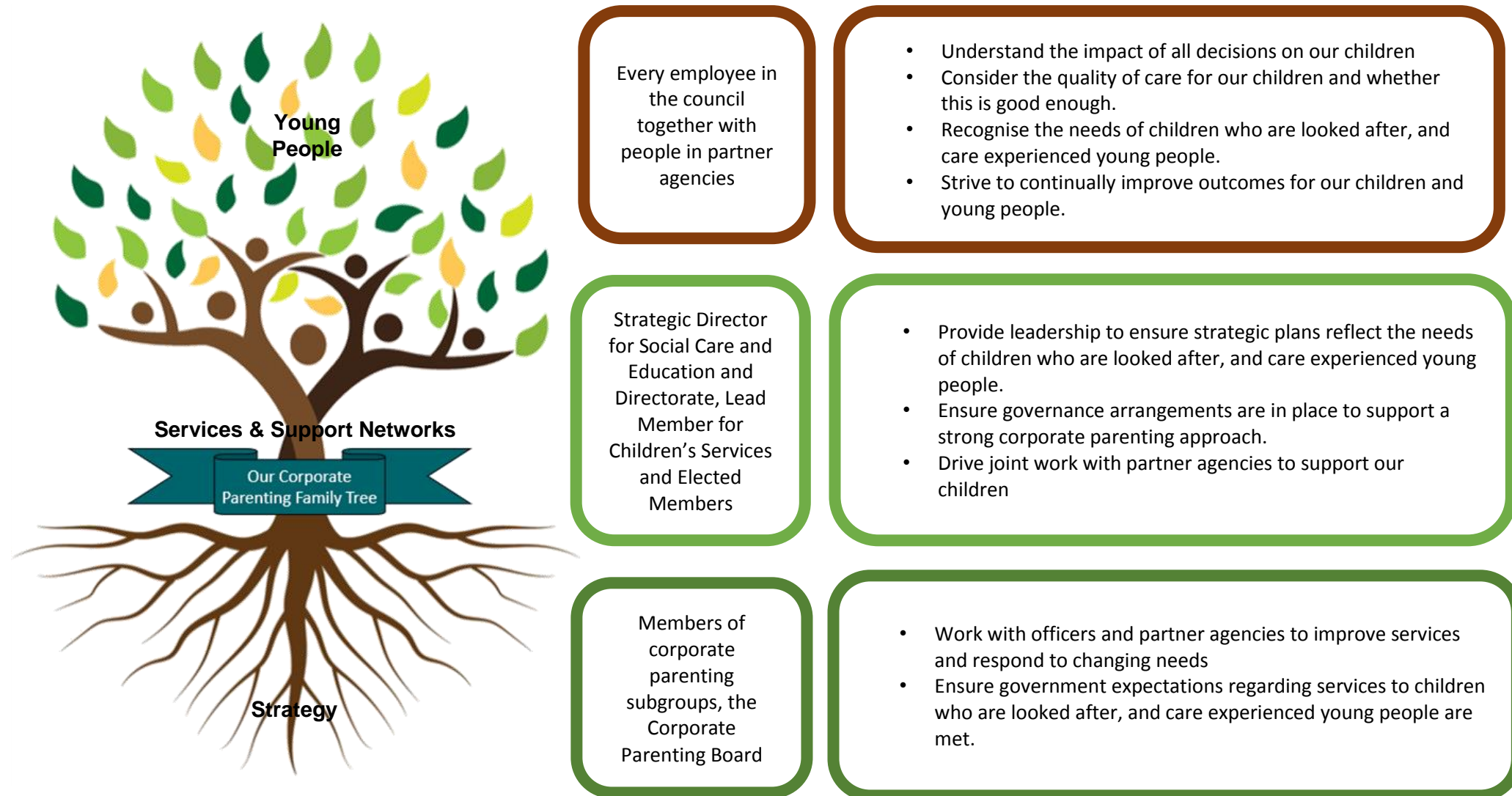
January 2022





# Our family of corporate parents

Our Children in Care Generation Select panel recommended that all staff should have time to see themselves as part of a bigger family of corporate parents, particularly those adults who have the most contact with children who are looked after, and care experienced young people. Our corporate parenting family tree outlines the responsibilities that people have in relation to corporate parenting.



# Our approach

Corporate Parenting has been identified as one of five priority areas In the Children's Social Care division at Leicester City Council. Supported by our partners our ambition is to ensure that the principles of 'if this were my child' are encouraged and promoted across the council and its strategic partnerships. As corporate parents we will support our children who are looked after and care experienced young people to be safe, have a good home, achieve their goals, and become successful adults in society.

We know we will have been successful in achieving our ambition:

**when young people say:**



"I understand the role of corporate parent and how it impacts on my life. I have my own copy of the Children in Care Pledge, and I understand what my entitlements are. I feel my rights are respected by all professionals working with me."

**we can say:**



"We support you with your education, both formal and informal. We do not do anything that makes you stand out as a child in care. We support you to have hopes and dreams. We show you how to contact your social worker. We respect your personal property. We celebrate your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday with you. We plan your transition from care that makes sure you are prepared and ready."

To help us meet our ambition for corporate parenting we have identified five priority themes agreed with children and young people.



**A place to live** – placing focus on ensuring young people have a safe place to live and that they are supported with the practicalities of living in their own home.



**Preparing for successful living** – helping young people to achieve successful lives in adulthood, including accessing training and employment.



**Health and wellbeing** – seeking a clear understanding of what good mental health means to young people and ensuring that young people are informed about the health support available.



**Active citizenship** – considering the needs and voices of all young people, keeping them informed of our corporate parenting responsibility to them.



**Education** – raising aspirations and supporting children who are looked after with their education while seeking to work with carers on how to support children looked after with their education.

The themes help to map the ambitions we have for all our care experienced young people and are informed by needs analysis, current regional/national issues, and service delivery plans and priorities. They also help to identify which professionals are best placed to support young people to achieve these ambitions. Regardless of whether professionals work directly with children looked after or care leavers, it is the duty of every employee of the council to consider the direct and indirect effect their decisions might have on care experienced young people's lives. This outlines the breadth of influence services have on young people and how they overlap or interact with each other.

A Place to Live	
Why this is important	What are we aiming for
As a corporate parent, it is our responsibility to ensure that care experienced young people have a safe place to live where they feel protected and valued. We must also support young people with the practicalities of living in their own home and keep them informed of the support available. It is important that applying for housing is as accessible as possible, that young people know who will support them in their transition to adulthood and we must ensure our support offer reflects the current needs of our young people.	<p>There is a clear offer through commissioned services that supports the housing of young people.</p> <p>There are clear pathways for care experienced young people to access services and support.</p>
How we support the theme as a corporate parent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to young people to better understand their housing and support needs</li> <li>• Support a young person to find a home</li> <li>• Ensure housing is considered in decision-making</li> <li>• Identify when someone is living in unsuitable accommodation and provide additional support</li> <li>• Commission services that support young people's housing needs</li> <li>• Help young people to understand pathways for accessing services</li> </ul>	

Preparing for Successful Living	
Why this is important	What we are aiming for
It is important to understand what living successfully means for our young people. We know that being independent is not the only marker of success and we would rather young people know how and where to access support when/if they need it. We must ensure that young people are equipped with the skills they need in their adult lives and as any parent would, must continuously identify and work to remove barriers to their success.	<p>All staff are ambitious for children as they move into adulthood and their practice is informed by visualising the adult the child will become.</p> <p>The transitions strategy and commissioning strategy align to provide clarity about the provision of support up to the age of 25. There is evidence of early planning to support good transitions to adulthood.</p>
How we support the theme as a corporate parent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information about current opportunities for jobs, apprenticeships, and work experience</li> <li>• Teach young people independent skills such as cooking, cleaning, and budgeting</li> <li>• Support young people to achieve their ambitions and realise their potential</li> <li>• Signpost available support for care leavers</li> <li>• Encourage co-production of pathway plans with every young person</li> <li>• Identify Education, Employment and Training opportunities for all care leavers</li> <li>• Engage with business to create Education, Employment and Training opportunities</li> <li>• Seek to remove barriers to successful living where these are identified</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for staying put with carers beyond the age of 18</li> </ul>	

Health and Wellbeing	
Why this is important	What we are aiming for
We recognise the unique challenges that care experienced children and young people face. We aim to better understand how we can support good mental health and physical health for our children looked after and carer leavers. We understand that ensuring good information about available health support is integral to this, which is why we strive to maintain strong professional health and social care networks.	<p>There is a clear offer through commissioned services that supports the health needs of care experienced children, young people, and care leavers.</p> <p>There are clear pathways for care experienced young people and their carers to access services.</p>
How we support the theme as a corporate parent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jointly commission services with health partners</li> <li>• Support medical appointments for children who are looked after</li> <li>• Analyse data to understand health needs and trends</li> <li>• Provide access to exercise and leisure activities for children who are looked after</li> <li>• Tell young people how to access health services</li> <li>• Build a young person's emotional resilience</li> <li>• Support young people to have a good social network</li> <li>• Promote smoking cessation and healthy lifestyles</li> </ul>	

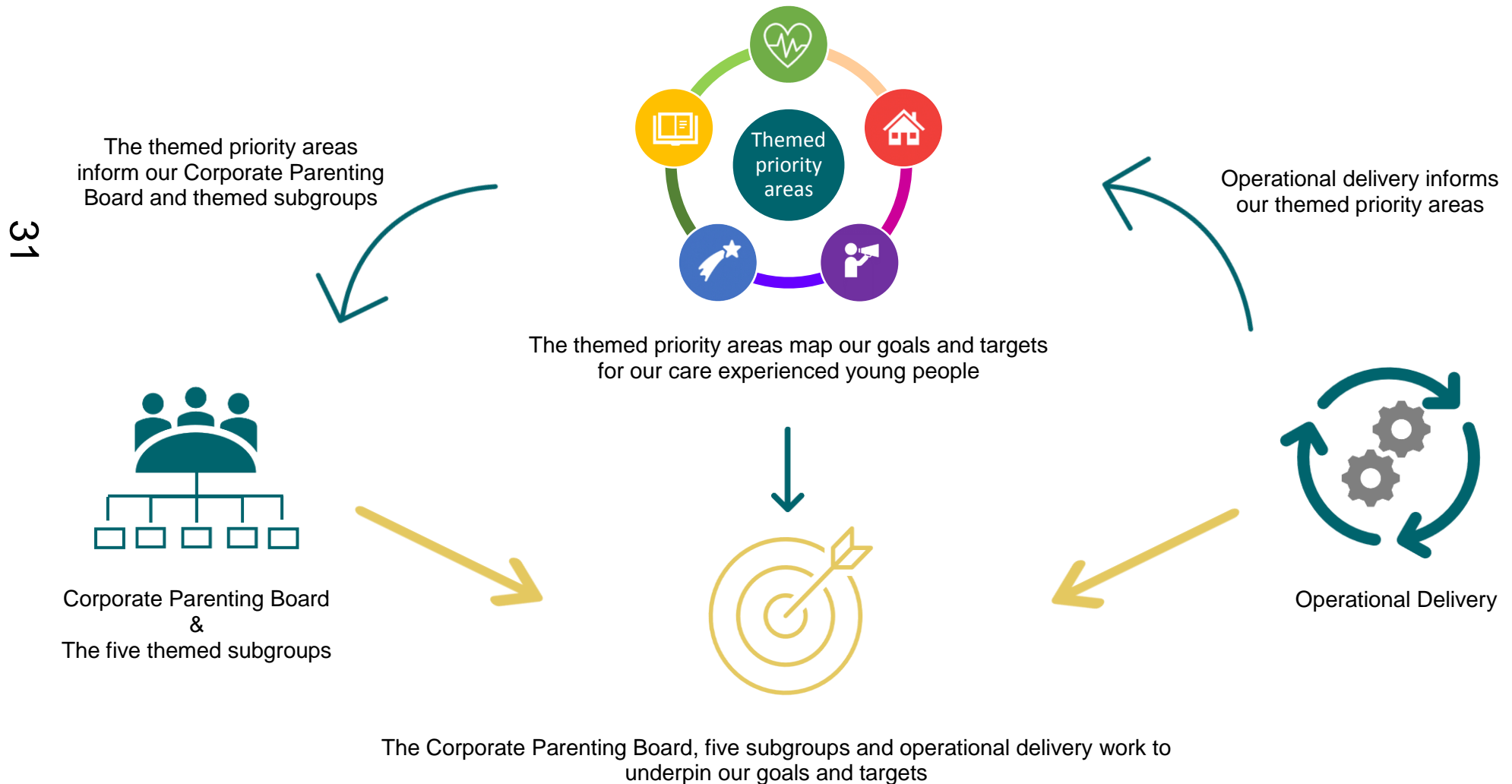
Active Citizenship	
Why this is important	What we are aiming for
Active Citizenship embodies the core principles of the Lundy model of participation, which is why, we work to ensure the voice of the child is always heard. We want care experienced young people to know that they will be listened to and what they say will be taken seriously. Young people should be informed of their rights, like their right to vote, ask for advocacy or make a complaint, and know what to do if they don't feel like we are upholding our responsibilities to them as corporate parents.	<p>The local authority is an active, strong, and committed corporate parent and emulates what a good parent should be.</p> <p>Through the delivery of the transitions strategy and commissioning strategy there is evidence of achieving the pledges across the partnership.</p>
How we support the theme as a corporate parent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote membership of Generation Select, Care Experienced Consultants and Co-Producers</li> <li>• Inform young people of their rights</li> <li>• Use coproduction to shape service development</li> <li>• Ensure young people are aware of the Children in Care Pledge and the Care Leavers' Pledge</li> <li>• Advocate for care experienced children and young people</li> <li>• Be accountable to young people for the pledges we make to them</li> <li>• Put young people's voices at the heart of decision making</li> <li>• Contribute to creating the right space for young people's voices to be heard</li> <li>• Embed the Lundy model in everyday practice</li> <li>• Encourage political literacy for care experienced young people</li> </ul>	

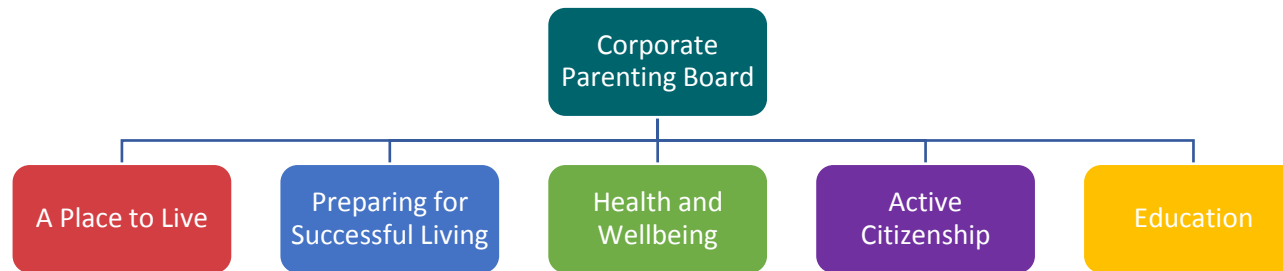
Education	
Why this is important	What we are aiming for
We want to raise the aspirations of children looked after so they feel confident to pursue their hopes and dreams as they move through formal education. We recognise, however, that education can take many forms and therefore aim to facilitate better opportunities to access hobbies, cultural experiences, music, and art. To do this, we must also actively support carers from the beginning, as they accompany young people on their education journey.	<p>There is a clear offer through commissioned services that supports the education of young people.</p> <p>There are clear pathways for care experienced young people to access services.</p>
How we support the theme as a corporate parent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help children with homework</li> <li>• Support schools to be good or outstanding</li> <li>• Inform Personal Education Plans</li> <li>• Facilitate young people's attendance at school</li> <li>• Encourage or facilitate hobbies for young people</li> <li>• Celebrate the achievements of care experienced young people</li> <li>• Enable foster carers to create the best environment for young people to learn</li> </ul>	



# Delivering our Priorities

To help us make sure that everyone can be the best corporate parent they can be, we have developed five thematic groups for stakeholders with specific corporate parenting responsibilities to meet with care experienced children and young people. The groups include senior officers from across the council and the wider partnership, elected members, children and young people and their carer's.





The Corporate Parenting Board aims to improve the life chances of Leicester City's children who are looked after and care experienced young people through the development of a joint approach to the delivery of services.

To support the Corporate Parenting Board, there are five subgroups which bring together professionals, young people and carers. The subgroups align to the themes which set out priority areas and ambitions.

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The objectives of the Corporate Parenting Board are to:

- listen to the voices of children and young people in our care and those leaving care, and to use what we learn to improve services and outcomes
- take the lead for the children and young people in our care and leaving care, raising awareness and priorities across all agencies, making sure all agencies' responsibilities toward children who are looked after, and care experienced young people are being met
- promote the role of all elected members as corporate parents and to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put in place to enable all members to fulfil their statutory responsibilities
- review the Corporate Parenting Strategy and related action plans annually to ensure that these are effective

Each one is focused on a specific area and members of each subgroup are responsible for:

- attending all scheduled subgroup meetings where possible and if necessary, nominate a proxy
- wholeheartedly championing the ethos of Corporate Parenting 'as if this were my child' within all aspects of their work
- supporting care experienced young people to fully engage in meetings including discussions on agenda setting, post meeting de-briefings and peer support when required
- create the right space, voice, and audience for young people to be able to influence the decisions that impact on them as underpinned by the Lundy model
- progress actions outside of the meetings to support the work of the group

# Priorities for 2023

- Develop with young people a training module to be introduced for all staff on the principles of corporate parenting.
- Implement a framework for the Let's T.A.L.K (Think About Leicester's Kids) principle when planning and evaluating services or redesigning existing ones.
- Agree our priorities for delivery across our five corporate parenting themes and promote opportunities for participation and engagement in shaping and delivering improvements across services.
- Review progress and agree our performance and quality assurance measures to reflect the "as if this were my child" approach.
- Promote more opportunities for children and young people to meet and engage with members of the corporate parenting board to better understand the needs of care experienced children and young people.
- Expand opportunities for mentoring, work shadowing, takeover day offers, and apprenticeships, training, and employment across the council and wider partnership.
- Ensure that there are clear pathways for care experienced young people to access services.
- Promote the Children in Care and Care Leaver pledges to ensure they are embedded with all partners and review our progress and impact on delivery of the pledges.
- Ensure that our arrangements for transitions and commissioning evidence delivery of our pledges across the partnership.





# Corporate Parenting Strategy

Tash Deacon

# Agenda

- 1) Introduction – Who Am I?
- 2) Refresh of the Strategy.
- 3) My Thoughts.
- 4) Gen-Select Findings.
- 5) Engagement Session Feedback.
- 6) Next Steps.
- 7) Questions.

# Who am I?

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Psychology Student at Durham University.
- Member of the CEC.
- Dedicated Neighbourhood Team Support Volunteer.
- Project Officer for Leicester City Council.
- Care-Experienced Young Person.

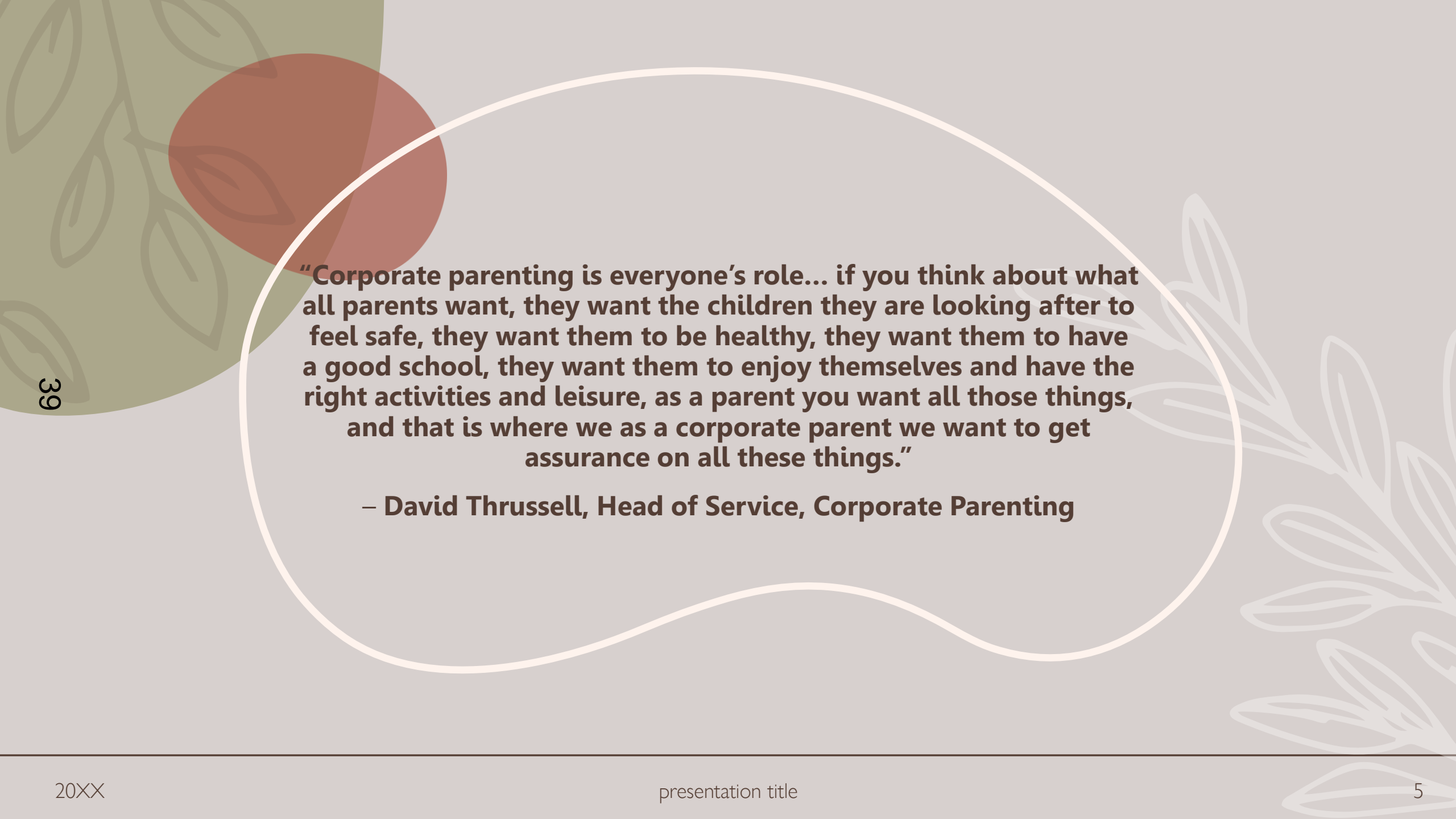


# Refresh of the Strategy

- Policy that ensures children/young people who are looked after are happy and given every possible opportunity to succeed and the role that professionals play in this.
- Seven core principles and an additional 8<sup>th</sup> added by the Gen-Select panel (T.A.L.K – Lundy Model.)
- Links into the Corporate Parenting Sub-Groups.
- Help children understand who their corporate parent is and help staff and young people understand what is expected of a corporate parent.
- Ensures a clear and open pathway for communication and accountability.







**“Corporate parenting is everyone’s role... if you think about what all parents want, they want the children they are looking after to feel safe, they want them to be healthy, they want them to have a good school, they want them to enjoy themselves and have the right activities and leisure, as a parent you want all those things, and that is where we as a corporate parent we want to get assurance on all these things.”**

**– David Thrussell, Head of Service, Corporate Parenting**

# My thoughts

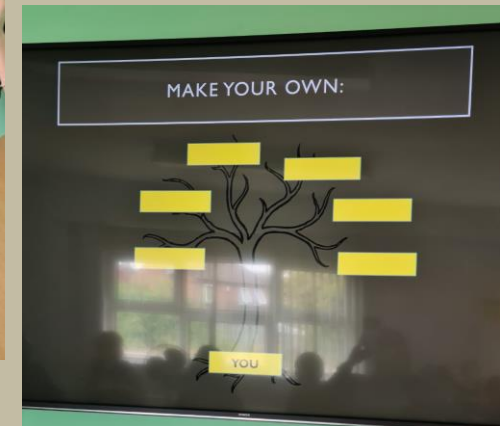
- Overall good execution! (use of quotes and bullet points.)
- Lundy model could be more explicitly mentioned – should be used in collaboration with the strategy (nothing works in isolation!)
- More thorough explanation of certain terms/roles/groups needed to make the document more accessible.
- Inclusion of quotes from young people.
- Statistics could include averages for the UK.
- Good to have a link to detailed, time-based road-map/action points on the implementation of the strategy.



# Gen-Select Findings:

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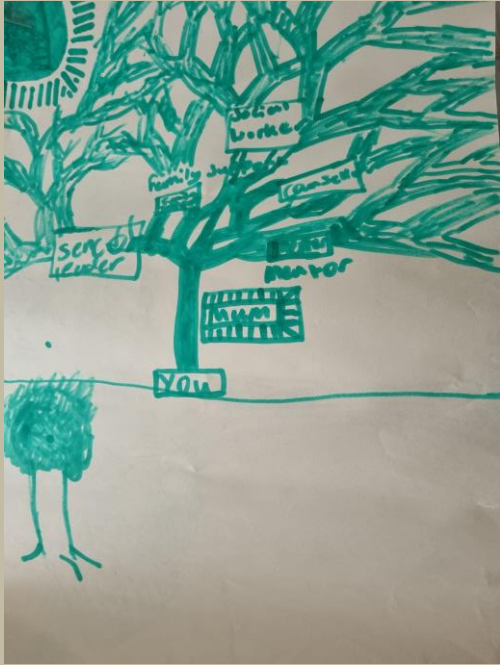
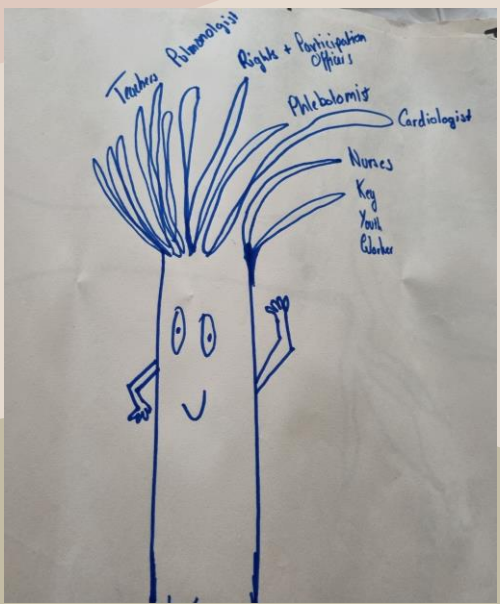
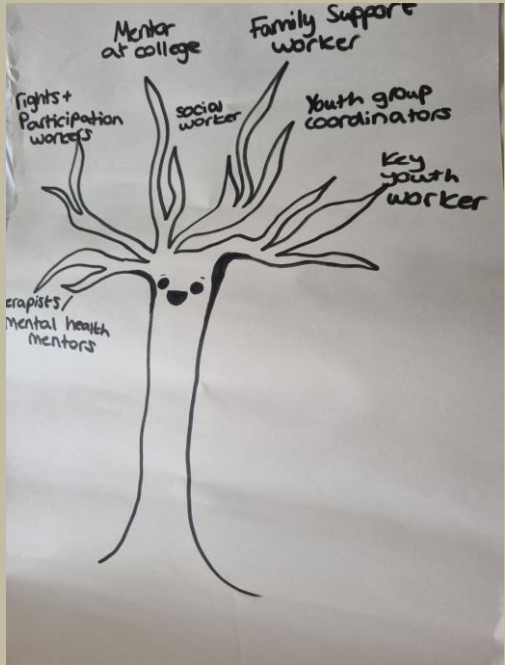
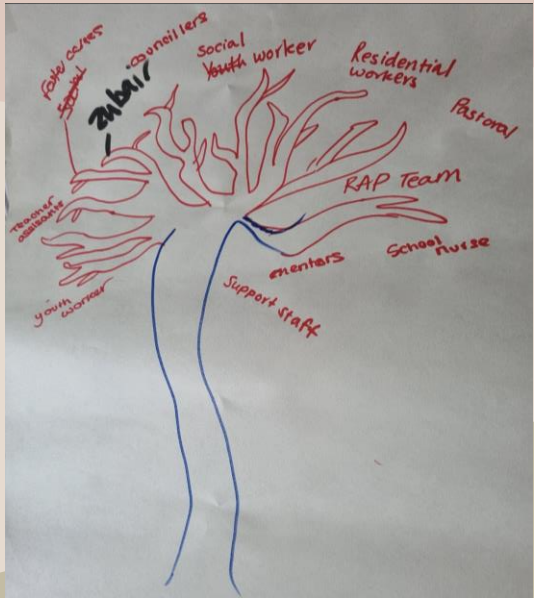
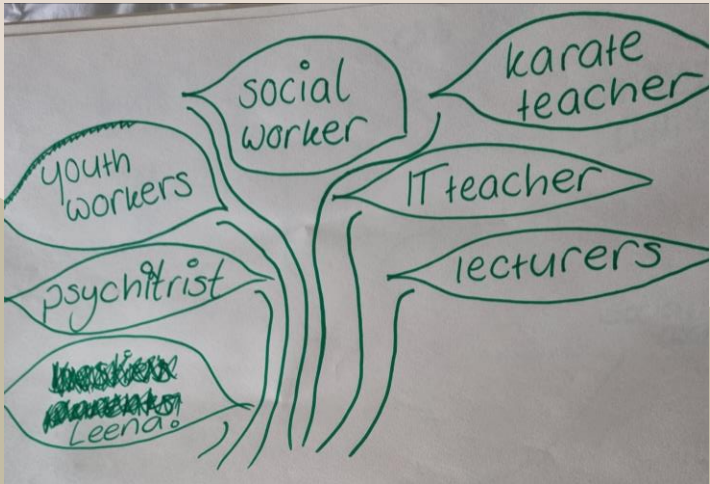
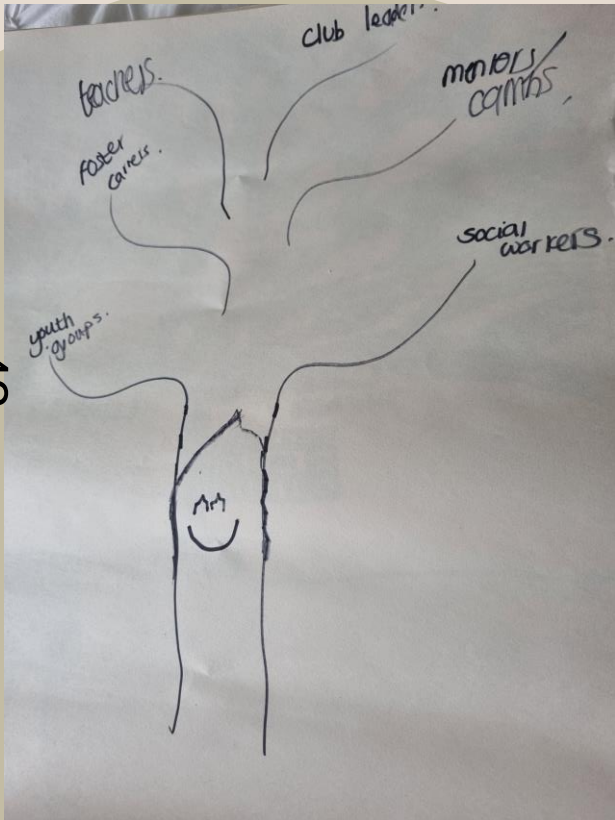
- Found a lot of young people did not know what a corporate parent was and the term itself is older than all children looked after (1998.)
  - Most important is for young people and children to feel loved and parented than understanding exactly what a corporate parent is
  - Professionals understand their roles and how it connects with others.
- Ensure that you know more about the roles of people that you're never going to meet but have an impact on your life.
  - Corporate parenting is a culture/commitment – working so young people feel safe.
- Mandatory training for all staff – understand what a corporate parent is.
  - More opportunities for YP to meet those in the further branches.
  - Overall agreement on not changing the term but defining it better.





# Engagement Session

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'Mum and Dad but not your Mum and Dad but do what a Mum and Dad would do.'

'Legally obligated/responsible for you.'

'Your parents but not biological.'

'Responsible for your safety and wellbeing.'

'Massive Family.'

'People that 'you' (the RAP team) work with.'

'Social worker, youth worker, support staff, school nurse, teachers, foster carers, CAHMS, club leaders, residential workers, RAP workers, councillors, careers advisor, LAC nurses etc.'



# Any Questions?

Thank you!

Tash Deacon.

[Tash.deacon@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Tash.deacon@leicester.gov.uk)



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# ***Carbon Neutral Roadmap***

For consideration by: Economic Development, Transport  
and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Overview Select Committee

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Lead director: Matthew Wallace

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### **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Anna Dodd, Energy and Sustainability Manager
- Author contact details: [anna.dodd@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:anna.dodd@leicester.gov.uk) x 39 2247

### ***Suggested content***

#### **1. Purpose of report**

To present the findings of the Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap Study and the outcome of its consideration by the Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission on 31 August 2022.

To present the next steps in using the study findings to inform action planning and project development, both within the council and in collaboration with partners.

#### **2. Summary**

Following the council's Climate Emergency declaration and the announcement of its ambition for Leicester to be carbon neutral by 2030 or sooner, the need for expert advice was identified to better understand what it would take to achieve that. This report presents the results of a study commissioned from Ricardo Energy & Environment to provide that advice. The presentation outlines the context, report findings and how the Carbon Roadmap will be used to inform our work going forward.

#### **3. Recommendations**

Members are asked to note:

The content and key findings of the Carbon Neutral Roadmap study

The use of the study to develop and consult on a new Climate Emergency Action Plan and work with partners in the city to reduce carbon and address climate change

The comments of the Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission and its decision to receive and note the study and to request a further progress update in due course.

#### **4. Report/Supporting information**



The Carbon Neutral Roadmap study:

- Analyses how far we're likely to get by 2030 based on 'business as usual'
- Models the impact of increased levels of action
- Recommends a decarbonisation pathway capable of getting us closest to our ambition, taking account of likely limits to technological development and Government support between now and 2030
- Gives details of the rate and scale of action needed, along with indicative levels of investment required
- Explains why Leicester's emissions could not reach zero by 2030 and outlines the options for 'offsetting' as many as possible of the remaining ones to get as close as possible to being carbon neutral.

The study will support a new phase in Leicester's response to the Climate Emergency, aiming to build on the raft of measures already underway through the current Climate Emergency Action Plan, to scale up activity and widen engagement.

The report arising from the study was presented to the Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission on 31 August 2022 and it was minuted that:

Commission members congratulated the Team involved in producing the documents for their work to date, it being noted that the Council's ambitions were in excess of the suggested targets set by Government.

AGREED: That the update be received and noted, and a further report on progress be submitted in due course.

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

### **5.1 Financial implications**

The Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap Study has identified a net cost of up to £5.3bn for the city by 2030, which (to the extent it can be achieved) would be shared across a wide spectrum of individuals and organisations (including central and local government, citizens and businesses). In this perspective the Council will need to be alert to bidding opportunities for grant funding, as well as the role it can take in influencing and enabling change at no financial cost to the Council. The financing of each specific scheme will need to be considered as they are developed.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

### **5.2 Legal implications**

The Climate Change Act 2008 committed the UK to legally binding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, which came into force on 27th June 2019, has since amended the legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as set in section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008, from 80% to 100%, or net zero. It does not, however, place a statutory duty on local authorities to produce their own plans to cut carbon emissions.

The Council is enabled by other powers to take the action proposed in the report; for example, the general competence powers given to local authorities under the Localism Act 2011 and powers and duties under a range of planning and environmental regulations and policy, both at national and local level, enable and/or require local authorities, through their roles as planning, transport and waste authorities, to set energy efficiency requirements for consistency with the Government's zero carbon policy.

There are no legal requirements beyond any restrictions in place via the powers outlined above, though it is advised robust and detailed publicity and public engagement is continued with as set out in this report and the legal aspects of particular actions and schemes will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis as they are developed.

Kevin Carter, Head of Law (Commercial, Property and Planning)

### 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Addressed within the main report.

### 5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty should be paid before and at the time a decision is taken, in such a way that it can influence the final decision.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The report presents the conclusions of the Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap Study. Although there are no direct equality implications arising from the report, it is important to note that local authorities have a key role to play in achieving this Net

Zero target. Actions taken now, and in the future, locally can scale-up further efforts to address the Climate Emergency.

Action on climate change, reducing emissions and increasing resilience can deliver many local benefits including lower energy bills, economic regeneration and creation of local jobs, reductions in fuel poverty and improved health, avoidance of flood damage costs, enhanced green spaces and improved air quality. These benefits should positively impact people from across all protected characteristics. Action on climate change can also help to address inequalities and improve social cohesion. Vulnerable people and those on lower incomes are often those who are most disadvantaged in relation to issues like poor air quality, mobility, energy costs and access to green space.

Local authorities are well placed to drive and influence action on climate change through the services we deliver, our regulatory and strategic functions, and our roles as community leaders, major employers, large-scale procurers and social landlords. Councils also provide a vitally important leadership role, setting an example for others to follow.

Moving forward and in the development of the action plan there needs to be a continued flexibility in how these actions are achieved - for example at such a point as the service area starts to develop proposals around the action, equalities must be fully integrated into development of proposals and have sufficient influence in decision making, in order to allow for any disproportionate negative impacts identified on any protected characteristic/s to be responded to and mitigated appropriately.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

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

Working towards carbon neutrality will provide opportunities to achieve additional 'co-benefits' for city residents and businesses, a number of which are highlighted in the equalities implications section above. It will be important, in developing the action plan, to take an approach which aims to maximise the co-benefits as well as the carbon savings. Co-benefits will be identified and, where possible, quantified for each area of action as the proposals are developed.

In some areas there may also be risks of conflict between carbon reduction and other priorities, and care will need to be taken to ensure that these are resolved, or at least minimised, as part of action planning. For example, the replacement of gas boilers with heat pumps, recommended in the report, could worsen fuel poverty if implemented in isolation from other measures. However, where combined with, or preceded by, installing extra insulation, this risk can be avoided.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that the carbon savings and other benefits for the City from working towards the carbon neutral ambition will enable the council to increase its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals – particularly in relation to good health and wellbeing (goal 3), affordable and clean energy (goal 7), decent work and economic growth (goal 8), sustainable cities and communities (goal 11) and, of course, climate action (goal 13).

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

Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap – the main study report is available on the City Council website to download from the [Climate Emergency page](#)

A supplementary report with details of evidence used in the study: Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap Evidence Base is available from the Sustainability Team. Email: [sustainability@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@leicester.gov.uk)

**7. Summary of appendices:**

**8. 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

**9. Is this a “key decision”?**

No

# Leicester carbon neutral roadmap

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Overview Select Committee –  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Appendix D





# Climate change is happening



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## 2012 & 2019 Flooding



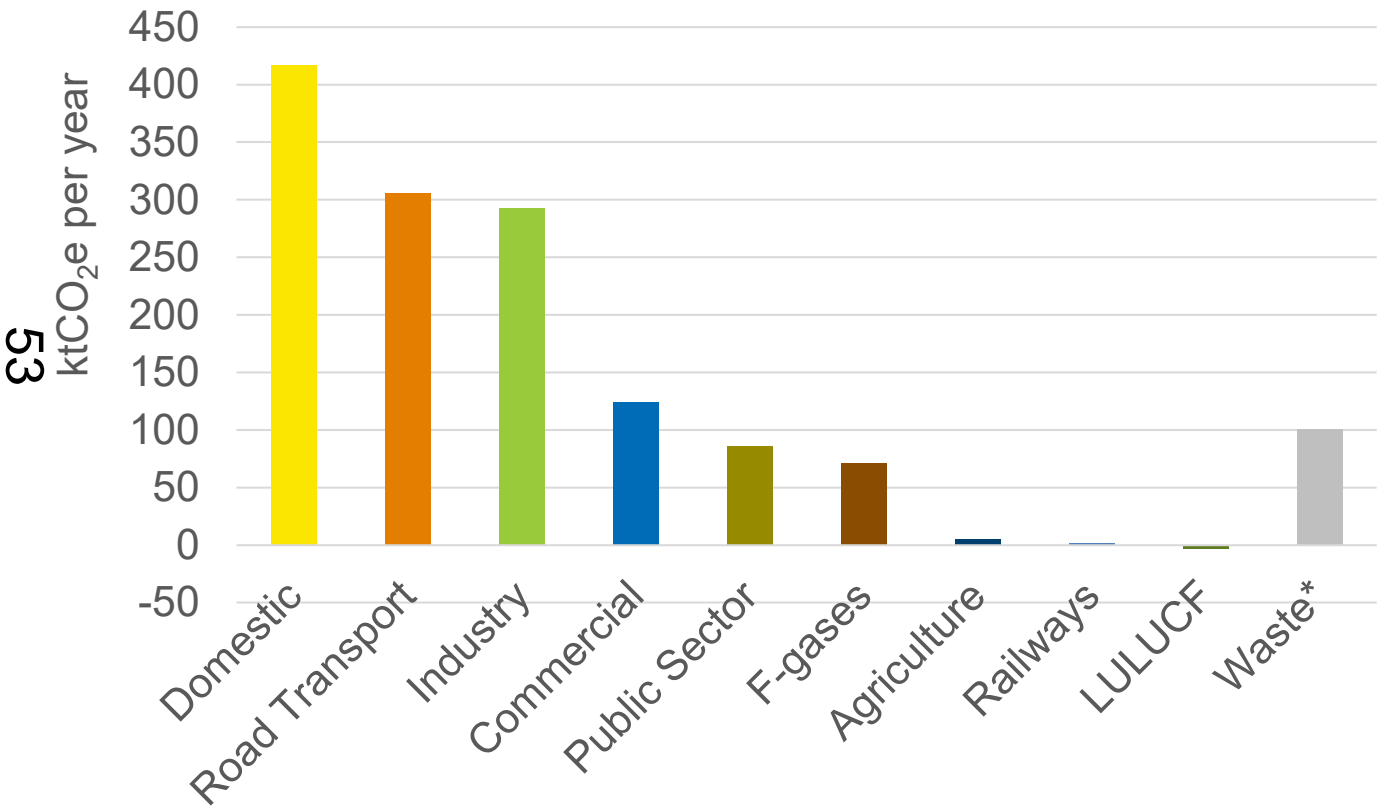
## 2022 Heatwave



# Current sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Leicester



GHG emissions in Leicester (2019)



\* Waste is reported for information but not within the scope of the Roadmap. Note that LULUCF stands for 'Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry'

Looking at this data another way, the major priorities are...



**ELECTRICITY**



**HEAT**



**CARS/VANS**



**... and everything else**

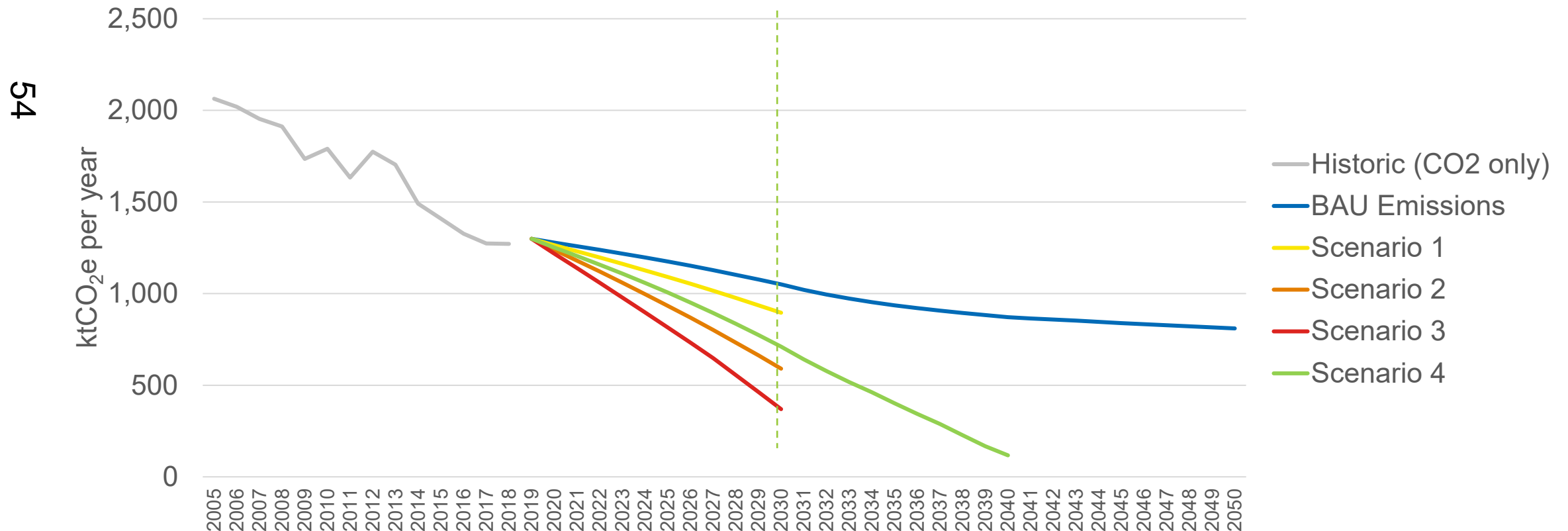


# Raising the level of ambition

**Four additional scenarios** were modelled for Leicester representing higher levels of ambition than the BAU

- Scenario 3, which gets closest to net zero by 2030, does so by prioritising:
  - (1) demand reduction**
  - (2) electrification**
- These are the core themes of Leicester's strategic pathway to reach carbon neutrality

Comparison of different GHG emission scenarios modelled





## In practical terms, Leicester aligning with the most ambitious scenario would involve...



Approx. 12,000  
heat pumps  
installed per year  
*Current total: <1000*



50% of journeys to be  
walking or  
cycling  
(or more use of public  
transport)



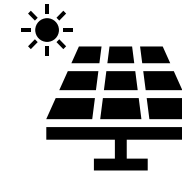
Up to 100%  
electric cars, vans,  
and buses  
*Current total: <1%*



Minimum 65,000  
buildings to undergo  
energy efficiency  
retrofits



3x increase  
in use of public transport  
(or higher rates of  
walking and cycling)



Approx. 6,000  
solar panel  
installations each year  
*Current total: 4,600*

... and no further increase in energy demand or GHG emissions from any source

# Starting to 'unpack' the Leicester Roadmap....

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Housing

Workplaces

Transport

Energy

- What are the specific outcomes needed by 2030?
- What rate and scale of delivery and investment does that imply? How much do we need to scale up?
- What should our approach be? What should we focus on?

# Leicester City Council's areas of control and influence

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Control Around 7% of emissions	Substantial influence Up to perhaps a third of emissions	Less influence Remaining emissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council housing</li> <li>LCC operational estate</li> <li>LCC corporate estate</li> <li>LCC school buildings</li> <li>LCC construction</li> <li>LCC fleet and own EV chargers</li> <li>LCC-led renewables, energy services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Some</u> private housing stock – via grants, regulation</li> <li>HA stock – via collaboration on retrofit</li> <li><u>Some</u> SMEs – via grants and support</li> <li>Key partners' emissions</li> <li>New development – particularly strategic sites and LCC owned land</li> <li>Buses – services, infrastructure, electrification</li> <li>Active travel – infrastructure, promotion</li> <li>EVs – via charging infrastructure</li> <li>Traffic management and parking</li> <li>District heating and partner-led renewables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private housing stock – afford-to-pay</li> <li>Private workplaces – non-engaged businesses/employers</li> <li>Commercial/industrial processes</li> <li>Community facilities – non-council</li> <li>Business-generated traffic – deliveries, haulage, business travel</li> <li>Business fleets decarbonisation</li> <li>Non-commuting, longer journeys – more difficult by bus or active travel</li> <li>Rail services</li> </ul>

# Next steps

- Widen involvement - share the roadmap report, publicise key messages to public, work with partners through Climate Emergency Partnership and other partnerships
- Use roadmap study to inform next steps
- New action plan – develop first iteration, consult on it, then finalise and adopt – with future annual cycles of development and updating beyond that
- Align other key plans, strategies, decisions and funding bids to strategy developed from roadmap as they are developed
- Finance - how to attract new, scaled up and more diverse sources of investment into carbon reduction in Leicester
- Challenge ourselves to realign current plans and budgets to release more resources

# Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission

31 August 2022

“Commission members congratulated the Team involved in producing the documents for their work to date, it being noted that the Council’s ambitions were in excess of the suggested targets set by Government.

AGREED: That the update be received and noted, and a further report on progress be submitted in due course.”



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# **Executive Decision- Revenue Budget Monitoring April-December 2022/23**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Lead director/ officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

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### **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Ben Matthews
- Author contact details: Ben.Matthews@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

## **1. Summary**

This report is the third in the monitoring cycle for 2022/23 and presents a picture very similar to that presented at period 6.

The report shows an overall overspend of £10.3m, slightly lower than the £14.5m forecast at period 6. In the current economic climate there have been continued difficulties in recruiting to vacancies, which is the main reason for the slightly lower forecast overspend. However, the forecast overspend is still high due to the increased levels of cost (including significantly increased energy costs) and pay inflation being experienced since the budget was prepared, together with continuing pandemic related income shortfalls. The inflationary cost pressures detailed in this report were not known at the time of setting the budget and are consistent with other councils' experiences. Income shortfalls from residual pandemic effects were however anticipated, and reserves were set aside. In contrast to other budgets, rising interest rates have meant that our investment income has increased considerably since the budget was set.

Children's Services continue to experience pressure in the budget for children's placements, due to the number of children receiving care and the level of support required. Significant cost pressures continue to be experienced in procuring home to school transport for children with special educational needs.

City Development and Neighbourhoods Department is reporting a significant overspend, mainly relating to additional energy and waste costs and continued income shortfalls which are a direct consequence of the pandemic. The cost increases have arisen primarily because of higher inflation, but also due to increasing levels of household waste to be disposed of.

The income shortfalls due to the pandemic will be funded from one-off funding set aside in the 2022/23 budget. Cost pressures in children's placements will be met from a departmental reserve, with the remaining overspend being funded from the managed reserves strategy reducing the one-off funding available to support future years' budgets.

As members are aware, the future financial outlook for the council is bleak, in a climate of rising costs and pressures whilst facing real terms cuts in government funding. Savings have been identified and implemented during the course of 2022/23 and the latest tranche is reported to you as Appendix C to this report.

Though not part of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account has had an exceedingly difficult year, and is forecasting an overspend of £7.3m. The biggest elements of this are the knock-on effect of staff vacancies which have resulted in extra use of contractors to carry out essential work, and the effects of inflation on energy costs and



materials. The focus on reducing voids has resulted in reduced capacity for capital work, with a saving on the capital budget.

The special education “high needs block” continues to run a significant deficit, in common with authorities everywhere. The Government has recognised this problem, which is due to Government reforms giving rise to unexpectedly high demand: the Government has extended a temporary accounting device that means we can continue to address the problem without having to make immediate compensating savings.

## **2. Recommended actions/decision**

2.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- Note the emerging picture detailed in the report.
- Approve the reductions to budgets described at Appendix C and for the in-year underspend to be transferred to the Managed Reserve Strategy, and delegate authority to the Director of Finance to determine the specific budget ceilings affected.

2.2 The OSC is recommended to:

Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit

## **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

N/A

## **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

The General Fund budget set for the financial year 2022/23 was £307.8m.

Appendix A summarises the current budget and anticipated spending in 2022/23.

Appendix B provides more detailed commentary on the forecast position for each area of the Council’s operations.

Appendix C shows the latest tranche of in-year budget savings.

## **5. Detailed report**

See appendices

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### **6.1 Financial implications**

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

## 6.2 Legal implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

## 6.3 Equalities implications

There are no direct equality implications arising out of this budget monitoring report.  
Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

## 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no climate emergency implications directly associated with this report, as it is a budget monitoring report and is solely concerned with financial issues.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

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

No other implications are noted as this is a budget monitoring report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

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

Report to Council on the 23rd February 2022 on the General Fund Revenue budget 2022/2023.

Period 3 Monitoring report presented to OSC on 27th September 2022.

Period 6 Monitoring report presented to OSC on 15th December 2022.

## **8. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A – Period 9 (April-December) Budget Monitoring Summary

Appendix B – Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances

Appendix C – Budget savings – Proposals for budget adjustments

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

No

## **10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

Yes – recurrent savings in excess of £0.5m

## Revenue Budget at Period 9 (April – December), 2022-23

<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>
Financial Services	12,494.1	12,031.3	(462.8)
Information Services	10,866.1	10,866.1	0.0
Human Resources & Delivery, Communications & Political Governance	9,847.5	9,142.9	(704.6)
Legal Services	3,774.3	3,773.5	(0.8)
<b>Corporate Resources &amp; Support</b>	<b>36,982.0</b>	<b>35,813.9</b>	<b>(1,168.2)</b>
Planning, Development & Transportation	14,698.8	17,749.5	3,050.7
Tourism Culture & Inward Investment	4,798.1	5,153.7	355.6
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	33,489.5	37,164.9	3,675.4
Estates & Building Services	6,002.7	6,506.6	503.9
Departmental Overheads	833.8	605.0	(228.8)
Housing Services	3,834.7	5,065.9	1,231.2
<b>City Development &amp; Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>63,657.6</b>	<b>72,245.7</b>	<b>8,588.1</b>
Adult Social Care & Safeguarding	147,924.0	147,202.0	(722.0)
Adult Social Care & Commissioning	(17,667.3)	(18,478.1)	(810.8)
<b>Sub-Total Adult Social Care</b>	<b>130,256.7</b>	<b>128,723.9</b>	<b>(1,532.8)</b>
Strategic Commissioning & Business Support	2,510.0	2,033.1	(476.9)
Learning Services	18,012.1	18,911.9	899.8
Children, Young People & Families	69,134.3	71,600.9	2,466.6
Departmental Resources	1,691.4	1,624.5	(66.9)
<b>Sub-Total Education &amp; Children's Services</b>	<b>91,347.8</b>	<b>94,170.4</b>	<b>2,822.6</b>
<b>Total Social Care &amp; Education</b>	<b>221,604.5</b>	<b>222,894.3</b>	<b>1,289.8</b>
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing &amp; Sports Services</b>	<b>24,110.5</b>	<b>24,795.2</b>	<b>684.7</b>
<b>Total Operational</b>	<b>346,354.6</b>	<b>355,748.9</b>	<b>9,394.3</b>
Corporate Budgets	(4,039.6)	(329.5)	3,710.1
Capital Financing	6,450.0	3,973.5	(2,476.5)
<b>Total Corporate &amp; Capital Financing</b>	<b>2,410.4</b>	<b>3,644.0</b>	<b>1,233.6</b>
Public Health Grant	(27,884.2)	(28,248.1)	(363.9)
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND SPEND</b>	<b>320,880.8</b>	<b>331,144.9</b>	<b>10,264.1</b>

**Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances**

**Corporate Resources and Support**

Corporate Resources Department is forecasting to spend £35.8m, £1.2m less than the budget.

**1. Finance**

- 1.1. The Financial Services Division is forecasting to spend £12m, £0.5m less than the budget. This is because the Business Service Centre and Customer Services teams continue to experience a number of staffing vacancies, as they did last year.

**2. Information Services**

- 2.1. Information Services are forecasting to spend £10.9m as per the budget. The service continues to use an earmarked reserve to fund new equipment, particularly to support agile ways of working, and other development costs over and above “business-as-usual” including costs relating to cyber security and network resilience.

**3. Human Resources, Delivery Communications & Political Governance (DCPG)**

- 3.1. Human Resources and DCPG is forecasting to spend £9.1m, £0.7m less than the budget as a result of carrying staffing vacancies across a number of areas and generating additional traded income.

**4. Legal, Registration & Coronial Services**

- 4.1. Legal Services are forecasting to spend £3.2m as per the budget after using £0.1m of reserves. The service has had difficulty in recruiting permanent staff and is using locums instead which are more expensive.
- 4.2. Coronial Services are forecasting to spend £0.9m which means, as in previous years, support from corporate budgets of £0.3m will be required and this is assumed in the forecast. Unlike previous years, there is no available contingency to fund this (having been required for the extra costs of the pay award).

## **5. City Catering**

- 5.1. City Catering is facing significant pressures this year with increasing food costs and pay inflation, together with lower levels of meal uptake. Meal price increases have previously been kept to a minimum, but pay and food inflation now mean that the cost of production is on average more than the prices charged to schools. This issue is being reviewed, but this year the service will need to draw on an earmarked reserve in order to break-even.

### **City Development and Neighbourhoods**

The department is forecasting an overspend of £8.6m on a net budget of £63.7m. This is a slight improvement on the £9.4m forecast overspend reported at period 6. The position for each division is as follows:

## **6. Planning, Development & Transportation**

- 6.1. The division is forecasting an overspend of £3m. The pressures still relate to the same service areas as reported throughout the year.
- 6.2. Income into the division is still suppressed, in part due to the effects of the pandemic, with income from parking and bus lane enforcement being £1.6m lower than budgeted. These income shortfalls will be funded by the one-off COVID monies set aside as part of the 2022/23 budget report.
- 6.3. An increase in energy costs across street lighting, traffic signals and signs add £0.7m of budget pressures. Cost pressures in the provision and enforcement of both on and off-street parking are expected to add a further £1m.
- 6.4. As reported previously, market conditions are resulting in a reduction in the number of major planning applications being submitted, leading to a forecast income shortfall of £0.7m, along with expenditure pressures of £0.2m.
- 6.5. A reduction in the number of concessionary fare passengers on buses is predicted to lead to an underspend of £1m, partially offsetting the overspend identified above.
- 6.6. Other underspends across the division amount to £0.2m and are also partially offsetting the overspends identified above.

## **7. Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment**

- 7.1. The division is forecasting a £0.4m overspend. As reported throughout the year, the number of market traders operating is much lower than before the pandemic,

with the division forecasting an under-recovery of income as a result. However, the director is taking actions to reduce the overspend.

## **8. Neighbourhood & Environmental Services**

- 8.1. The division is forecasting an overspend of £3.7m. The PFI contract for domestic waste includes an annual inflationary increase in contract payments, resulting in an overspend of £1.8m as inflation rose sharply after the budget was prepared. Separately, the volume of waste going to landfill rose during 2021/22 such that landfill tax payable by the Council is now higher by £1.7m. There are £0.2m of pressures elsewhere in the division largely relating to the increased cost of fuel and utilities across parks and neighbourhood services.

## **9. Estates & Building Services**

- 9.1. The division is forecasting an overspend of £0.5m, a significant improvement from the £1.1m overspend projected at period 6. The improved position has been achieved through vacant posts and increased income generation into the division (although this is still below budget). The remaining overspend is largely attributable to additional staff being taken on to tackle a backlog in corporate estate rent and service charge reviews.

## **10. Departmental Overheads**

- 10.1. A £0.2m underspend will be achieved from the early delivery of savings on the Smart Cities programme. Other budgets held for added years' pension costs, postage and departmental salaries are forecast to break even.

## **11. Housing General Fund**

- 11.1. As reported at period 6, an increase in the number of homeless families is expected to lead to an overspend of £1.2m after the use of reserves and a one-off grant. This is an increase of £0.3m from the position reported at period 6. Whilst work is underway to address the issue, the pressure is expected to continue into 2023/24. The impact of increased fuel prices during the year will lead to a further £0.1m overspend on the council-wide vehicle fleet.

## **12. Housing Revenue Account**

- 12.1. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced income and expenditure account relating to the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The HRA is forecast to overspend by £7.3m, excluding revenue used for capital spending (which is reported in the capital monitoring report). At period 6 the forecast overspend was £6.2m.

- 12.2. Income from rents and service charges is expected to fall short of the budget by £0.2m, largely due to the loss of rent on void properties being higher than budgeted.
- 12.3. The Repairs and Maintenance service is forecast to overspend by £2.9m compared with the £1.9m which was forecast at period 6. The increased overspend is due to the same pressures having worsened. There will be savings on vacant posts of £1.3m, but this will be offset by spend on contractors of £1.1m to deal with the staffing shortage and address the backlog of void properties, and £1.2m increased spend on materials and equipment hire. As a result of staffing vacancies and the focus on turning around void properties, less capital work is being undertaken resulting in an income shortfall of £0.8m. Compensation claims and associated costs arising from an increase in disrepair claims driven by law firms before the introduction of fixed recoverable costs, along with the cost of repairing properties damaged by fires, will add a further £0.9m. The fleet of vehicles used by the HRA will cost £0.2m more than the budget.
- 12.4. Management and Landlord Services are expected to overspend by £3.1m. The cost of supplying tenants and leaseholders with heat and hot water through the district heating network is forecast to exceed the budget by £2.3m; gas costs are expected to be 86% higher this year than last given rising wholesale prices. The charges to tenants and leaseholders were set before the rapid rise in costs were fully known about. Further costs of £0.3m will be incurred on utilities across communal areas as gas and electricity prices increase. £0.3m of unbudgeted costs will be incurred to pay for Council Tax on void properties, in particular those properties within the acquisition programme. An overspend of £0.2m is forecast due to an increase in hostel security costs.
- 12.5. The HRA makes contributions towards general fund activities as well as being charged for a fair proportion of the Council's overheads. These are expected to be £0.3m more than the budget.
- 12.6. The HRA pays interest on its share of borrowing and receives interest on cash balances it holds. The net of these two is projected to lead to an underspend of at least £0.2m due, in part, to rising interest rates.
- 12.7. The local government pay award has resulted in additional costs of £1m above that which was budgeted.
- 12.8. The forecast overspend of £7.3m is clearly significant and as noted above was largely unforeseeable when the budget was set. HRA reserves will be used to address the overspend position, alongside actions to reduce the scale of the in-year pressure.

## **Adult Social Care**

### **13. Adult Social Care**

The service is forecasting to spend £128.7m, £1.5m less than the budget and £0.4m less than the forecast at the half year.

- 13.1. The numbers of people in care at the end of December is 5,410, a growth of 2.1% year to date. The forecasted growth for the year is 2.8% compared to a budget of 3.9%.
- 13.2. The growth in need of people who have existing care packages is currently slightly higher than the budget as is the average weekly package cost for those newly entering the care system. Whilst this may lead to a pressure on the gross package budget at the year end, because of the uncertainty and the potential upside for joint funded and other package income, the net package cost forecast remains as per the budget.
- 13.3. The forecast underspend of £1.5m is attributable to the ongoing difficulties in recruiting to posts, with some of the posts being on the national 'shortlist' for hard to fill roles. This includes qualified social workers, occupational therapists, best interest assessors and approved mental health professionals. There is also a shortage of other staff including reablement officers, care management officers, commissioning, contracts and administration staff. As a consequence, many of these posts continue to remain unfilled despite attempts to recruit, resulting in underspends on staffing budgets. As all of these roles are critical to the delivery of social care, recruitment remains a priority and underspends are therefore not intended to be ongoing into future years. Agency staff are being deployed as far as possible to bridge capacity gaps.
- 13.4. In November's autumn statement the government announced that the care reforms due to be implemented in October 2023 would be delayed for 2 years. The fair cost of care exercise (with the intention to equalise rates paid by local authorities and those paid by individuals who pay for their own care) will continue.

## **Education and Children's Services**

### **14. Education and Children's Services**

The department is forecasting to spend £94.2m, £2.8m more than the budget. The overspend has reduced since the quarter two forecast of £3.5m. The revised forecast includes a worsening position with regards to the placement costs for children looked after and a broadly similar position with regards SEN home to school transport costs,



compared to quarter two. This is countered by growing underspends across a range of service areas which are operating below budgeted staffing capacity.

- 14.1. The overall number of children looked after and other placements has grown by 20 up to period 9 and within the overall number there are 21 unaccompanied asylum seekers (UASC). UASC funding currently covers the direct cost of such placements, but this does depend upon the mix of placement type. We started the year with 22 more placements overall than were budgeted for and this, together with the continued low cost of those children leaving care in the first 9 months of the year and a forecast net growth now of 25 placements, results in placement costs forecast to exceed the budget by £4.2m.
- 14.2. Due to the uncertainty regarding the longer-term impact of the pandemic on placement numbers, it was decided to maintain the budget at 2021/22 levels in order to have longer to assess this impact. It was estimated that £1m would be required from the earmarked social care placement reserve in 2022/23 to address short term spends in excess of this budget. The draw on the social care placement reserve would now be £4.2m, however as explained below underspends across the department reduce the reserve required to balance the department's overall budget to £2.8m.
- 14.3. There continue to be difficulties in recruiting qualified social workers, with a reliance on agency staff as well as our own trainee staff. This has resulted in staffing underspends in social care. Similarly, there are significant vacancies in the administration services across the department as a result of staffing churn and recruitment difficulties. As a result, there are savings of £2.6m across the department.
- 14.4. Around 1,500 SEN pupils are currently supported with transport either through personal transport budgets, taxis or in-house buses. Taxi rates were increased by 10% from April 2022 due to fuel cost increases which was not foreseen in the budget and moreover the re-procurement of journeys for the autumn term resulted in further rate increases of 5%.
- 14.5. The new transport policy is in place and its application is helping to slow the increase in costs of an ever-rising population of pupils with education, health and care plans requiring transport support, particularly in the form of taxi provision. A significant shift away from taxi provision remains the service's objective, the rising costs of which are unsustainable. Overall SEN home to school transport support is currently forecast to cost £13.6m in 2022/23, £1.2m more than the budget and a slight improvement on the quarter two forecast.
- 14.6. The dedicated schools grant reserve balance was in deficit by £3.6m at 1 April 2022 and is expected to rise further this year by £6.6m to £10.2m at 31

March 2023 as a result of the deficit arising from the high needs block. The forecast includes the impact of the pay rises for teaching and non-teaching staff. The DfE has made initial contact to discuss our cumulative deficit. We will be providing the DfE with a 'management recovery plan' which includes, a detailed projection of our future demand and costs together with the mitigating actions being deployed. The DfE requests this from all councils with DSG deficits.

- 14.7. The statutory override to prevent LAs having to fund DSG deficits on a permanent basis from their own reserves was due to end on 31 March 2023. This override has been extended by a further 3 years to 31 March 2026. The DfE have indicated that *'it is crucial during this extension, we all play our part. Alongside the soon to be published SEND improvement plan, the DfE will support all LAs look at what positive action can be taken now to bring high needs costs under control, to bring down DSG deficits and to prepare for wider SEND system reform... which would address the unintended consequences of the 2014 reforms.'*

## **Health & Wellbeing and Sports Services**

### **15. Health & Wellbeing**

Health and Wellbeing is forecasting to spend £22.1m, £0.4m more than the budget of £21.7m.

- 15.1. The overspend is due to additional pay pressures from the impact of the NHS pay settlements. The funding for this is provided by an additional allocation of public health grant of £0.4m.
- 15.2. Demand for sexual health services is returning to pre-pandemic levels. Nevertheless, the legacy of the pandemic continues to have an impact on how the service is delivered following the success of an online testing service provided during lockdown. The current contract ends in March 2024 and the re-procurement process for the new contract has started. The demand for contraceptive services has increased post pandemic. As in 2021/22 the provider is being paid at a fixed amount rather than on activity levels, until such time as activity returns to normal and changes to delivery models are made permanent in order to ensure the financial viability of the provider.

### **16. Sports Services**

The forecast subsidy for sports services is £2.7m, £0.3m more than the budget (but £0.1m better than the forecast at period 6).

- 16.1. The forecast overspend arises from utility cost increases with gas rising by 86% compared to last year and electricity rising by 55%. The sports and leisure sector is significantly impacted by energy prices.
- 16.2. The service is forecasting to achieve 96% of budgeted income, leaving a shortfall of £0.3m. There remains a degree of uncertainty with this forecast. The forecast does compare favourably with the 63% of income achieved in 2021/22 as the service gradually re-opened.
- 16.3. Membership numbers are increasing, and numbers have and will be further boosted as refurbishments at Braunstone, Spence Street and Aylestone centres complete. Non-membership casual patronage has remained flat and not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. There have also been issues in recruiting swim teachers and gymnastic coaches with a consequent impact on income. New prices for a range of membership types applied from August.
- 16.4. Whilst income is forecast to be lower than budget this year, this has been offset from savings in staffing costs, in particular at New Parks and Leicester Leys which have been affected by the shortage of swimming instructors. There have also been savings from vacancies in the management team during the year.

### **Corporate Items & Reserves**

#### **17. Corporate Items**

- 17.1. Corporate items cover the Council's capital financing costs and items such as audit fees, bank charges, contingencies and levies.
- 17.2. Capital financing budgets forecast an underspend of £2.5m. As reported previously, the rise of interest rates has generated additional income from investments.
- 17.3. Other corporate budgets are expected to overspend by £3.7m. This is chiefly due to the cost of the pay award, which is £7.3m more than budgeted. At the start of the year, the provision for pay awards was set at 2.5% of pay budgets. Much more has now been transferred to departments' budgets. Members will be aware that the pay award is significantly higher than could have been reasonably foreseen when the budget was prepared, being driven by recent inflation. This overspend has partially been offset by the use of the £2m contingency and £0.4m resulting from the National Insurance increase reversal announced in September.
- 17.4. The Government collects "levies" from some authorities that have high rates growth (generally district councils) and makes safety net payments to

authorities who have suffered significant reductions in their rates. Generally, they collect more in levies than they pay out, and every few years the Government distributes the balance to local authorities. On 6th February, the Government announced that it would pay us £850,000 in 2022/23. This will support our budget strategy in 24/25.

## **18. Budget Savings**

- 18.1. As members are aware, the funding outlook for 2023/24 and beyond is bleak. Directors have been working to identify and make savings during the course of the year, which help reduce the scale of expected future deficits. Savings have already been reported at last year's outturn and in the monitoring report at periods 3 and 6. Additionally, savings have been achieved when the Executive approved a report on "Ways of Working" which reflect new hybrid working arrangements.
- 18.2. Where savings are made as part of a service review, decisions will be taken in the normal manner through a decision report. Where savings are incidental or can be made through management action, it is proposed to continue our previous practice of seeking approval to budget adjustments through routine budget monitoring reports. This is the fourth report in which we have included such adjustments. In-year savings help boost our managed reserves which then become available for future budget strategies.
- 18.3. Approval is sought to make the budget adjustments in Appendix C.

**Budget Savings – Proposals for budget adjustments**

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
<b><u>City Development and Neighbourhood savings</u></b>				
Savings following completed transfer of Barleycroft Community Centre to school	-	15	15	15
Deletion of vacant posts in parks development service.	-	100	100	100
Rationalisation of parks buildings.	-	30	30	30
Rushey Fields bowling green - savings on decommissioning	-	12	12	12
Savings in NES technical services	-	90	90	90
Reduction in communications budget - Waste Services	-	20	20	20
Savings from completed review of parking charges	-	32	332	332
More proactive fraud reduction in respect of concessionary fares.	-	50	150	150
Use of alternative and new sources of income across the department (UKSPF, s.106 and rates pool)	339	450	544	544
<b>Total City Development &amp; Neighbourhood savings</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>1,293</b>
<b><u>Education &amp; Children's services savings</u></b>				
Madrasah Project - support now ceased following successful completion of the project.	-	17	35	35
<b>Total Education &amp; Children's services savings</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
<b><u>Corporate resources &amp; Support savings</u></b>				
Deletion of vacancies and consolidation of roles in DCPG	-	214	248	248
Delete uncommitted budget in City Mayor's Office	75	75	75	75
End controlled events incident management system contract and storafire rationalisation	-	8	15	15
<b>Total Corporate resources &amp; Support savings</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED SAVINGS</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,666</b>



# **Executive Decision Capital Budget Monitoring April-December 2022/23**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Lead director/officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Ben Matthews, Chief Accountant
- Author contact details: ben.matthews@leicester.gov.uk

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to show the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2022 (Period 9).
- 1.2 This is the third capital monitoring report of the financial year. A further outturn report will be presented at year end.
- 1.3 As previously reported, many projects have delayed completion dates and face additional costs due to volatility in the construction industry and inflationary pressures. The limited labour and resourcing issues facing contractors' capacity levels is impacting tender price returns. Some work programmes will manage this through their current budget by deferring projects. When this is not possible it is reported in the monitoring and decisions are taken as necessary. It is anticipated this will continue to be an issue for the foreseeable future.

### 2. Recommended actions/decision

#### 2.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- Note total spend of £100.3m for the year to date.
- Note the budget reduction of £86k for the Property Conversions project, see Appendix A, Housing (HRA), Para 2.2.
- Note the saving of £2,246k on the Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme, see Appendix B, Para 3.18.
- Note the saving of £708k on School Capital Maintenance, see Appendix B, Para 3.19.
- Approve the following transfers:
  - £400k to Tower Block Sprinklers from Kitchens and Bathrooms, see Appendix A, Housing (HRA), Para 2.1 and Appendix B, 3.21.



- £100k to Disabled Adaptations & Improvements from Kitchens and Bathrooms, see Appendix B, Para 3.22.
- £305k to Overdale Infant & Juniors School Expansion from Expansion of Oaklands Special School, see Appendix A, Children's Services, Para 2.2.
- Approve the following additions:
  - £2,050k to Additional SEND Places, funded by £1,056k of government grant, the release of £750k from the policy provision for Additional School Places and £244k from the expansion of Oaklands Special School, see Appendix A, Children's Services, Para 2.1.
  - £350k to Dawn Centre Reconfiguration, funded by government grant, see Appendix A, Housing (HRA), Para 2.4
  - £145k to Green Homes, funded by government grant, see Appendix B, Para 3.13.

The OSC is recommended to:

- Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.

### 3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

N/a

### 4. Background and options with supporting evidence

4.1 The 2022/23 Capital programme was initially approved by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. It has subsequently been amended (including the 2021/22 outturn).

The capital programme is split in the following way:

- (a) Schemes classified as '**immediate starts**', which require no further approval to commence; and
- (b) A number of separate '**policy provisions**' which are not released until specific proposals have been approved by the Executive.

4.2 Immediate Starts are further split into:

- (a) **Projects**, which are discrete, individual schemes such as a road scheme or a new building. Monitoring of projects focusses on delivery of projects on time and the achievement of milestones. Consequently, there is no attention given to in-year financial slippage;

- (b) **Work Programmes**, which consist of minor works or similar on-going schemes where there is an allocation of money to be spent during a particular year. Monitoring of work programmes focusses on whether the money is spent in a timely fashion;
- (c) **Provisions**, which are sums of money set aside in case they are needed, where low spend is a favourable outcome rather than indicative of a problem;
- (d) **Schemes which are substantially complete**. These schemes are the tail end of schemes in previous years' capital programmes, usually consisting of small amounts of money brought forward from earlier years.

4.3 A summary of the total approved 2022/23 capital programme as at Period 9 is shown below:

	£000
Projects	223,685
Work Programmes	219,787
Provisions	191
Schemes Substantially Complete	6,966
<b>Total Immediate Starts</b>	<b>450,629</b>
Policy Provisions	38,958
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>489,587</b>

4.4 The following changes have occurred to the capital programme since period 6:

	£000
Affordable Housing - RP's & Other	4,900
Green Homes	639
Leicester Hockey Club - S106	350
Tiny Forests in Schools	300
Other	45
Greener Homes	(900)
Policy Provision Savings	(1,400)
<b>Net Movements</b>	<b>3,934</b>

These movements are included in the table at 4.3 above.

4.5 The following appendices to this report show progress on each type of scheme:

- Appendix A – Projects
- Appendix B – Work Programmes
- Appendix C – Provisions
- Appendix D – Projects Substantially Complete
- Appendix E – Policy Provisions

4.6 This report only monitors policy provisions to the extent that spending approval has been given, at which point they will be classified as projects, work programmes or provisions.

#### 4.7 Capital Receipts

4.7.1 At Period 9, the Council has realised £6.94m of General Fund capital receipts, which are required for the repayment of borrowing.

4.7.2 "Right to Buy" receipts from sales of council housing have amounted to £15.7m received in year.

#### 5. Detailed report

N/A

### 6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

#### 6.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, 37 4001

#### 6.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Head of Standards

#### 6.3 Equalities implications

No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as this is not applicable to a budget monitoring report.

#### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

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

No other implications are noted as this is a budget monitoring report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

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

Capital Programme 2022/23 approved by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2022/23 approved by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

2022/23 Capital Monitoring P3 Report presented to OSC on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

2022/23 Capital Monitoring P6 Report presented to OSC on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**8. Summary of appendices:**

- Appendix A – Projects
- Appendix B – Work Programmes
- Appendix C – Provisions
- Appendix D – Projects Substantially Complete
- Appendix E – Policy Provisions

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

No.

**10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

Yes. Expenditure exceeding £1m is proposed which has not been specifically approved by Council.

## PROJECTS

### 1. Summary

- 1.1** As stated in the cover report, the focus of monitoring projects is physical delivery, i.e. whether they are being delivered on time, on budget and to the original specification. This appendix summarises progress on projects. Project summaries provided by departments/divisions are shown on pages 11-25 within this Appendix.

Department / Division	Remaining Budget £000	2022/23 Spend £000
Corporate Resources	418	415
Planning, Development & Transportation	129,262	32,227
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	33,951	5,924
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	1,263	37
Estates & Building Services	15,244	10,651
Housing	2,087	0
Adult Social Care	2,510	0
Children's Services	24,873	4,188
Public Health	2,366	1,309
Housing Revenue Account	11,711	4,305
<b>Total</b>	<b>223,685</b>	<b>59,056</b>

- 1.2** A list of the individual projects is shown in the table on pages 9-10 of this report. This also summarises the progress of each project. Attention is drawn to expected completion dates and any project issues that have arisen.
- 1.3** A colour-coded rating of progress of each project has been determined, based on whether the project is progressing as expected, and whether it is still expected to complete within budget.
- 1.4** The ratings used are:
- (a) **Green** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives seems very likely. There are no major issues that appear to threaten delivery significantly.

- (b) **Amber** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives appears probable. However, some risks exist and close attention will be required to ensure these risks do not materialise into major issues threatening delivery. Alternatively, a project is classed as amber if some insubstantial slippage or minor overspend is probable.
- (c) **Red** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives appears to be unachievable. The project is expected to require redefining, significant additional time or additional budget.
- (d) **Blue** The project is substantially complete.
- (e) **Purple** The project is on hold, for reasons which have nothing to do with management of the capital programme. Examples include reconsideration of whether the project is still needed as originally proposed, or withdrawal of a funder.

## 2. Summary of Individual Projects

Dept/ Division	Project	Remaining Budget (£000)	2022/23 Spend (£000)	Forecast O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P9
CRS	Corporate LAN/WAN Network Cisco Infrastructure Replacement	205	202	0	Dec-21	Dec-22	Green	Blue
CRS	Phase 4 Laptop rollout	213	213	0	Dec-22	Dec-22	N/A	Blue
CDN (PDT)	Connecting Leicester	51,436	12,855	0	Mar-24	Jul-24	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	4,994	1,050	0	Mar-23	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St George's Churchyard	722	24	0	Aug-18	Jul-23	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	151	28	0	Mar-21	TBC	Amber	Purple
CDN (PDT)	North West Leicester Regeneration Area	711	454	0	Mar-22	Dec-23	Green	Amber
CDN (PDT)	High Streets Heritage Action Zones	1,341	280	0	Apr-24	Apr-24	Green	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Saffron Brook	832	86	0	Mar-23	Jun-23	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	Leicester Railway Station - Levelling up	22,550	1,217	0	Mar-24	Feb-25	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	Electric Bus Investment	20,331	15,401	0	Dec-23	Dec-23	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Pioneer Park - Levelling Up	24,567	350	0	Dec-24	Dec-24	Green	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Land South of Midland Street	1,627	482	0	Sep-22	Jun-23	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	13,366	2,706	0	Mar-23	Aug-24	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Market Redevelopment	3,390	1,583	0	Dec-21	Oct-24	Green	Amber
CDN (TCI)	Onsite Construction Skills Hub	708	200	0	Dec-22	Jun-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	2,639	283	0	Mar-22	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Visit Leicester Relocation	150	91	0	Nov-21	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Growth Hub	714	248	0	Jun-23	Jun-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Fashion Technology Academy	159	30	0	Aug-23	Aug-23	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	De Montfort Hall	1,014	256	0	Mar-22	Mar-24	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Pilot House	11,511	485	0	Mar-24	Nov-24	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	300	42	0	Jun-23	Sep-23	Amber	Green
<b>Total</b>		<b>163,631</b>	<b>38,566</b>	<b>0</b>				

Dept/ Division	Project	Remaining Budget (£000)	2022/23 Spend (£000)	Forecast O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P9
CDN (NES)	Western Park Sanitisation Tree Works	241	15	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Digital & Performance Suite	65	0	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Library Self Access Rollout	592	0	0	Sep-24	Sep-24	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	365	22	0	Jan-23	Dec-23	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Estate Shops	733	237	0	Mar-22	Jul-23	Amber	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	357	18	0	Mar-21	May-23	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Energy Efficiency Technology	10,205	10,193	0	Mar-22	Dec-22	Red	Blue
CDN (EBS)	Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels	1,579	105	0	Aug-22	May-23	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Leycroft Road Energy Reduction Works	192	10	0	May-22	Mar-23	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	African Caribbean Centre	252	21	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	440	0	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment	1,000	39	0	Nov-23	Nov-23	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	SuDS in Schools	86	28	0	Mar-23	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Bosworth House	400	0	0	Aug-23	Aug-23	N/A	Amber
CDN (HGF)	Greener Homes	2,087	0	(720)	Mar-23	Jun-23	Amber	Amber
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	2,510	0	0	Aug-20	Jan-26	Amber	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units)	11,403	1,613	1,050	Dec-19	Sep-24	Purple	Red
SCE (ECS)	Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,283	170	305	Nov-21	Nov-23	Green	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Expansion of Oaklands Special School	4,374	1,697	(549)	Mar-22	Apr-23	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Pindar Nursery	892	49	0	Mar-23	TBC	Green	Purple
SCE (ECS)	S106 Additional School Places	857	174	0	Sep-23	Aug-24	Green	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools	300	0	0	May-23	May-23	N/A	Green
SCE (ECS)	Children's Homes Refurbishments	1,064	0	0	Sep-23	Sep-23	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Expansion of Children's Homes	2,700	485	0	May-23	Jan-24	Green	Green
PH	Leisure Centres Phase 2	2,016	1,309	0	Nov-22	Apr-23	Green	Amber
PH	Leicester Hockey Club S106	350	0	0	Jun-23	Jun-23	N/A	Green
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>		<b>211,974</b>	<b>54,751</b>	<b>86</b>				
CDN (HRA)	Goscote House Demolition	2,576	1,336	0	Jan-20	Mar-23	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	New House Build Council Housing	2,156	1,541	0	Apr-23	Mar-25	Amber	Green
CDN (HRA)	Tower Block Sprinkler Systems	1,277	240	400	Apr-22	Jun-23	Green	Amber
CDN (HRA)	Property Conversions	399	133	(86)	Mar-22	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	300	0	0	Mar-23	Jan-24	Amber	Green
CDN (HRA)	Greener Homes	3,453	1,019	(629)	Mar-22	Jun-23	Green	Amber
CDN (HRA)	Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	450	36	0	May-23	Oct-23	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	St Matthews Concrete Works	1,100	0	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	Green	Green
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>11,711</b>	<b>4,305</b>	<b>(315)</b>				
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>		<b>223,685</b>	<b>59,056</b>	<b>(229)</b>				



### **Commentary on Specific Projects**

- 3.1 Explanatory commentary for projects that are not currently progressing as planned, or for which issues have been identified, is provided in the next pages. This has been defined as any scheme that has a RAG Rating other than “green” or “blue”.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Corporate Resources

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Corporate LAN/WAN Network Cisco Infrastructure Replacement	205	0	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	B
Phase 4 Laptop Rollout	213	0	Dec 2022	Dec 2022	B
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Planning, Development & Transportation

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Connecting Leicester	51,436	0	March 2024	July 2024	G
Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	4,994	0	March 2023	June 2026	G
St George's Churchyard	722	0	Aug 2018	July 2023	G
City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	151	0	March 2021	TBC	P
North West Leicester Regeneration Area	711	0	March 2022	Dec 2023	A
High Streets Heritage Action Zones	1,341	0	April 2024	April 2024	A
Saffron Brook	832	0	March 2023	June 2023	G
Leicester Station Improvements	22,550	0	March 2024	Feb 2025	G
Electric Bus Investment	20,331	0	Dec 2023	Dec 2023	G
Pioneer Park – Levelling Up	24,567	0	Dec 2024	Dec 2024	A
Land South of Midland Street	1,627	0	Sep 2022	June 2023	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,262</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple)

- 2.1 City-wide Parkmap TRO Review** - As previously reported, further work was required to ensure the system meets requirements. Negotiations to resolve the remaining issues are ongoing.

- 2.2 North West Leicester Regeneration Area** – The forecast completion date for this scheme has been delayed until December 2023 due to the time currently being taken to find a suitable contractor for the main works.
- 2.3 High Street Heritage Action Zones** – The project has incurred some delays pending confirmation of contracts.
- 2.4 Pioneer Park – Levelling Up** – Tender responses for the Dock 3-5 scheme have come in higher than budgeted and therefore discussions to agree a price are ongoing. The cost of the Ian Marlow Centre and Abbey Court schemes are expected to be known shortly. The possibility of simplifying the Abbey Court scheme is being explored to relieve some of the budgetary pressure. However, it is expected that the programme is going to require additional funding at some point in the future, due to construction price inflation.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	13,366	0	March 2023	Aug 2024	G
Leicester Market Redevelopment	3,390	0	Dec 2021	Oct 2024	A
Onsite Construction Skills Hub	708	0	Dec 2022	June 2023	G
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	2,639	0	March 2022	March 2024	G
Visit Leicester Relocation	150	0	Nov 2021	March 2023	G
Growth Hub	714	0	June 2023	June 2023	G
Fashion Technology Academy	159	0	Aug 2023	Aug 2023	G
De Montfort Hall	1,014	0	March 2022	March 2024	G
Pilot House	11,511	0	March 2024	Nov 2024	G
Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	300	0	June 2023	Sep 2023	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,951</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. **Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).**

- 2.1 Leicester Market Redevelopment** – The completion date has been extended to build in time to gather feedback from stallholders.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Western Park Sanitation Tree Works	241	0	March 2023	March 2023	G
Digital & Performance Suite	65	0	March 2023	March 2023	G
Library Self Access Rollout	592	0	Sep 2024	Sep 2024	G
St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	365	0	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	A
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 2.1 St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park** – The forecast completion is delayed as a result of delays in lease negotiations, which have now been concluded.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Estates and Building Services

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Estate Shops	733	0	March 2022	July 2023	A
Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	357	0	March 2021	May 2023	A
Energy Efficiency Technology	10,205	0	March 2022	Dec 2022	B
Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels	1,579	0	Aug 2022	May 2023	A
Leycroft Road Energy Reduction Works	192	0	May 2022	March 2023	A
African Caribbean Centre	252	0	March 2023	March 2023	G
Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	440	0	March 2024	March 2024	G
Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment	1,000	0	Nov 2023	Nov 2023	G
SuDS in Schools	86	0	March 2023	March 2023	G
Bosworth House	400	0	Aug 2023	Aug 2023	A
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,244</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 2.1 Estate Shops** – As previously reported, investigations had identified a greater extent of concrete repairs required. All sites except one will be completed by the end of March 2023, with the outstanding site to be completed by the end of July 2023 due to access issues relating to local businesses, limiting the opportunities to undertake the works.

- 2.2 Haymarket Theatre – Internal completion works** – The forecast completion date for this scheme has been delayed from March 2023 to May 2023, due to internal resourcing delays whilst prioritising other works.
- 2.3 Energy Efficiency Technology** - As previously reported, this scheme represents a significant investment of £25m from the government's Salix programme into decarbonisation measures across the city as part of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. The grant funding has been utilised and additional budget has been required for remaining works, which is included in the 23/24 capital programme.
- 2.4 Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels** – The forecast completion date has been delayed from February 2023 to May 2023 due to protracted contract negotiations, which have now been resolved.
- 2.5 Leycroft Road Energy Reduction Works** – The forecast completion date has been delayed from November 2022 to March 2023 due to protracted contract negotiations, which have now been resolved.
- 2.6 Bosworth House** - Pending further survey works, it is likely that further funding will be required to meet the dilapidation costs for the building. Further approval will be sought once these requirements are known.



## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Housing (GF)

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Greener Homes	2,087	(720)	March 2023	June 2023	A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>(720)</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 2.1 Greener Homes** – As previously reported, the funding in this scheme is to be passported to registered housing providers to use on their own housing stock. This is a separate allocation to the HRA Greener Homes project, which relates to installation of energy efficiency measures in Council dwellings. An underspend of £720k has emerged, as one of the providers has withdrawn from the scheme.

## **Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9**

### **Adults**

#### **1. Projects Summary**

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Extra Care – Two Schemes	2,510	0	Aug 2020	Jan 2026	A
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### **2. Projects Commentary** (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

##### **2.1 Extra Care – Two Schemes** – A delay in forecast completion date to this scheme is due to clarifying the most appropriate disposal route for the sites.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Children's Services

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Additional SEND Places (including Primary Pupil Referral Unit)	11,403	1,050	Dec 2019	Sep 2024	R
Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,283	305	Nov 2021	Nov 2023	A
Expansion of Oaklands Special School	4,374	(549)	March 2022	April 2023	G
Pindar Nursery	892	0	March 2023	TBC	P
S106 Additional School Places	857	0	Sept 2023	Aug 2024	A
Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools	300	0	May 2023	May 2023	G
Children's Homes Refurbishments	1,064	0	Sept 2023	Sep 2023	G
Expansion of Children's Homes	2,700	0	May 2023	Jan 2024	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,873</b>	<b>806</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 2.1 Additional SEND Places** - Surveys are currently underway at Netherhall and the Leicester Partnership School. Following formal pre-planning application feedback, an alternative site location is required for additional capacity at Ellesmere and the project is expected to complete by August 2024. Other changes have led to the need for an additional £2.050m across the Additional SEND Places project, due to:

- Inflationary pressure and additional works required on the Elmbrook scheme, together with confirmed prices received from the new contractor following the original contractor going into administration. An additional £1.25m is required, partly offset by an underspend of £0.2m on the Knighton Fields Centre, resulting in a forecast net overspend on the existing Additional SEND places programme of £1.050m. It is proposed to fund this by transferring £244k from the expansion of Oaklands Special School and the addition of £806k of government grant set aside for this purpose.
- Plans to create additional Designated Special Provision (DSP) places in three primary schools and the provision of permanent accommodation for an existing secondary DSP. It is proposed this is funded via a release of £750k from the Additional School Places Policy Provision. This follows on from the original decision in February 2022 to start DSP Programme Phase 2.
- Proposed works at Westgate Special School, to provide additional places. This can be funded by £250k of government grant set aside for this purpose.

**2.2 Overdale Infant & Juniors School Expansion** – There has been a delay of two months to the forecast completion date, because of ecological findings that need to be resolved. Furthermore, an overspend has arisen due to market inflation since the original budget was set and following the original contractor going into administration. A decision is sought to transfer £305k from the expansion of Oaklands Special School to offset this.

**2.3 Pindar Nursery** - This scheme is currently on hold, as pupils are still located at Pindar Nursery whilst waiting for the Netherhall SEND scheme to be completed.

**2.4 S106 Additional School Places** – There is a delay due to one of the schools changing their plans to now incorporate a designated special provision unit. This also involves resubmitting their significant change application to the DfE. Funding is expected to be passed to the school by August 2024.

## **Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9**

### **Public Health**

#### **1. Projects Summary**

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Leisure Centres Phase 2	2,016	0	Nov 2022	April 2023	A
Leicester Hockey Club S106	350	0	June 2023	June 2023	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>0</b>			

#### **2. Projects Commentary** (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 2.1 Leisure Centres Phase 2** – The remaining works to be completed at Aylestone Leisure Centre have had a slight delay, due to a water leak in the reception area. The leak has since been repaired and the remaining works can now be completed.

## Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2022/23 P9

### Housing (HRA)

#### 1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Goscote House Demolition	2,576	0	Jan 2020	March 2023	G
New Build Council Housing	2,156	0	April 2023	March 2025	G
Tower Block Sprinklers	1,277	400	April 2022	June 2023	A
Property Conversions	399	(86)	March 2022	March 2024	G
Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	300	0	March 2023	Jan 2024	G
Greener Homes	3,453	(629)	March 2022	June 2023	A
Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	450	0	May 2023	Oct 2023	G
St Matthews Concrete Works	1,100	0	March 2024	March 2024	G
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,711</b>	<b>(315)</b>			

#### 2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

**2.1 Tower Block Sprinklers** – The work to fit sprinklers in the four tower blocks is proceeding well but has taken longer than expected due to difficulties in accessing occupied properties. Costs have increased by £400k from the impact of inflationary pressures on materials, an upgrade to the specification to address regulation changes, and a decision to renew communal boxings as part of the project. A decision is sought to use the underspend from the kitchens and bathrooms work programme to offset this overspend.

- 2.2 Property Conversions** – It is proposed that £86k of the capital budget be used to support revenue costs linked to case reviews of overcrowding and under-occupation. This approach will identify alternative options to property conversions (such as supporting a home exchange), whilst still focused on alleviating the pressures of overcrowding.
- 2.3 Greener Homes** – As reported previously the Greener Homes scheme is forecast to underspend due to a reduced number of externally insulated properties and a change in the timescales such that an air-source heat pump at a Council-owned block of flats will no longer take place under the current fund. To support maximum delivery, the date for spending the grant has been extended by BEIS to June 2023.
- 2.4 Dawn Centre Reconfiguration** – The scope of works for this project has been expanded to incorporate wider improvements to the Dawn Centre being funded from the Rough Sleeping Initiatives grant with the total scope of the works now expected to be completed by October 2023. This report seeks to add £350k to the capital programme for these additional works.

**WORK PROGRAMMES****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, work programmes are minor works or similar on-going schemes where there is an allocation of money to be spent during a particular year. Monitoring of work programmes focusses on whether the money is spent in a timely fashion.

Department / Division	Approved to spend in 22/23 £000	2022/23 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
City Development & Neighbourhoods	463	84	100	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	15,270	7,559	2,556	(6)
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	1,272	349	500	0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	621	165	321	0
Estates & Building Services	9,442	2,161	3,581	(74)
Housing General Fund	10,634	3,343	3,944	(2,246)
Adult Social Care	0	0	0	0
Children's Services	7,769	2,600	2,451	(708)
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>	<b>45,471</b>	<b>16,261</b>	<b>13,453</b>	<b>(3,034)</b>
Housing Revenue Account	25,304	19,066	0	(1,150)
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>	<b>70,775</b>	<b>35,327</b>	<b>13,453</b>	<b>(4,184)</b>



## 2. Summary of Individual Work Programmes

Work Programme	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2022/23 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Feasibility Studies	CDN	463	84	100	0
Transport Improvement Works	CDN (PDT)	6,453	3,792	656	0
Bus Engine Retrofitting	CDN (PDT)	474	62	376	0
Air Quality Action Plan	CDN (PDT)	415	145	100	0
Highways Maintenance	CDN (PDT)	4,020	1,977	315	0
Flood Strategy	CDN (PDT)	290	191	0	0
Festive Decorations	CDN (PDT)	225	124	25	0
Local Environmental Works	CDN (PDT)	555	433	0	0
Legible Leicester	CDN (PDT)	71	4	0	0
Leicester Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy	CDN (PDT)	19	13	0	(6)
Potential Strategic Development Sites Assessment	CDN (PDT)	1,424	415	734	0
Architectural & Feature Lighting (Grant)	CDN (PDT)	200	0	130	0
Front Wall Enveloping	CDN (PDT)	210	210	0	0
Transforming Cities Work Programmes	CDN (PDT)	461	120	114	0
Campbell Street Feasibility Study	CDN (PDT)	186	0	0	0
Conservation Building Grants	CDN (PDT)	59	59	0	0
Street Nameplates City Branding Programme	CDN (PDT)	111	7	19	0
Environment Agency Feasibility Studies	CDN (PDT)	97	7	87	0
Heritage Interpretation Panels	CDN (TCI)	355	121	0	0
Retail Gateways (Grant)	CDN (TCI)	74	49	0	0
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery	CDN (TCI)	70	70	0	0
Cank St Feasibility	CDN (TCI)	30	27	0	0
Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme Grants	CDN (TCI)	743	82	500	0
Parks Plant and Equipment	CDN (NES)	246	98	40	0
Parks and Open Spaces	CDN (NES)	365	67	281	0
Franklyn Fields Public Open Space	CDN (NES)	10	0	0	0
Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme	CDN (EBS)	4,943	522	3,088	0
Replacement cladding Phoenix Square	CDN (EBS)	189	21	130	0
Green Homes	CDN (EBS)	3,682	1,581	0	0
Phoenix & Sovereign House	CDN (EBS)	248	20	228	0
CCTV Newarke Houses/Guildhall	CDN (EBS)	26	0	0	(26)
Depots Refurbishment	CDN (EBS)	289	0	135	0
Affordable Warmth	CDN (EBS)	65	17	0	(48)
Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant	CDN (HGF)	2,089	1,324	100	0
Repayable Home Repair Loans	CDN (HGF)	200	0	125	0
Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme	CDN (HGF)	8,345	2,019	3,719	(2,246)
School Capital Maintenance	SCE (ECS)	7,457	2,529	2,330	(708)
Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme	SCE (ECS)	312	71	121	0
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>		<b>45,471</b>	<b>16,261</b>	<b>13,453</b>	<b>(3,034)</b>

Work Programme	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2022/23 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Council Housing - New Kitchens and Bathrooms	CDN (HRA)	2,850	857	0	(1,250)
Council Housing - Boiler Replacements	CDN (HRA)	2,800	1,639	0	0
Council Housing - Rewiring	CDN (HRA)	1,760	1,234	0	0
Council Housing - Disabled Adaptations & Improvements	CDN (HRA)	1,010	912	0	100
Council Housing - Insulation Works	CDN (HRA)	100	1	0	0
Council Housing - External Property Works	CDN (HRA)	350	255	0	0
Council Housing - Fire and Safety Works	CDN (HRA)	1,184	711	0	0
Community & Environmental Works	CDN (HRA)	1,850	1,144	0	0
Affordable Housing - Acquisitions	CDN (HRA)	11,564	10,811	0	0
Affordable Housing - RPs & Others	CDN (HRA)	436	436	0	0
Public Realm Works	CDN (HRA)	1,400	1,066	0	0
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>25,304</b>	<b>19,066</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,150)</b>
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>		<b>70,775</b>	<b>35,327</b>	<b>13,453</b>	<b>(4,184)</b>

### 3. **Commentary on Specific Work Programmes**

- 3.1 Explanatory commentary for work programmes not currently progressing as planned, or for which issues have been identified is provided below. For monitoring purposes this has been defined as any scheme where budgets have significantly changed, where spend is low or where material slippage is forecast.
- 3.2 **Feasibility Studies** – £100k of slippage is forecast for the cemetery provision feasibility, due to alternative sites being explored.
- 3.3 **Transport Improvement Works** – Activity that was initially scheduled for this year, connected to the proposed Workplace Parking Levy is no longer required. Therefore, works will be reprogrammed to other transport schemes that will be delivered in 2023/24. Various other schemes expected for delivery this year have been delayed due to availability of contractors/internal resources.
- 3.4 **Bus Engine Retrofitting** – There have been difficulties retrofitting a number of buses, with this not being feasible in some cases. The slippage is required to reallocate the funding to operators with buses that can be retrofitted.
- 3.5 **Air Quality Action Plan** – The installation of electric vehicle chargers within the city is proving challenging, such as identifying suitable locations and gaining the necessary permission from National Grid for the power requirements. This has meant this scheme has been pushed back until these issues can be resolved. The current forecast is that the remaining budget will be spent by Summer 2023.
- 3.6 **Highways Maintenance** - The £315k slippage is due to various delays such as road works co-ordination and materials supply.
- 3.7 **Potential Strategic Development Sites Assessment** – Internal resourcing issues have led to a reduction of programme management dedicated to this scheme and there have also been difficulties in recruiting temporary cover for this scheme. The remaining budget will be required for the 23/24 financial year.
- 3.8 **Architectural & Feature Lighting** – Grant recipients have requested that works are delayed until next year due to the current economic climate.

- 3.9 **Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme Grants** – This slippage is mainly due to resourcing issues, therefore grants will continue to be awarded into 2023/24.
- 3.10 **Parks and Open Spaces** – The slippage is due to a delay in formalising the decision on the location of Victoria Park bandstand which has since been agreed. There has also been a delay in Rally Park ballcourt planning application with a decision to be made in mid-Spring and due to resources being prioritised on other schemes. Works are forecast to start in the summer.
- 3.11 **Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme** – As previously reported, the majority of slippage was due to the assessment of maintenance works. This has now been completed and works are being programmed to be carried out, which will go into the next financial year. The other element of the forecast slippage is due to capacity and re-programming for ongoing decarbonisation requirements.
- 3.12 **Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square** – A delay has been incurred on this scheme whilst negotiations regarding future funding have taken place, once these have been concluded an indication of timescales will be provided.
- 3.13 **Green Homes** – Approval is sought to add £145k of government grant funding to this scheme. This will help to continue the installation of energy efficient measures in private homes across the city. In line with previous decisions, only an element of this funding is being added to the current scheme, due to previous grant not being fully spent and therefore budget remaining.
- 3.14 **Phoenix & Sovereign House** - £228k of slippage is forecast due to the requirements for the Phoenix House building being reviewed.
- 3.15 **Depot Refurbishment** – Slippage of £135k is forecast, due to design changes to Knighton Park Depot, leading to knock-on delays on the completion of Evington Park Depot designs.
- 3.16 **Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant** – Forecast slippage of £100k is due to delays caused by resources being deployed on other Housing projects as a priority. Recruitment of support officers is currently ongoing.
- 3.17 **Repayable Home Repair Loans** – Forecast slippage of £125k is expected due to the same issues affecting the Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant.

- 3.18 **Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme** – Forecast slippage of £3.7m due to ongoing global factors affecting new vehicle delivery lead times, including steel shortages and microchip supply issues. Work has been ongoing to adapt our ordering processes as a result of changes in the global markets. Now the 23/24 capital programme has been approved, a saving of £2,246k can now be taken.
- 3.19 **School Capital Maintenance** – The majority of this slippage is on sustainability schemes, which have slipped due to planning and listed building constraints. The £708k saving relates to previous budget set aside for a central production kitchen that is no longer taking place. This was funded by corporate resources and can now be made available for use in future programmes.
- 3.20 **Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme** – Slippage is a result of increased delays sourcing available contractors and time taken for legal charges to be lodged on properties by the land registry.
- 3.21 **Kitchens & Bathrooms** - An underspend of £1,250k is forecast as contractor capacity has been utilised to prioritise bringing void council owned properties back into use more quickly and to support the inhouse craft workforce. As noted earlier in this report, a decision is sought to use £400k of this underspend to offset the overspend on the Tower Block Sprinklers project.
- 3.22 **Disabled Adaptations & Improvements** – As a demand-led programme, this area is always subject to fluctuation. Although an underspend was anticipated at period 6, the quantity of work has now increased such that the budget will be exceeded by £100k. A decision is sought to use the underspend on the kitchen and bathrooms programme to offset this overspend.

**PROVISIONS****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, provisions are sums of money set aside in case they are needed, where low spend is a favourable outcome rather than indicative of a problem.
- 1.2 As at the end of Period 9, none of the budgets for capital provisions had been spent.
- 1.3 Normally provisions are there if needed. The sums below are for the 2022/23 financial year.

Provision	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2022/23 Spend £000	2022/23 Total £000	Remaining Budget £000
Empty Homes Purchase	CDN (HGF)	50	0	0	50
Early Years - Two Year Olds	SCE (ECS)	141	0	0	141
<b>Total</b>		<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>191</b>

**PROJECTS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE****1. Summary**

- 1.1 As at the end of Period 9, the following schemes were nearing completion. The budgets are the unspent amounts from previous years' capital programmes, mainly as a result of slippage.

Project	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2022/23 Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000
Leicester North West Major Transport Scheme	CDN (PDT)	89	0	0
Pioneer Park	CDN (PDT)	27	11	0
Pioneer Park Commercial Workspace (formerly Dock 2)	CDN (PDT)	109	43	0
St Margaret's Gateway	CDN (PDT)	4,330	4,300	0
Stocking Farm Community Shop	CDN (PDT)	150	109	0
Gresham Business Workspace	CDN (TCI)	64	24	0
Abbey Pumping Station	CDN (TCI)	253	247	0
Phoenix 2020	CDN (TCI)	689	688	(1)
St Mary's Allotments	CDN (NES)	11	11	0
Library RFID Self-Service System	CDN (NES)	25	0	0
Library Improved Self-Access Pilot	CDN (NES)	55	30	0
Abbey Park Precinct Wall	CDN (NES)	171	119	(20)
Reuse Shop Expansion	CDN (NES)	205	199	0
11-15 Horsefair Street	CDN (EBS)	55	10	(18)
Haymarket House, Car Parks & Lifts	CDN (EBS)	180	7	0
Haymarket Bus Station - Toilet Expansion and Refurbishments	CDN (EBS)	129	71	0
St Leonard's Tower Block - Lift	CDN (HRA)	44	37	
Additional Primary School Places	SCE (ECS)	66	3	0
Children's Residential Homes	SCE (ECS)	68	62	0
Glebelands Primary School Modular Building	SCE (ECS)	246	13	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,966</b>	<b>5,984</b>	<b>(39)</b>

**POLICY PROVISIONS****1. Summary**

- 1.1. As at Period 9, the following policy provisions were still awaiting formal approval for allocation to specific schemes.

<b>Department/ Division</b>	<b>Policy Provision</b>	<b>Amount £000</b>
CRS	New Ways of Working	1,887
CDN (PDT)	Strategic Acquisitions	3,207
CDN (TCII)	Tourism & Culture	50
CDN (TCII)	Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	3,364
CDN (TCII)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG)	3,738
CDN (TCII)	Outdoor Market Phase 3	7,300
CDN (NES)	Investment in Multi-Use Game Areas (MUGAs)	600
CDN (Various)	People & Neighbourhoods	392
SCE (ECS)	New School Places	5,673
SCE (ECS)	Education System Re-tender	2,200
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	4,326
Other	Black Lives Matter	495
All	Programme Contingency	4,726
<b>Total (excluding HRA)</b>		<b>37,958</b>
CDN (HRA)	Other HRA Schemes	1,000
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>1,000</b>
<b>Total (including HRA)</b>		<b>38,958</b>

- 1.2. Releases from policy provisions since the 2021/22 Outturn (reflected in the tables above) are listed below:

- £1,600k for Land South of Midland Street
- £1,033k for Leicester Market Redevelopment - 22 Market Place
- £400k for Bosworth House
- £213k for Phase 4 Laptop Rollout
- £174k for Children's Home Refurbishment
- £100k for Pindar Nursery





## **Leicester City Council Scrutiny Review**

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### **‘Encouraging Women to Participate in Sports and Physical Activities in Leicester’**

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### **A Report of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission**

28 February 2023 – Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny commission meeting.

20 March 2023 – Overview Select Committee meeting

## **Encouraging Women to Participate in Sports and Physical Activities Task Group**

### **TASK GROUP MEMBERS**

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**Cllr Susan Barton**

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## **THIS REVIEW WAS LED BY COUNCILLOR ELAINE HALFORD**

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## Chair's Foreword

***Being active and having a positive relationship with sport and physical activity is important to women's long-term health and wellbeing.***

We know that the COVID pandemic has resulted in more home working, which has led to changes in lifestyles, fitness and health with positive and negative effects on physical activity habits. We need to understand women's attitudes and behaviours to sport and physical activity to promote and encourage participation.

The Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission set up a Task Group in November 2021 to undertake a review into 'Encouraging Women to participate in Sports and Physical Activities in Leicester.

The task group heard evidence about the sports opportunities for women by council-run services and of wider community-based opportunities; It also heard evidence of the barriers that exist for women to participate and explored good practice ideas of what can be done to encourage women to be more active and in better health.

The task group review meetings for evidence gathering were held online due to the covid restrictions.

I would like to thank witnesses organisations and officers who gave evidence to this review. Thank you to members of the task group for their time and contributions to this review.

**Councillor Elaine Halford**

**Chair of the Task Group, and Chair of Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission, Leicester City Council.**

# REPORT

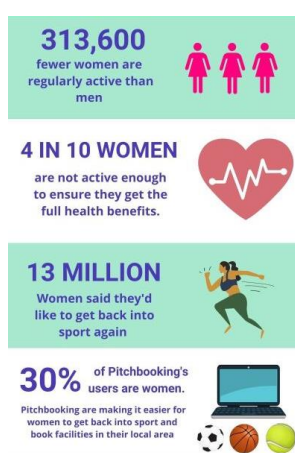
## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Today's leisure market offers a fantastic choice of activities for women to take part in. Budget gyms have boomed, our green spaces have been revolutionized with park runs and park gyms, and fitness trails have grown rapidly, while technology has broadened the appeal of fitness activities. Over this time, councils have been grappling with austerity. This reduction in budgets, when combined with a rapidly changing leisure market, has altered the range and quality of local sport and leisure provision.
- 1.2 Leicester City Council and city partners offer a wide range of opportunities for women to participate, both within a formal setting or recreationally. Sports Services in particular provides numerous services and programs across its portfolio of leisure facilities. There is also a range of opportunities for women to participate in neighbourhoods and community-based activities, and via parks and open spaces; community and faith organisations; local community centres; sports clubs and forums; gyms and fitness organisations and many more. Some of these are captured in the report.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Participation levels in sport have historically always been consistently lower for women than for men. Right now [there are over 700,000 more inactive women than men in England](#), a trend that was only made worse over the course of the pandemic and recurring lockdowns. The recent [Active Lives Adult Survey commissioned by Sport England](#) revealed that the drop in activity levels for women was more sustained than for men, suggesting it will take longer for women to return to pre-pandemic activity levels. The same study suggests that more support is needed across the board to help women get active again.

Sport England national data shows:



- 2.2 Leicester City physical activity and gender data from 'Active Lives Survey 2017/18' shows females are less active than men, for example 65% of men participate in 150+ minutes of activity a week, in comparison to 61% of women.
- 2.3 According to Local Authority Health Profiles data 2020/21, Leicester's proportion of physically active adults is worse than the percentage for England and the Region, the data shows: Leicester 55.4%, Region 64.5% and England at 65%.
- 2.4 Leicester City Council and work with partners has identified that more work is required for Leicester residents to be more active and to encourage participation in informal physical activity; activities for family participation; and to utilise partnerships and key stakeholders involved in sports and physical activities e.g. professional sports clubs; universities and community sector organisations.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The City Mayor and Executive is asked to consider the following recommendations:**

- 1) Women need to know that they are welcome to participate in sports and physical activities by wearing clothing that is comfortable for them and culturally acceptable. **To consider better signage in facilities and raising awareness of the availability of alternative clothing e.g. swimwear, gym-wear and cyclewear.**
- 2) There is a need to address the shortage of female gym trainers, coaches and fitness instructors at facilities. **To consider carrying out recruitment, training and apprenticeship programs to attract women into these positions.**
- 3) Women can be inspired and motivated by role models and sporting champions. **To consider involving local and national women with sporting related achievements e.g. the Lionesses who are champion winners, and individuals like Summaya, who has shared her experience via the media and via podcast following her journey to learn to swim in adulthood.**
- 4) Members were impressed by the success of 'The Girl Can' campaign used by Active Leicester. Research shows that many women are put off taking part in physical activity due to a fear of judgement. 'This Girl Can' seeks to tell the real stories of real women with videos of their personal experiences and exercising **To consider using videos and inspiring women with real stories they can relate to can help to increase participation.**

- 5) **To consider new approaches to attract families and friends groups to participate in sports and physical activities together.** For example: a friend's invitation makes sport participation more attractive and there is also safety in numbers. Socialising with friends and family is rewarding and bonding becomes a strong external motivator. (*The Health & Wellbeing Survey in Leicester shows that there is a lack of suitable structured activity provision for families to exercise together. Whilst parks and open spaces are available for informal family friendly activities, the leisure centres and sports clubs often offer adult and child physical activity sessions separately*).
- 6) Participation in sport must be enjoyable and provide an experience worth repeating. **To support women to focus on feeling good about themselves and their achievements e.g. rewards and celebration are important.**
- 7) **To consider new initiatives such as combining fitness sessions with health promotion sessions for women.** For example 'The Fitness Factory Gym' in Leicester held an open day event inviting members and non-members, offering a variety of free taster fitness sessions combined with a health promotion session, including mental health and wellbeing talk with Q&A. (*open day events like this are successful and attracts many local women plus existing members bring along families and friends*).
- 8) **A need for powerful messaging and marketing to educate and motivate women to incorporate moderate exercise as part of their daily lives. It is essential to connect with women about the health and mental health benefits to exercising. Evidence shows that most residents would try a fitness tracker or health app if recommended by a health professional, suggest that this be piloted for women who are interested.** Women are involved in many different daily routines and journeys e.g. using the stairs, housework and gardening, school runs and walking to local shops, so it's a case of changing mind-sets to link physical exercise with better health
- 9) **We need more engagement with other groups of women across the city e.g. with single parents, with carers, and family carers too. Suggested that sub-groups be formed, as it is very important to reflect on this.**
- 10) **Gaps exist around community champions, ambassadors and mentors To consider engaging local people as ambassadors and community champions to support and empower women to be the best possible version of themselves. For example: Active Together have successfully**

*involved community champions like Zee from Zfit who runs her own ladies-only Zumba and Boxercise classes at venues across Leicester all of which aim to empower women.*

- 11) **We need more fitness instructors and activities leaders and mentors to do outreach work to support women in the community, such as in community centres; places of worship; health centre hubs and public spaces.** Sport England research shows that making sport the 'norm' for women relies on local women of all ages, sizes and faiths, becoming active, celebrating it and encouraging other to join in. Therefore by taking an activity into the community, both physically through outdoor sessions or venues in new and unexpected places can attract new circles of women.
- 12) **To encourage women to be involved in sports governing bodies and community leadership roles to influence decision-making.** Women remain less represented in leadership and coaching roles and face continued challenges in terms of equal pay and coverage in the media. This imbalance is magnified among some sub-groups e.g. BME women and disabled women. There are many reasons for this and most relate to social and cultural factors.
- 13) Task group members felt that many more organisations offering paid for activities and non-paid free sports and physical activities exists across the city e.g. community-based, grassroots sports and informal groups. **To consider engaging with smaller community-based organisations that are well placed in the hub of residential areas and more accessible for women (community-up approach).** To support joined up working, sharing resources and support for accessing funding sources.
- 14) **To reach out to female students in the city to promote sports and physical activities and healthy living.** For example: *'Freshers week' for university students is an excellent time to connect with female students to promote what is available in the city.*
- 15) **To encourage businesses, universities, hospitals etc... in the city to promote active travel plans and promote sports and physical exercise activities available in the city to benefit health and wellbeing for women employees.**
- 16) **Members praised sports partnerships as working well together. To consider including 'Netball' in future projects. To consider a cricket friendly environment for women and a need for role models** (Leicestershire County Cricket Club informed members that there is a lack of cricket facilities).



- 17) **That the Council increase publicity and marketing of Leisure and Sport facilities and activities on offer across the city.** Wider publicity is needed to reach more women via internal and external methods e.g. members bulletin, ward community meetings, internal face newsletter, council website, community centres, hospitals, G.P surgeries and health centres, face-to-face, local radio and social media.
- 18) The review report evidence and recommendations has captured valuable information. **This review needs to inform and shape the new strategy being developed.**
- 19) This review did not cover 'girls participation' in sports and physical activities, however, we are aware that national data shows: school-age girls are more interested and tend to participate in sports and activities, but then they seem to drop out as they get older for various reasons. **We suggest that this topic be added to future work programmes – possibly Childrens scrutiny jointly with our Heritage scrutiny commission.**
- 20) This review did not cover 'women's safety issues' when accessing sport or physical activity opportunities, although we are fully aware that this can be a barrier for some women. **We suggest that this topic be looked at in the future as it is essential that women and girls feel safe and secure to participate in sports and physical activities.**
- 21) Members praised the public health and sports services, Active Leicester, Active Together and partners for their commitment and expertise to support and develop new initiatives for women to participate (*see diagram 7.66 showing example of partnership working success*). Members supported future plans to increase women's participation, see 7.82 'looking forward' and Appendix C 'Active Leicester: context and future vision.

**The evidence and the good practice captured in this review report to be taken forward by the council and partners.**

### **3.1. CONCLUSION**

The task group found that sports and physical activities can be experienced by women in many different ways across the city.

More work needs to be done to educate and motivate women to understand the importance of being active as part of their health and wellbeing journey throughout their adulthood. There are very real short-term and long-term health benefits to women being active and healthy. We need to ensure that our neighbourhoods are enriched with the offer of feel-good-factor physical

activities and sports to encourage women to participate on their own and with friends and family.

The review found positive examples of good practice and initiatives existing and being developed and felt that women are probably unaware of the variety of what is available in the city. We need women role models, and women community leaders to inspire and motivate women.

We need to do more work with communities and partners to help women to understand that activities can be an experience for them, their families and friends and that it can be fun and social, and can be carried out in daily life, and can be cost effective / free to participate. We want to enrich our neighbourhoods in Leicester with activities and sports that women can enjoy.

#### **4 Local Context – strategies and budget**

Leicester City Council, Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019/24. Getting people more active is a key public health priority  
<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/185984/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2019-2024.pdf>

##### **Active Leicester**

Active Leicester encourages participation and encompasses all sports in the city. We have seven leisure centres with swimming pools and gyms; one climbing wall; one athletics track; one golf facility and several dedicated football pitches.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-and-leisure/>

**Active Together** (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland) support people to make physical activity and sport more accessible and part of our everyday lives.  
<https://www.active-together.org/>

#### **5. Leicester City Council Sports Services budget**

- 5.1** Leicester city council has recently invested in developing and improving the Leisure and Sports centres facilities across the city. Active Leicester has a budget of £30k per annum to promote its services. A balanced approach to marketing is taken to ensure it appeals to a wide audience. Promotion and campaigns include female-only imagery. This budget came into situ in 2021; prior to this the service did not have a dedicated marketing budget.

#### **5.2 Leicester City Public Health Services budget**

- 5.3** Public Health services provide £67,000 to Inspire Together per year, approximately £15,000 of this funding per year goes towards the provision of

the WHISPA delivery. This totals £75,000 for the previous 5 years' delivery. £60,000 has been allocated to Leicester City in the Community over the last 5 years, of which we expect 30% participation from women and girls.

- 5.4** Predicted budgets for year ahead - The Inspire Together funding will be reduced as a result of the recent PH budget reviews and £47,000 will be the new yearly allocation.
- 5.5** Funding to the sports clubs is unlikely to continue, however we will continue to support them to apply for funding bids from Sports England and each sports club's governing body. This will ensure that a focus remains on supporting women and girls into sports and physical activity in the absence of direct funding.

## **6. Purpose and Scope of the review**

- 6.1** The purpose of the review was to better understand the challenges and issues faced by women who want to participate in sports and physical activities and to explore what is available for women to participate in, including examples of good practice to promote increased participation.
- 6.2** The task group held evidence gathering sessions with witnesses, as below. These meetings took place online due to the covid pandemic restrictions.
- Sally Slade (Active Travel Team Leader, Leicester City Council)
  - Uma attended for Kirit Thakore (Founder of BlazeFit, an online fitness, workout and dance company, Leicester)
  - Amanda Howe (Managing Director of WALX Leicester East, walking group)
  - Anisha Karolia (Owner of My Gym Fitness Factory, Leicester)
  - Leicester City Football Club in the community (Allison Tripney)
  - Leicestershire County Cricket Club (Mark Barber)
  - Netball England, East Midlands (Val Kindred)
  - Leicester Hockey Club (Sarah Treanor, Vice President)
  - De Montfort University (Fiona Dick, Head of Sports)
  - Leicester University (Matthew Weir, Director of Sports)
  - Active Together Organisation, Leicestershire (John Bryne, Active Partnership Director, and Jo Spokes, Sports Development Manager)
  - Councillor Piara Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor and Executive Lead for Sports Services.
  - Councillor Vi Dempster, Executive Lead for Public Health Services.
  - Sports & Leisure Centres, Leicester City Council
  - Victoria Ball, Andrew Beddows and Charles Hurley, Lead officers, Leicester City Council
- 6.3** Task group evidence gathering included:
- a) Gathering evidence from internal and external witnesses (listed in the report)

- b) Senior officers in sports and public health division providing supporting evidence and reports at the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission meetings.
- c) Conducting an online survey questionnaire via the councils consultation website and through Sports & Leisure Centres in the city, to engage the views of women in the city.
- d) Inviting wider participation in the review by promoting the survey questionnaire via council staff 'FACE' newsletter, and via the 'Elected Members' bulletin, and via HealthWatch Leicester.
- e) Desk-top research of related documents, reports and data.
- f) Inviting Summaya, local BBC radio presenter (as a role model inspiring Asian women to participate in learning to swim) to Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny commission meeting. Her story and experience informed the review.

## **7. TASK GROUP FINDINGS**

### **7.1 Snapshot of activity levels for women in Leicester**

- Leicester has a higher percentage of inactive women (+3.7%) and a lower percentage of active women (-5.4%) when compared nationally.
- There is a 5% gap between male and female participation, with the highest levels of inactivity amongst people from ethnic backgrounds.

The task group conducted an online survey questionnaire to engage the views of local women to inform the review, results at Appendix A. This shows:

- 142 women (out of 191 responses) said sport and physical activity is very important to leading a happy and healthy life, and 44 said it was important.
- 136 women (out of 179 responses) said they never participated in paid-for physical activities in community locations; private gyms and sports clubs.
- 119 women (out of 178) said they never participated in paid-for physical activity at Leicester City Council leisure centres.
- 140 women (out of 174 responses) said they never participated in free physical activities such as parkrun or informal sports groups.

- 7.2.** Active Leicester operates 7 leisure centres, a golf course, and an athletics stadium. The city also has a wealth of parks and open spaces for people to be active in. The services and facilities are well placed, in the hearts of the

city's communities. Most leisure centres are accessible within a 20–30-minute walk, thus reducing the barriers associated with distance and transport.

### 7.3. National and local documents

The task group was informed that a wide range of research and reports existed on the topic of Women's participation in Sport and Physical Activity (reference list is at the end of the report).

Key reports:

- Sport England: Go Where Women Are
- Sport England: Helping Women to Get Active
- Sport England: The Girl Can
- Active Together Partnership (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland)
- Active Leicester: Women in Sport Current Best Practice
- Active Leicester: New Strategy Development
- Leicester Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategy

**7.4** Members have been provided with supporting information, research and presentations about the positive work carried out by the council, by leisure, sports and public health services to encourage women to participate in sports and physical activities in the city. The task group recognised that this work was well-documented. **Appendix C** 'Active Leicester, Women in Sport sets out the current best practice, as evidence.

### **7.5 What are the key issues and barriers preventing women from participating?**

Many of the issues and barriers captured by the task group are similar to existing reports and research about women's sports.

Task group evidence identified these barriers and issues:

- Location of facilities e.g. distance to travel and lack of transport  
*(In Leicester, most leisure centres are accessible within a 20–30-minute walk, thus reducing the barriers associated with distance).*
- Lack of time e.g. family, childcare, lifestyle, work and caring commitments
- Financial e.g. cost of sessions, cost of gym-wear and cost of equipment
- Accessibility e.g. women only sessions, women-led sessions and timings of sessions
- Family commitments and childcare e.g. women often prioritise family time over themselves.
- A lack of confidence in taking an initial step to join activities.

- Cultural barriers and beliefs e.g. exercise 'is not the norm' for women in some cultures.
- Lack of role models
- Women prefer to exercise with their family, friends and at a location that is close to home
- Lack of childcare provision for parents who wish to join sessions.
- Body confidence, appropriate clothing e.g. women at Cossington Street Centre in particular were anxious in terms of participating.
- Many women were said to be put off by the stigma associated with gyms, (and it had been hard to overcome that barrier when promoting gym services to women).
- It had also been stated that there were often cliques with activity classes and this could deter others from having the confidence to participate.
- Women were not always confident being led by male instructors (there was a shortage of female personal gym trainers and female swimming instructors across council-run sports and leisure centres).

**7.6** Research in 2017 sought to look in depth at the motivations and barriers to participating in physical activity for young mums who live in Wycliffe and Eyres Monsell wards in the city. Evidence pointed to the following:

- Many had the desire to undertake activities as a family and it was felt that there was a shortage of such provision.
- The provision was overall not flexible enough in its offer to young families
- Parents were sometimes reluctant to leave babies in unfamiliar childcare settings.
- Parents preferred local, community-based provision closer to home, rather than provision that required more extensive travel, which was a particular issue for those without access to a vehicle.
- Classes were not always culturally appropriate
- Parents did not always feel safe undertaking classes in open parks, even with the presence of children.

**7.7.** Active Leicester have been involved in research projects over the last five years to understand barriers and issues and have taken steps to address many of these. For example, since the programme of refurbishment at local leisure centres had been completed there had been an increase in the take-up of female participants due to the changed physical environment of the buildings becoming more appealing and welcoming. There was praise for the high take-up for women-only sessions offered e.g. at the Evington and Cossington centres.

#### **7.8 Recommendations identified by the task group:**

- 1) Women need to know that they are welcome to participate by wearing clothing that is comfortable for them and culturally acceptable. To

*consider better signage in facilities and raising awareness of the availability of alternative swimwear, gym-wear and cyclewear.*

- 2) There is a need to address the shortage of female gym trainers and female coaches and instructors at facilities. *To consider carrying out recruitment, training and apprenticeship programs to attract women into these positions.*
- 3) The use of role models to inspire and motivate women to participate. *To consider local and national women with sporting related achievements e.g. the Lionesses who are champion winners, and individuals like Summaya, a local radio presenter who has shared her story / podcast to learn to swim in adulthood.*

## 7.9 What can be done to encourage women to participate?

[‘Go Where Women Are’ says Sport England](#), and remove the barriers that prevent women participating in sport. In their research they highlight that the barriers can be categorised as either physical or emotional. There are several key actions that facility owners can undertake to remove the physical barriers. Access to sport has to be practical and fit in with the other time commitments and requirements of the female population. Going where women are means understanding their constraints, such as “*staying for children’s bedtimes, family mealtimes and accommodating work schedules.*”

## 7.10. Members heard evidence about ‘This Girl Can’ national campaign

<https://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk> (Sport England launched in 2017). A national initiative showing 2.8 million women were inspired to exercise due to the campaign, 1.6 million started exercising and 1.2 million increased their participation.

*‘The campaign has successfully persuaded nearly 4 million women across the country to take action. This research shows that many women are put off taking part in physical activity due to a fear of judgement – this might be about the way they look when they exercise, that they’re not good enough to join in or they should be spending more time on their families, studies or other priorities. This Girl Can seeks to tell the real stories of women who get active or play sport in the way that’s right for them using images that show what activity really looks like in all its sweaty, jiggly glory. We never judge and we don’t care what other people think.*

## 7.11. Members heard that ‘The Girl Can’ campaign has helped many providers to inspire and encourage women to participate in sporting and leisure activities, for example:

- brought the initiatives directly to women instead of expecting women to travel to them. The campaign had 95 million views worldwide and had brought £66 million to the economy.

- to increase resilience, which had brought 700,000 followers on social media, with 50% of 40-60's recognising at least one of their adverts.
- aimed to challenge and overcome cultural barriers.
- Over 13,000 partners have signed up to use the 'toolkit', including the council.

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Heritage Culture Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission, 01/03/2022 17:30 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#) Task group members praised this campaign and council officers in using this good practice to encourage women's participation in Leicester.

#### **7.12. Recommendations identified by the task group:**

- This is an excellent video produced by 'The Girl Can' campaign. We should use videos and real stories to inspire and encourage women in Leicester. We need to have targets in place to succeed in motivating and encouraging women to participate.
- That the Council increase publicity and raise awareness of Leisure and Sport facilities on offer across the city. Wider publicity to reach more women, via internal and external methods e.g. members bulletin, ward community meetings, internal face newsletter, council website, community centres, hospitals, G.P surgeries and health centres, face-to-face, local radio and social media.

#### **7.13. Key evidence captured by the task group of what can be done to encourage women to participate:**

- Support and mentoring to build confidence
- Creating a sense of togetherness, for example with a social element. A need for new approaches to attract families and friends' groups to participate in activities together.
- Women like to see a sense of achievement. Helping women to focus on feeling good about oneself and the sporting experience e.g. certificates of achievement, rewards and celebration are important.
- Using the word activity, not sport, to encourage women to participate
- More work was needed to be done in terms of listening and engaging with women in order to lift each of the barriers that prevent or deter participation.
- Encourage women to use open spaces available e.g. in Belgrave women do not participate in football, mostly men use the recreation sports ground.
- Lack of cricket facilities e.g. need to create a cricket friendly environment for women and need role models.



- There was sometimes a tendency for women (particularly those with children) to put themselves last, and this was a mentality that was difficult to alter. However, more work was needed in terms of engaging with this cohort.
- Body confidence was a significant barrier. The notions of embarrassment and shame needed to be removed.
- A mapping exercise of what is on offer for women within neighbourhoods and organisations e.g. communities up approach. Supporting and promoting grassroots sports and activities.
- A shortage in the supply of toilet facilities on parks often deterred women engaging in sporting and physical activity.
- A campaign to encourage more women to become sports and gym instructors should be considered.
- Supporting and promoting grassroots sports and activities

**7.14. The task group heard evidence from a selection of individual organisations in the community that provide successful sports and physical activities for women in Leicester:**

Evidence captured from 'BlazeFit' company, Leicester (fitness, dance, exercise and wellbeing sessions):

- Online sessions, e.g. bangra fitness, bollywood dance, body workout exercises. Now branched out doing leg, bum and tum, and various exercises etc.. We have a team of instructors who lead various sessions.
- We are a company, main customers by paid subscription (approx. £20 per month), We also offer many non-paid free sessions.
- Our online exercises are very popular especially with older women, we have expanded to offer sessions for elderly and vulnerable women, e.g. gentle exercises sitting on a chair.
- We have themed days with sessions for special occasions e.g. Navratri, Diwali and various other festivals and events in the calendar year, this keeps people interested, engaged and upbeat.
- We have expanded to offer much more now than before. Mainly targeting everyone, but mainly our customers are women. By offering online sessions women can remain in their own homes and manage family and childcare issues.
- Our live sessions are very popular, and also offer recorded sessions. The recorded sessions very useful for women to access at their convenience, and there is a high demand for these.
- We lead and host many charity events and good causes to raise funds e.g. for Alzheimers and British Heart foundation etc.. (we have a charity event coming up involving our customers to raise funds). Our customers plus their families and friends all get involved to help raise funding with charity events.

**7.15. Evidence captured from a walking group organisation (A Leicester East area WALX Leicester East is a friendly, sociable walking and fitness group)**

- A walking group, with café access, offers different types of walks and trails.
- We offer total body workouts, exercise and many walking activities.
- We offer yoga and mindful – but all in the context of outdoors activities combined with walking.
- Vast majority of customers are women, slightly older generation, most of them looking for social activity and to get out. Sometimes restricted by confidence and some have various health issues e.g. cardiovascular.
- A gym-style model prepaid by customers, approx. £18 per month.
- We also have a selection of online activities.
- We offer a walking festival in the summer, one coming up shortly.
- Have trained staff to help support walks. People feel confident and enjoy the exercise.
- However, we need to address issues of travel to and from these walks – as this can be a barrier (*the task group helped Amanda to link up with Sally from Transport, LCC, for advice on transport*).
- Generally, we all need more engagement with other groups of women across the city e.g. single parents, and with carers, and family carers too. Suggested that sub-groups be formed, as it is very important to reflect on this (*task group members agreed*).

#### **7.16. Evidence captured from ‘My Gym Fitness Factory’ organisation**

- Culture and religion can be one reason why women do not participate e.g. clothing for sport activities (women want to cover up in public)
- Another barrier is that many Asian women have not grown up with sports and exercise – it’s a generational thing / not the norm for some women.
- We cater for women for private sessions and try to make women comfortable – we tailor the sessions. We hand hold and build confidence and take them through step by step and this has been positive as for most of them it breaks down barriers and they feel comfortable.
- Online sessions are good, especially for women who are unable to get out much.
- Face to face sessions are better for many women as some women look forward to leaving the house and getting out, these sessions are the highlight of their week, good for their mental health and wellbeing and something to look forward to, e.g. for the Bollywood classes we have about 40 women who attend regularly.
- We promote on social media all the time – which is very popular.
- We have planned an International Women’s Day event and offering free taster sessions combined with women health talks (including mental health issues) with a Q and A session. This will also be available to access online.
- What is needed is more education and more understanding about the physical links to exercise and mental health – we need to educate women and promote how it can help them. (*Task group members agreed*)
- The leaders of any activity needs to be reflected in the people taking part in activities, and vice-versa, role models are important.

#### **7.17 Task group members comments:**

- That women in the Belgrave area are not keen to cycle – many women either go to the Neighbourhood Centre or use outside gyms or walking for exercise. *(however, Active Travel officers informed members of plans for new wellbeing projects in Belgrave for women to keep active – this is a positive step)*
- Many people have missed the interaction and social element during the pandemic.
- That we need more fitness leaders and fitness instructors to do outreach work e.g. with community centres, places of worship etc. and possibly offer home visits.

#### **7.18. Members identified these recommendations:**

- We need more fitness instructors and activities leaders and mentors to do outreach work e.g. with community centres, places of worship, health centre hubs and public places.  
*Sport England research shows that making sport the 'norm' for women relies on local women of all ages, sizes and faiths, becoming active, celebrating it and encouraging other to join in. Therefore by taking an activity into the community, both physically through outdoor sessions or venues in new and unexpected places can attract new circles of women.*
- A need for new approaches to attract families and friends groups to participate in activities together.  
*The Health & Wellbeing Survey in Leicester shows that there is a lack of suitable, structured activity provision for families to exercise together, whilst parks and open spaces are available for informal family friendly activity our leisure centres and sports clubs often offer adult and child physical activity sessions separately..*
- Task group members felt that they had a good insight and heard valuable evidence from these organisations. These organisations were all very committed to helping women in the city and welcomed being involved in providing evidence. Their good practice, approaches and ideas should be taken into account by sports and physical activities providers in the city.
- Good practice initiative - holding an open day event inviting members and non-members, offering a variety of taster fitness sessions and combining this with a health promotion session e.g. mental health and wellbeing talk with Q&A. *(The fitness factory gym in Leicester said events like this are successful and attracts many local women – plus existing members bring along families and friends).*
- Generally, we also need more engagement with other groups of women across the city e.g. single parents, and with carers, women with disabilities

and family carers too. *Suggested that sub-groups be formed, as it is very important to reflect on this.*

- Task group heard valuable evidence from a handful of organisations, however many more organisations (offering paid for activities and non-paid free activities) exist across the city e.g. community-based, grassroots sports and informal groups. *Suggest making use of existing groups and networks (community-up approach), to identify what activities are available within neighbourhoods as this would provide more choices for women to participate; more scope for joint-up working; scope for learning from each other and scope for accessing funding sources.*

**7.19. The task group heard evidence from Transport Strategy, Leicester City Council (relies on external funding for schemes)**

**7.20. Active Travel Neighbourhoods Team mainly delivers behavioural change initiatives to encourage sustainable travel in **businesses, schools** and the **community**. Recently the team has also been delivering the **Safer Streets Healthier Neighbourhoods programme**.**

Examples of work carried out:

- We lead on activities for active travel in the city. We provide advice and services (dipping in and out) with working with all council departments, including sports and leisure centres, and public health services to advise on travel plans and transport needs.
- We have an active travel neighbourhoods team who lead on active travel plans, walking and cycling schemes and initiatives in the city to encourage people, including women to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.
- Women in the city are involved in many different daily journeys in their local areas e.g. school runs, going to local shops, so it's a case of changing mind-sets to walk or cycle for better health.
- We are trying to make cycling more appealing in terms of clothing e.g. cyclewear that is more trendy, comfortable and appropriate for all women *(there is more than lycrawear out there!)*.
- We find that girls in their younger and teenage years tend to cycle and play sports more, but this reduces as they move into adulthood.  
*(Schools Sports Partnership work identifies women and girls as a priority area, particularly secondary age girls who are more likely to drop out of formal sporting opportunities).*
- We do a lot of work with schools in the city to promote cycling and walking.
- We work with businesses, universities, hospitals etc... in the city to promote active travel plans for employees, this includes women employees.
- We do lots of community engagement work which benefits women in the city, e.g. cycle training programme based as Cossington Recreation Ground; Walk Leicester Forum – meeting of all organisations within Leicester that deliver some sort of walking activity.

- Community Cycling Project – E-bike initiative to encourage South Asian communities in Leicester to think about keeping active and moving in different ways. This initiative was really popular, and we identified that women over the age of 55 years in particular wanted more cycle training to increase their confidence in using a cycle again.
- New projects planned – weekly wellbeing walks in Belgrave. A good walk can do wonders for your mental wellbeing. Also to encourage more women to consider taking up cycling to increase their fitness and keep active in a green way.
- British Cycling has launched its first ever Women and Girls' Club Toolkit: this contains advice, tips and best-practice examples to make cycling appealing to females (*publicised on Active Together website*).

**7.21.** The task group survey question asked women '*how often do you participate in recreational, non-paid physical activity per week re: Cycle to work or school?*' Out of 178 responses:

- 123 women said never,
- 39 said 1-3 times a week, and
- 9 said 4-6 times a week.

**7.22.** **Good practice example:** A focus on having fun and building confidence has been effective in breaking down the barriers to cycling in hard-to-reach communities in Hackney. Family cycle clubs were set up so the whole family could learn to cycle (using pool bikes) in a relaxed informal environment. All who completed the course received a free (recycled) bike and lock.

**7.23. Recommendations identified by the task group:**

- A need to educate and motivate women to include exercise as part of their daily lives would be a more realistic way to target more women to increase activity. *Women in the city are involved in many different daily journeys in their local areas e.g. school runs, walking to local shops, so it's a case of changing mind-sets to walk or cycle for better health.*
- To encourage and support businesses, universities, hospitals etc... in the city to promote active travel plans for employees, and to also promote sports and physical exercise activities available in the city to benefit health and wellbeing for women employees.
- We need to use local people as ambassadors and community champions to support and empower women to be the best possible version of themselves. *Active Together have community champions. For example: Zee from Zfit is one of their best examples who runs her own ladies only Zumba, Hiit and Boxercise classes at venues across Leicester all of which aim to empower women.*

- 7.24.** The task group were aware of the steps taken by sports and public health services to address many barriers identified by women and accept that even if provision is available for people to be active, then that doesn't always translate to people becoming active. Often people's motivations and readiness to change can stop people from using sports and leisure facilities / services. The task group recognised that the service is progressing with different approaches to marketing as a positive step in the right direction.

Active Leicester has learnt a lot over recent years on how to balance a universal sport and physical activity offer, with a targeted approach to its services. It is a tricky balance to achieve. However, the scope and spread of dedicated female sessions, in centres with most demand, have gone part of the way to meet this need. Other targeted approaches include:

- More work was being undertaken to try and encourage women to participate at an earlier age, with female entry ages being low in comparison to male.
- Women-only sessions are often offered due to the cultural diversity of Leicester, and these are particularly well-attended.
- The centres also provide opportunities for third parties to undertake activity – such as swimming and badminton clubs.
- An online programme of activity was launched during the pandemic, but this ceased due to generally low uptake.

- 7.25.** Public Health services is fully aware of the barriers that many residents face to being physically active and as a result have developed more focus on encouraging people to be active through increased daily activity such as active travel, walking, cycling, scooting to school or work for example. Activity in parks and open spaces such as play with children and use of outdoor gyms.

**7.26. Partnership working with Leicester City Council was praised by sports clubs, partners and universities who contributed to this review.**

Evidence captured by the task group:

- Partnership working initiative, the student women's basketball team at De Montfort University currently benefit from specialist coaching from the Leicester Riders Club and also play their home British University and College Sports (BUCS) league and cup fixtures at Leicester Riders impressive 2,500-sear Leicester Sports Arena.
- Leicester Hockey Club - Students are benefiting in Leicester with experiences in everything from umpiring to media work and administration to help their CVs stand out and prepare them for the world of work.

- The University of Leicester and Sporting Equals have signed a strategic partnership to promote ethnic diversity (includes BME women) across sport and physical activity to address the lack of diversity amongst sports leaders, sport governing bodies, and leadership roles.
- The Universities said further work is required to train up women coaches, women mentors, and women leaders within sports.
- The Universities reported that ‘freshers week’ is an excellent time to promote and provide information to female students relating to sports and physical activities and healthy living.
- **Leicester Tigers with their Project Rugby Asian** sports foundations project to actively support Asian women into Rugby.
- **LCitC Active Women Project** – 5-year project focussing on women between the ages of 18-49 in the Wycliffe ward area. The project is aimed at getting women from the local community engaged in some form of physical activity. The project has currently engaged with 1305 participants and offers 13 sessions per week.
- **Netball East Midlands: Leicester** – Women and Girls receive coaching on game play (part of Grassroots Netball initiative). The Netball Club identified that they need to be involved in partnership working in the city on par with other clubs e.g. Leicester City Football Club and the Tigers Rugby Club
- **Leicester Tigers Foundation Women and Girls Programme** – project aimed at offering women’s only rugby sessions in the city and utilising the recent success of the Red Roses to inspire women to get involved. Leicester Tigers have also recently set up a women’s team to again create role models from our community to inspire other women to become active.
- **Leicestershire CCC Community Women and Girls** – A dedicated women and girls’ officer is in post to develop opportunities for women to get active and involved within cricket from a young age. This includes the women’s cricket league which is played in the summer.  
*(The cricket club identified that there is a lack of cricket facilities e.g.need to create a cricket friendly environment for women and need role models).*

- **National Governing Bodies of sport (NGB's)**- The majority of NGB's follows Sport England's ten-year strategy of 'Uniting the Movement'. This strategy aims to transform communities and lives through the power of sport and physical activity. Reducing barriers to participation are a key theme of their strategy. An example of this in practice is through the Leicestershire and Rutland County FA, who have KPIs for the number of female players (4,982 players by June 2024) playing the game across Leicestershire and Rutland. Players can come from affiliated team or recreational groups. Female players are underrepresented across the county and city when compared to census data, so the County FA are working to give opportunities to everyone across Leicester. These ambitions will be replicated across the wealth of NGB's operating in the city. Active Leicester supports their work.
- **PlayZone Initiative** - The PlayZone programme is currently being developed and finalised, but this is a programme with the Football Foundation that will see ballcourts across the city developed into state of the art, attractive facilities aimed at certain priority groups, one of which is Women and Girls. The courts will be bookable and will have several programmed sessions each week purely for women and girls. The courts aim to be accessible, attractive, well-lit and safe spaces to encourage women to attend and participate.
- **Wesley Hall Community Centre** – Wesley Hall offers several opportunities for women within their local community. They are seen as a trusted provider within their community and thus attract and encourage women to attend their sessions. Some examples of the opportunities offered are Women aerobic and weight management, sewing classes, yoga classes, slimming world, and Zumba classes.
- **Active Together Partnership** – Active Together link into some of the national campaigns for example 'This Girl Can' and at times offer similar initiatives. An example is in March whereby they offer 'Let's get Moving This March' which is a programme that allows women to have a go at multiple activities from their own homes, for example Zumba, Bhangra, Nordic Walking. Active Together also have community champions. Zee from Zfit is one of their best examples who runs her own ladies only Zumba, Hiit and Boxercise classes at venues across Leicester all of which aim to empower women to be the best possible version of themselves [www.active-together.org](http://www.active-together.org)

<b>7.27. Recommendations identified by the task group:</b>
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- Need to reach out to new students in the city e.g. universities, to promote sports and physical activities and healthy living. *‘Freshers week’ for students is an excellent time to connect with female students to promote what is available in the city.*
- More work needs to be done to train and attract more female coaches, mentors and leaders in sports.
- Leicestershire County Cricket Club identified that there is a lack of cricket facilities. *For example need to create a cricket friendly environment for women and need role models.*
- Women need to be involved in sports governing bodies and community leaders, to influence decision-making. Women remain less represented in leadership and coaching roles, especially BME women. *Women remain less represented in leadership and coaching roles and face continued challenges in terms of equal pay and coverage in the media.*
- Members praised Active Leicester, Active Together and partners as they have the knowledge and expertise to support and develop new initiatives. *Many smaller community-based organisations are well placed in the hub of residential areas and more accessible for women but some lack the expertise and resources to develop new initiatives and access funding.*

**7.28. The different methods used to offer sports and physical activities, e.g. in-person, digital online**

**7.29. Benefits of Social Media platform** – It’s highly recommended that all sports and physical activities providers has a presence on social media platforms. Doing so, will widen your reach to a range of demographics. Social media can be used to highlight any trials you may be offering. Moreover, with social media’s ability to host visual content – it can be used to showcase your staff, venue and facilities. It also provides greater exposure for any offers, discounts or deal you may be offering. Social media is also a great medium for prospective members to contact you with any query’s or provide valuable feedback to improve your sports club/venue. Not to mention, visitors or permanent members can use social media to post reviews of the club and or classes and facilities, helping to attractive new customers.

**7.30. Task group evidence shows:**

- a) It was felt that word of mouth is ultimately the most powerful method of communication.

*‘Active Leicester service finds that word of mouth is a more powerful form of promotion. Therefore, we aim to deliver the right product with excellent*

*customer service to ensure women that do use our services are telling their friends and family’.*

- b) The service carefully considers the appropriate use of imagery as part of marketing campaigns.
- c) Users from certain centres (such as Spence Street) did not find out about opportunities online – in comparison with users at other centres. In these case, greater outreach is required. (recommendation)
- d) Most residents would try a fitness tracker or Health App if recommended by a health professional (*recommendation – promote women to use fitness tracker or health app*).
- e) It was felt that the service could do more to promote mental health benefits from participating in sport as part of marketing strategies (recommendation)

**7.40.** According to Sports England research: *Access to 24/7 online booking enables sports facilities to be available at all times. When the [booking process has been simplified and made accessible](https://pitchbooking.com/blog/increasing-female-women-activity-levels-sports-facilities), sports facilities must look to reduce and remove the practical barriers that prevent women's participation in sport.* Sports facilities can encourage women to become more active. <https://pitchbooking.com/blog/increasing-female-women-activity-levels-sports-facilities> Pitch booking can help make this a reality by streamlining the booking process and bringing online visibility to facilities across the country.

**7.41. Social media campaign** to drive higher female attendance at organised activities by ‘This Girl Can’ Sport England – good practice example: this is a behaviour change campaign in response to the long-standing sport and physical activity gender gap in England. One key means of mobilising more women to organised activity is to refine the marketing drive and improve the “on the ground” experience. The campaign, which combines social media, a TV commercial and poster advertising, is the brainchild of Sport England, and aims to ‘inspire women to wiggle, jiggle, move and prove that judgement is a barrier that can be overcome’. [This Girl Can](#)

**7.42. Good practice example of Live Podcasting** - posts to follow Summayas experience and journey re: Asian women learning to swim. Summaya Mughal, a Nottingham born, Leicester Radio presenter and journalist, has too echoed these statements in her latest documentary ‘Brown Gal can’t Swim.’

Summaya’s 6-part, podcast in which she confronts the cultural barriers that many Pakistani Muslim women face when wanting to swim- such as disagreements with family members, risking criticism from their community over breaking social conventions, and worrying about what to wear in the pool that will fall in line with Islamic expectations around female modesty.

The podcast is an intimate view of Summaya’s journey, where she aims to break down misconceptions about swimming, and encourage members of our

South Asian communities to take the plunge and learn to swim. She even gets her dad involved - something she would never have imagined when she was younger.



The link to view the podcast can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0ctzgft>

*"I've spent over 20 years embarrassed about not having a skill it feels like kids have, especially when it's something that could save your life. I'm terrified of the deep-end - so we'll start there."*

#### **7.43. Good practice example: Poster and Video 'Leicester Swim' marketing campaign** to increase casual swimming:

Leicester City council marketing for adult swimming lessons is mainly through word of mouth with some use of social media. In 2017, the service was awarded a funding grant from Sport England to explore behaviour change marketing techniques to increase casual swimming. The service trialled behaviour change marketing techniques to motivate people to use the service. For example, rather than selling the gym membership we would promote the benefits of being active and how being fitter and healthier can help them play with their children, feel healthier. These techniques have been adopted and now feature in our annual marketing programme.

##### ➤ **Benefits of swimming for female adults: promotion video**

<https://vimeo.com/290929937/603a1614e9>

The swim pilot also taught the service that providing lessons is just part of the journey of adults learning to swim. Similar to the Swim England survey and Summaya's experience.

#### **7.44 BME women swimming good practice example:**

New group 'Afro Aquatics', Black women in Leicester getting into Swimming: A competitive swimmer and instructor who recognised the barriers faced by ethnic minorities when it comes to learning how to swim is making waves in Leicester by getting the **black community** into swimming. As someone who has devoted a majority of her life to the sport, Katrice Rodrigues identified the changes that needed to be made in the black community, and **Afro Aquatics** was born.

The Aquatics group only launched in 2022, but already has had a massive impact. They are currently in their second term meeting weekly at Winstanley School in **Braunstone**. Founder Katrice used her expertise to get the group off the ground. [Swim instructor creates group empowering Black communities to swim - Leicestershire Live \(leicesterm Mercury.co.uk\)](#)

- 7.45. Members of the commission heard evidence relating to Swim England data and Swim Leicester to better understand participation of women from BME backgrounds.**
- 7.46.** Swim England launched a campaign called ‘England Swims’ specifically aimed at finding out barriers that prevent ethnically diverse communities from accessing water-based activities. The survey shows: that there is a clear disparity of swimming abilities when analysing by ethnicity. 14% of White Communities cannot swim 25m, in comparison to 49% of ethnically diverse communities. This disparity is further exemplified by gender differences. Females of all ethnicities are less likely to be able to swim 25m. Muslim women were most likely to view swimming as inaccessible. Modesty, and feeling comfortable in swimwear and feeling comfortable with the changing arrangement were also important points raised.
- 7.47.** Although in Leicester 71% of adults’ swimming lessons are female (approx. 170), and 72% are from ethnically diverse communities (approx. 172 out of 240). The highest number of women participates are at the Evington, Spence Street and Cossington centres.
- 7.48. Good practice example for free /low-cost activity session:** *The Let's Get Moving for Less* page includes a range of ideas on how to be active, as well as a whole host of free/low-cost activity sessions taking place within Leicester and Leicestershire, enabling you to still feel the benefits of being active throughout this difficult time. Navigating your way through the page is easy. Simply click on your district name at the top and view all the different opportunities that your locality has to offer. To view all the activities in one place, visit the [Let's Get Moving for Less directory](#).
- #LetsGetMovingLLR for less! More information:** <https://www.active-together.org/letsgetmovingforless>
- 7.49.** Since the pandemic began (with lock down restrictions) many more sports and activity providers diverted to offering more online sessions e.g. dance, exercise, yoga, body fitness etc. There has been a huge increase of women participating in activities with this method preferred as it enables them to participate within their own homes and allows them to manage family, childcare, work and other commitments more easily.
- 7.50.** Task group survey question: asked women if they participate in non-paid activity re: Home workout (online or on your own)
- Responses: those that do home workout online = 47 (out of 169), in comparison to those that do home workout on their own = 135 (out of 179)
- 7.51.** **‘Blazefit’ fitness, Leicester – example of providing live streamed workouts, dance and wellness classes, which has become more popular during the pandemic**. We deliver enjoyable and dynamic online classes right in your home. Increase in the number of women subscribing to join streamed sessions during the pandemic. We use social media to promote

our classes. We offer taster sessions and provide sessions for older women e.g. gentle exercise.

- 7.52. Zfit local fitness, Leicester** – Run by Zee who is currently an Active Together Champion and community ambassador provides Zumba toning, HIIT and boxercise classes throughout venues in Leicester. Ladies only sessions. Fun, friendly party atmosphere for all abilities aged 16-86. Aiming to empower women to be the best version of themselves through fitness.
- 7.53.** *Both of these groups support and promotes Active Together LLR activities and events through their website, which is very positive, as the activities and opportunities offered by Active Together LLR reach a wider audience.*
- 7.54. Good practice example for BME participation: The trail blazer: the rewards of setting up a walking group** - Wanting to stride out into the countryside with like-minded people, our writer established Black Girls Hike in 2019 and has never looked back.  
“I became a walking group leader by chance. In 2019, I was on a train going through the Peak District, and I watched all these hikers getting on and off. I wanted to do something new for my wellbeing, so I set up a [Black Girls Hike instagram](#) page a few days later. I didn’t want to go by myself and I wanted to feel safe and supported so I set up a group for black women”



<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/nov/01/black-girls-hike-rewards-of-walking-group>

- 7.55. Walk Together initiative** - During the pandemic, outdoor walks in local areas and local parks have become more popular as a no-cost exercise activity. Walk Together is a physical activity initiative offering a weekly programme of free, sociable and accessible group walks within Leicestershire led by trained volunteer walk leaders. Walk Together is coordinated, developed and delivered via a partnership of Leicestershire Local Authorities and Active Together. <https://www.active-together.org/sports/walking>
- 7.56.** Task group question asked women: do you participate in non-paid free organised activities re: Parkrun, informal sports groups etc. Responses show that out of 174 women, 140 said they never participate, and 33 said they do participate 1-3 times a week.
- 7.57. Good practice example of Face-to-Face engagement with women: Active Leicester** carried out this work with young mums in Wycliffe and Eyres Monsell wards in Leicester

## Good practice examples for Active Leicester re: engaging with young mums in Wycliffe and Eyres Monsell wards

### Example interventions

Work with the mums attending an established 'stay and play' sessions in the community of interest. Find out what sorts of physical activities they might like to do during the session with their children. Options could include:

- Training for staff so they can deliver short 10 minute bursts of activity specifically targeted at encouraging the mums to get involved.
- Providing an instructor to join the stay and play session on a regular basis to lead activity sessions for the mums and their children.
- Providing activity cards and resources for activities which mums and children can do together.

Hosting a family fun day in the local park or green space:

- Work with local families to decide what this looks like, e.g. the location, date, time and activities to run.
- Run a variety of sport and physical activities which are: short, instructor-led, of low / medium intensity and in which young mums are activity encouraged to participate in with their children. The activities may even build in intensity from session-to-session.
- Work with other community and health providers to provide advice and information on parenting, health and fitness in to these sessions.

*By working with the young mums to develop the activity session, the sessions are more likely to be strong in all the intervention elements.*

While mums wanted activities they could do with their children, one of their main motivators for participating in different activities was the chance to socialise with friends and meet other young mums.

*That's the biggest thing, and I like to meet, like, the mums that I've made friends with. That's the only time I would see them because I come to the mamas, baby thing sometimes, but it's more, like, getting them up, because otherwise I wouldn't get up because I'm pretty much a homebody. – Wycliffe participant*

Practitioners also highlighted the important role that activities can play in building social networks for young mums.



**7.58. Communicating the strong links of health and wellbeing to encourage more women to participate**

**7.59.** The nhs.uk website communicates the benefits of exercise with this powerful message that does draw people in and think more seriously about their health:

***Step right up! It's the miracle cure we've all been waiting for.*** It can reduce your risk of major illnesses, such as coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer and low your risk of early death by up to 30%. It's free and easy to take, has an immediate effect and you don't need a GP to get some. ***Its name? Exercise.***

The Department of Health and Social Care website states that ***inactivity is a "silent killer"***.

The NHS website offers tips and advice for low intensity exercises that can be done at home:

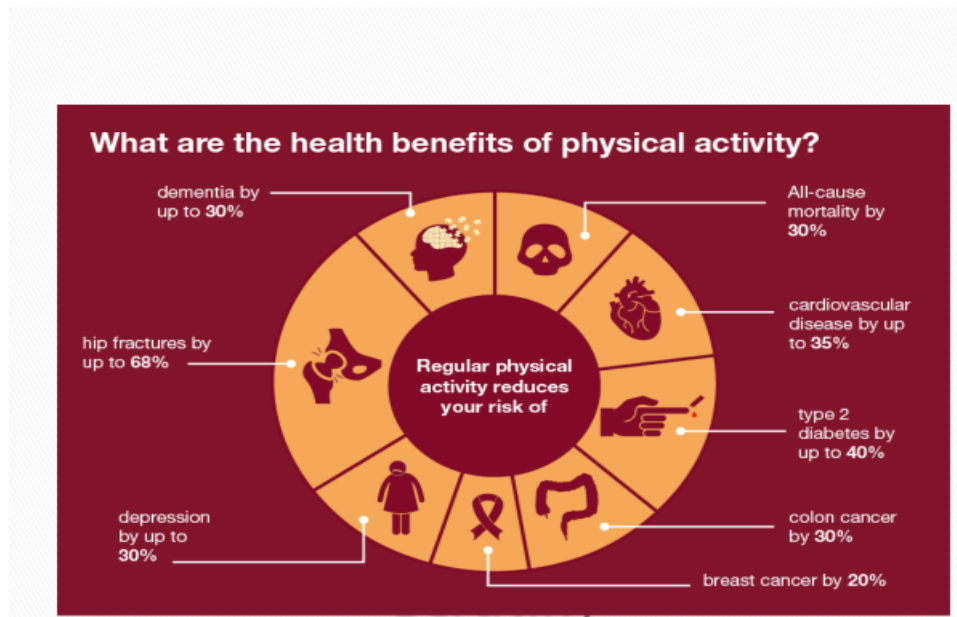
- **Get moving around the home** – advice on ways you can be active without leaving the house *e.g. chair exercises, using the stairs, using tins of beans as weights, dancing to the radio in the kitchen while the pasta is cooking.*

**7.60.** The NHS website promotes and gives advice on many different ways to keeping active, increasingly like many organisations promoting keeping active using online videos, health apps, online training instructors and classes.

- **'Couch to Fitness – Get Fit For Free'**, promoted as a home-based activity – a free and flexible at-home online exercise plan for beginners. This is a partnership initiative with locals councils and local parks.

**7.61.** Being active provides numerous physical benefits. Regular exercise can help maintain healthy bone and muscle mass. Exercise also helps people maintain a healthy weight. Being active also has massive mental health and wellbeing benefits, especially when done outdoors, people who are active have a 30% Lower risk of developing depression.

**7.62. What are the health benefits of physical activity? – Diagram to show this**



- 1) Many women in midlife are missing out on the social psychological and physical health benefits of being active.
- 2) 33% of women aged 41 to 60 are not getting the recommended amount of exercise, e.g. can experience health issues, mood swings, anxiety, depression, poor sleep, embarrassment etc..
- 3) The report on 'Inspiring women to be active during midlife and menopause', by Women in Sport, recommends 5 principles for inactive women, especially those who have fallen out of exercise: 1. endless possibilities, 2. judgement-free zone, 3. support network, 4. expand the image of what sport means, 5. make it relevant.

**7.63. 'Fit for the Future: The Health Value of Wellbeing and Leisure Services' – good practice example from Leicestershire and Rutland working in partnership**

**Re: Overview of Publicly Funded Community Engagement Activities**

- 7.64.** Over time, publicly funded leisure services have continued to extend their role in relation to general wellbeing and not just fitness. This has involved diversifying their responsibility within the community and being at the forefront of driving community engagement. The opportunities are manifold and largely reflect expressed local community needs which includes linking up with or leading new community initiatives as part of innovative partnerships with Public Health, CCGs, and Active Partnership with the shared goal of levelling up social inequalities that exists across various regions. Beyond providing access to physical activity infrastructure such as gyms and swimming pools, publicly funded leisure services, working collaboratively with system partners has a far-reaching impact in driving community engagement with a unique advantage of influencing the wider



determinants of health. The examples below highlight some community engagement activities



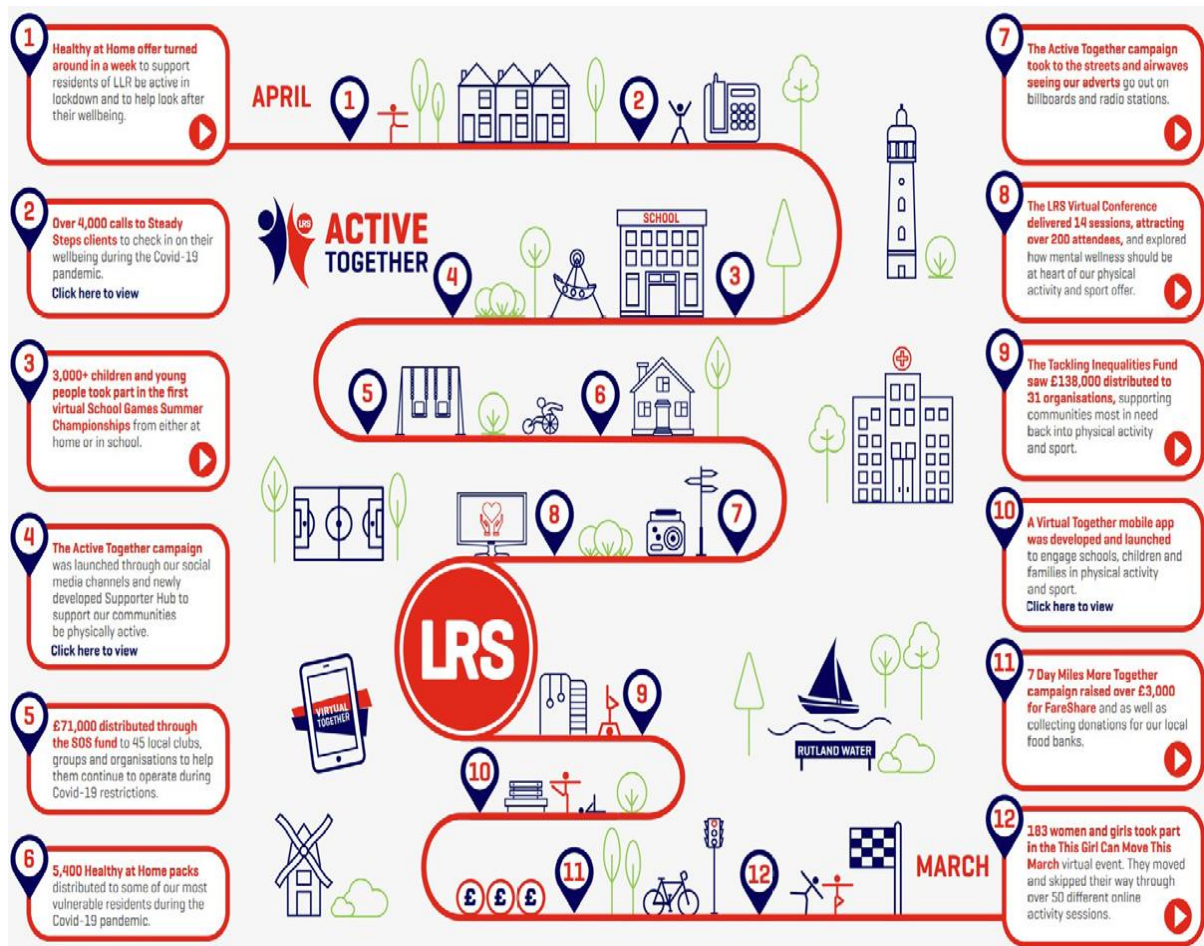
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**7.65. The Leicestershire and Rutland<sup>9</sup> Annual Review 2020/21 on physical activity and sport shows the impact of local authorities working cohesively and collectively with key partners to stimulate innovation and local delivery across its region for a twelve-month period.**

Community engagement included activities targeted at young people (i.e., virtual school sport and physical activity), activities for women and girls (i.e., 'Move this March') with its own dedicated hashtag - #Thisgirlcan – with a dedicated Facebook group providing encouragement and support. There was also the launch of the LRS Active Together campaign to raise awareness of physical activity.

7.66.

## Diagram showing 12 months of impact across Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland



The infographic above provides a comprehensive picture and highlights key achievements that the local authority working with system partners has helped shape and deliver (see diagram above)

**7.77. Public health services provide support and funding to projects in the city to encourage women and girls to participate, some examples:**

- a) Leicester City in the Community ran a premier league girls football programme from 2017 that supported over 280 girls to play football.
- b) Public health provides the local schools sports partnership now known as Inspire Together with enhanced funding to ensure a more holistic offer of health, wellbeing and sports is offered to schools in the city. Part of the funding arrangements identifies women and girls as a priority area, particularly secondary age girls who are more likely to drop out of formal sporting opportunities.
- c) Commissioned **'Beat the Street' in 2021, a city-wide game aimed to encourage physical activity amongst families.** The game gave points for distances walked and primary engagement was via primary schools. The children were motivated to gain points for their school to help them win prizes, this results in many children walking, cycling and scooting with their family both to and from school and also in the evenings and weekends. **Over 40,000 people played the 6-week game and saw 68% of inactive adults become active with a 10% increase in children active daily. 54% of participants were female.**

Targeted programmes (Older age, Ethnicity etc)

- d) Whilst Public health do not directly commission or deliver targeted physical activity we do support partners to deliver targeted projects such as Leicester Tigers with their Project Rugby Asian sports foundations project to actively support Asian women into rugby. We did this by supporting the club to directly target health professionals PE/School Sport & PA. Inspire Together also developed a mini-whispera concept to KS2 girls to provide specific provision of non-traditional activities to encourage girls to participate in PE/School Sport and the wider benefits this brings – leadership, employability, develop self-esteem = lifelong participation.

**7.78. Public Health services is fully aware of the barriers that many residents face in being physically active and as a result has developed more focus on encouraging people to be active through increased daily activity such as active travel, walking, cycling, scooting to school or work for example.**

Previous research in Leicester City 'Physical Activity and Sports Insight: Young Mums' states: *One group of women in Wycliffe had recently participated in a health education class hosted by their local community centre. They stated they were now more conscious about trying to walk quickly to raise their breathing rate as this was important for their health. However, it was difficult to always walk quickly if they had a child with them.*

**7.79. Recommendations identified by the task group:**

- 1) What is needed across the city (from all sectors) is powerful messaging, education and making it real to connect with women about the health benefits to physical activities and sports. Members felt that we could do more to promote mental health benefits from participating in exercise as part of marketing strategies.
- 2) Most resident would try a fitness tracker or health app if recommended by a health professional. Maybe this can be piloted for women who are interested.

**7.80.** Activity in parks and open spaces such as play with children and use of outdoor gyms. Gardening has become more prominent as a way of increasing physical activity and more importantly post covid as a way of reducing social isolation and improving mental health.

**7.81.** By encouraging daily activity that can be incorporated into daily lives is more achievable and sustainable than encouraging structured sport or exercise. Increases in daily activity can often be the gateway into someone participating in formal sport and exercise.

**7.82. LOOKING FORWARD: What else can be done in Leicester to increase women's participation that is not currently offered?**

*'Change the offer to suit women - don't expect women to change to fit sport and exercise' (Sport England).*

- a) Active Together Leicestershire working on expanding women's sports area and training more women's coaches and referees.
- b) Supporting women for behaviour change, upskilling and empowering to enable togetherness as this will then help to enable their children.
- c) We all come together in Leicester for sports and partnership working, but 'netball' should be included too.
- d) A facilitator (not a coach) of sports and activities needs to better understand what individuals need and help them to participate.

- e) Women need to be involved in sports governing bodies, and community leaders, to influence decision-making. Women remain less represented in leadership and coaching roles and face continued challenges in terms of equal pay and coverage in media.
- f) Gaps exist around community champions, ambassadors and mentors
- g) Videos and real stories are powerful to empower and influence women. Inspiring women with videos and real stories they can relate to can help to encourage participation.
- h) Increasing use of women role models and also sports women makes it more real, inspiring and interesting and women can relate to this in a positive way.

Good practice example:

*A mural of England women's rugby star, Emily Scarratt MBE, has been painted in Leicester to celebrate her achievements and her role in establishing the England Rugby women's team. **Emily, who was born and raised in Leicester, has gone on to be England's record point scorer and is currently Vice-Captain of the national team; she was awarded an MBE in 2021 for her service to the Rugby union.***

*Emily was supported by Active Together's GO GOLD Funding Programme (now Team Leicestershire Talent), for a number of years and has previously expressed her thanks saying "I was extremely fortunate to have been helped during my development through the GO GOLD Funding Programme. It provided valuable funds that enabled me to use the best training facilities and equipment to continue to push on and improve".*

- i) How you engage with women is key. Invite women for taster sessions and let them experience the activity. Create an environment where women feel comfortable, safe, valued and involved.
- j) For some women it is about getting away from family and into an activity (escapism). So the activity needs to be enjoyable. Create new ways that focus on health fitness and fun. Create new ways to educate, develop skills and progress women.
- k) For some women it's about socialness and togetherness, so come to an activity to enjoy the experience, for example previous research in Leicester City found:

*While mums wanted activities they could do with their children, one of their main motivators for participating in different activities was the chance to socialise with friends and meet other young mums. "That's the biggest thing, and I like to meet,*

*like, the mums that I've made friends with. That's the only time I would see them because I come to the mamas, baby thing sometimes" - participant from Wycliffe ward, Leicester City.*

*(Practitioners also highlighted the important role that activities can play in building social networks for young mums).*

Togetherness can make fitness and activities more attractive and for some women there is also greater safety in numbers. Socialising with friends is rewarding and bonding becomes a strong external motivator.

- Engagement with the local environment we are encouraging people to use our parks, open spaces, leisure centres and waterways to support their mental health and wellbeing, by promoting outdoor gyms and encouraging walking and cycling.
- Increasing the number of residents taking part in physical activity, through initiatives like Active Leicester and by working in partnership with organisations and communities, particularly those who are currently inactive.
- Supporting healthy ageing e.g. support for informal carers to improve their own physical and mental health and wellbeing by using cultural and community resources; and encourage older people to access leisure and cultural spaces in their local communities to overcome social isolation and improve mental and physical health.

**7.83.** A new five-year strategy is being developed to tackle the high levels of inactivity in the city. The strategy, called 'Turning the Tide on Inactivity' is due to launch in the New Year and will be a step change from previous strategies, as it will focus on the inactive. Women and Girls feature, as a priority group, as we know they participate less than their male counterparts in the city. We hope that the strategy will shine a light on the priority groups and align organisations work themes and resources to where it is most needed.

**7.84.** Active Leicester will also be piloting an approach in one of its centres to become a health and wellbeing hub. We know that just 26% of city residents utilise a local leisure centre. Therefore, there is far more that the service needs to do to encourage a wider audience to use the service. The learning from this pilot we hope to rollout across the service.

The pilot will focus on the following objectives:

1. Increase physical activity rates and reduce inactivity rates, in and around the pilot location. Location defined as a 20-minute walk to the centre.

2. Better skilled and empathetic workforce, to support behaviour change for inactive residents.
3. Improved reach, systems, processes, and programmes that support a customer's journey to being active.
4. Improve collaboration with internal and external partners.

## **8. Women in Sport Review – Supporting Research**

**Active Lives Adult Survey 2020 – 2021** [PowerPoint Presentation \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)

**Active Lives Children and Young People Survey 2020 – 2021** [PowerPoint Presentation \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)

**This Girl Can Campaign Summary** [Campaign-Summary.pdf \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)

**Go Where Women Are Insight** [PowerPoint Presentation \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)

[PowerPoint Presentation \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com) – Barriers

[PowerPoint Presentation \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com) - Motivations

**LLEP Area Profile** [LLEP-Area-Profile-Leicester.pdf](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com)

**Active Together Physical Activity and Wellbeing Resident Survey 2021: Least Active Summary Report** [Physical Activity and Wellbeing Resident Survey 2021: Least Active Summary Report | Active Together \(active-together.org\)](https://active-together.org)

**Women's Sporting Journeys: How to keep women engaged in sport throughout their lives** [Women's Sporting Journeys: How to keep women engaged in sport throughout their lives – London Sport Insight Portal](https://london.sportinsightportal.org) – Will need to be downloaded

**Teenage Girls in Lockdown Infographic** [WIS TDA33909 Infographic Teenagers-in-Lockdown-003 \(womeninsport.org\)](https://womeninsport.org)

**Additional Adjustable Online Data** [Active Lives | Results \(sportengland.org\)](https://sportengland.org)

[Physical Activity - Data - PHE](https://sportengland.org)

[Area reports | Sport England](https://sportengland.org)

## **9. Appendices:**

App A.: Task Group Survey responses

App B: Active Leicester: Women in Sport Current Best Practice

App C: Active Leicester: Local Context and Future Vision

## **10. Contacts**

Councillor Elaine Halford,  
Chair of the task group  
Email: Leicester City Council  
<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/>

Anita Patel, Scrutiny Policy Officer  
Email: [Anita.Patel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Anita.Patel@leicester.gov.uk)

## 11. Financial, Legal and Other Implications

### Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Rohit Rughani, Principal Accountant

### Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from these recommendations, but legal advice should be sought if future decisions are to be taken that affect operational practice.

Kevin Carter, Head of Law - Commercial, Property & Planning

### Equality Implications

All public bodies 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 unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. In doing so, they must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

This report highlights several equalities issues particularly related to the protected characteristic of 'sex' in relation to providing sport and physical activities for women in the city. The recommendations in the report may lead to positive outcomes for women and people of all protected characteristics if proposals are developed. There does need to be greater consideration given to the impacts on women that might share some of the other protected characteristics and how they may need to be engaged with differently, for example, women with a disability may not be able to partake in 'conventional' physical exercise and engagement for women of different races and religions may also need to be different to encourage participation.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Kalvaran Sandhu, Equalities Manager, Ext 37 6344



**Climate change implications**

There are no Climate Emergency implications arising from this report.

**‘Executive Response to Scrutiny’ template**

The executive will respond to the next scrutiny meeting after a review report has been presented with the table below updated as part of that response.

Scrutiny Recommendation	Executive Decision	Progress/Action	Timescales



## Sports and physical activities survey

<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/comms/sports-survey>

This report was created on Monday 31 October 2022 at 07:55

The activity ran from 05/09/2022 to 30/10/2022

Responses to this survey: **192**

### What is your postcode?

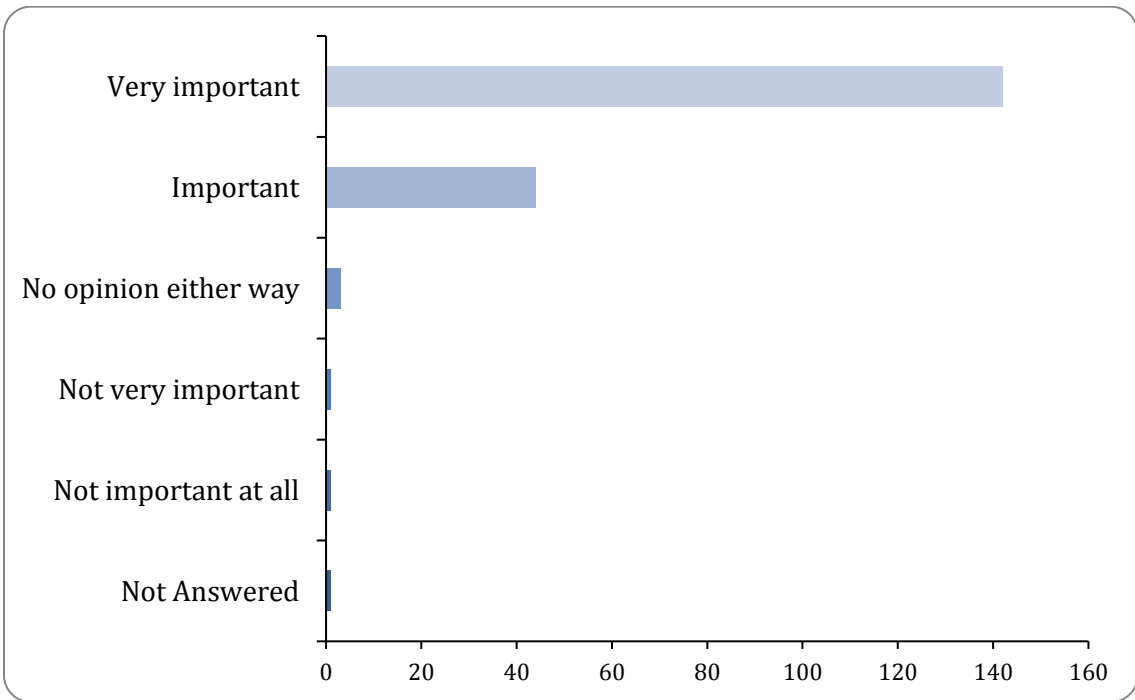
#### Postcode

There were 191 responses to this part of the question.

### How important do you think sport and physical activity is in leading a happy and healthy life?

#### sport important

There were 191 responses to this part of the question.



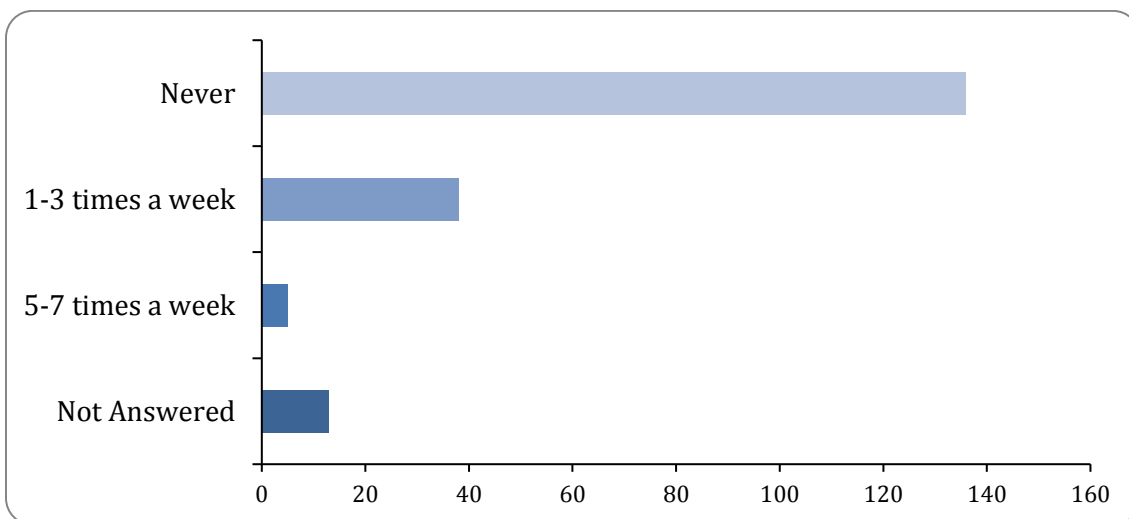
## APPENDIX A

Option	Total	Percent
Very important	142	73.96%
Important	44	22.92%
No opinion either way	3	1.56%
Not very important	1	0.52%
Not important at all	1	0.52%
Not Answered	1	0.52%

### How often do you participate in paid for physical activities at these locations?

paid-for activity - Community facility (community centre, school, place of worship, etc)

There were 179 responses to this part of the question.

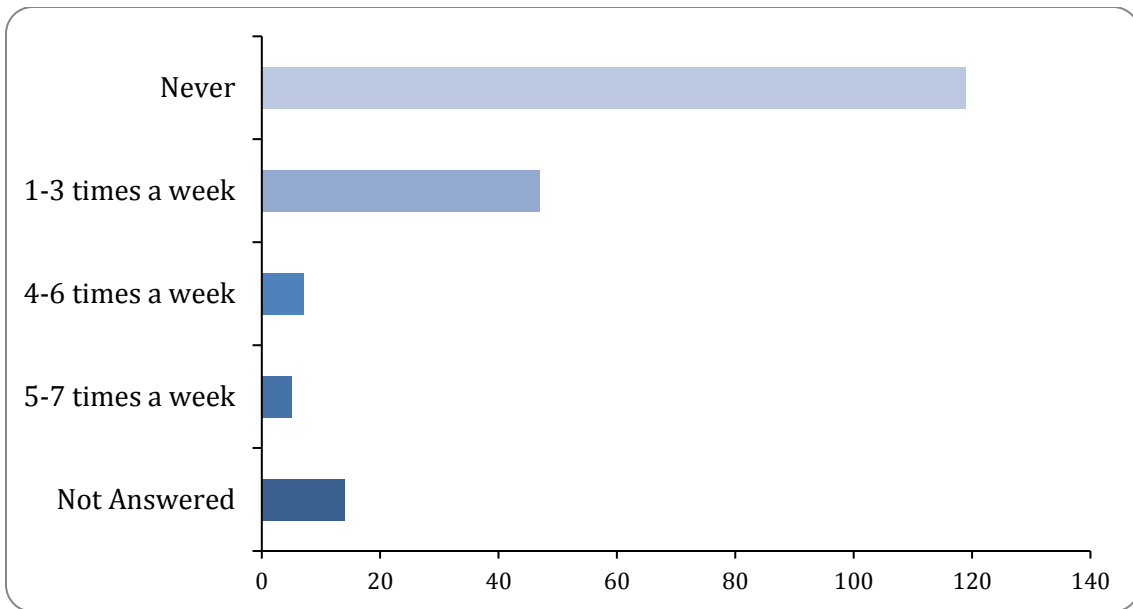


Option	Total	Percent
Never	136	70.83%
1-3 times a week	38	19.79%
4-6 times a week	0	0.00%
5-7 times a week	5	2.60%
Not Answered	13	6.77%

### paid-for activity - Leicester City Council Leisure Centre

There were 178 responses to this part of the question.

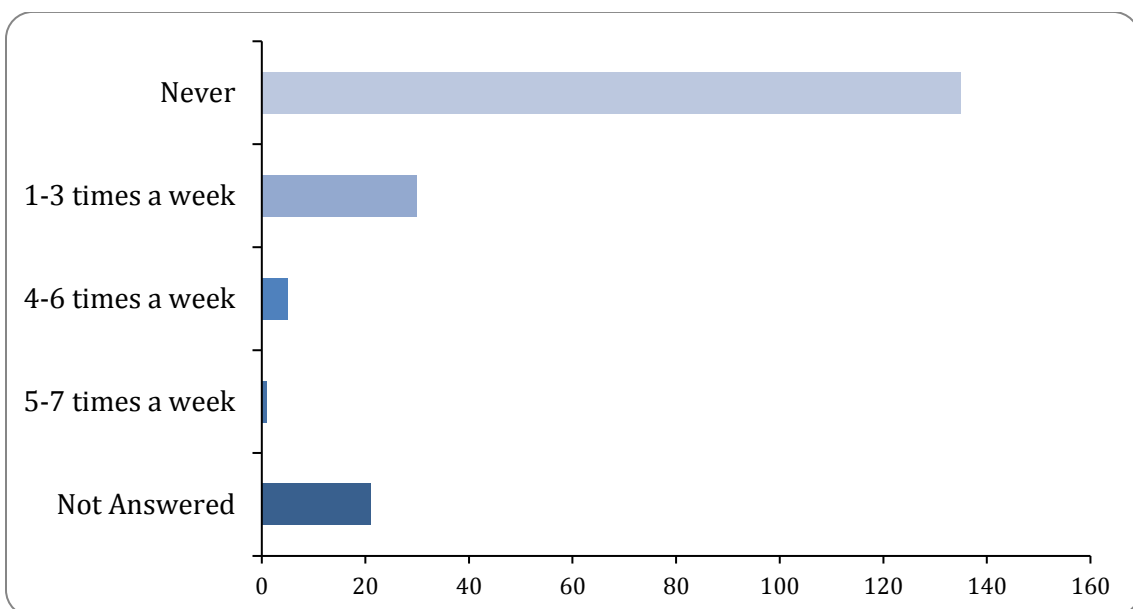
## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
Never	119	61.98%
1-3 times a week	47	24.48%
4-6 times a week	7	3.65%
5-7 times a week	5	2.60%
Not Answered	14	7.29%

### paid-for activity - Private Gym

There were 171 responses to this part of the question.

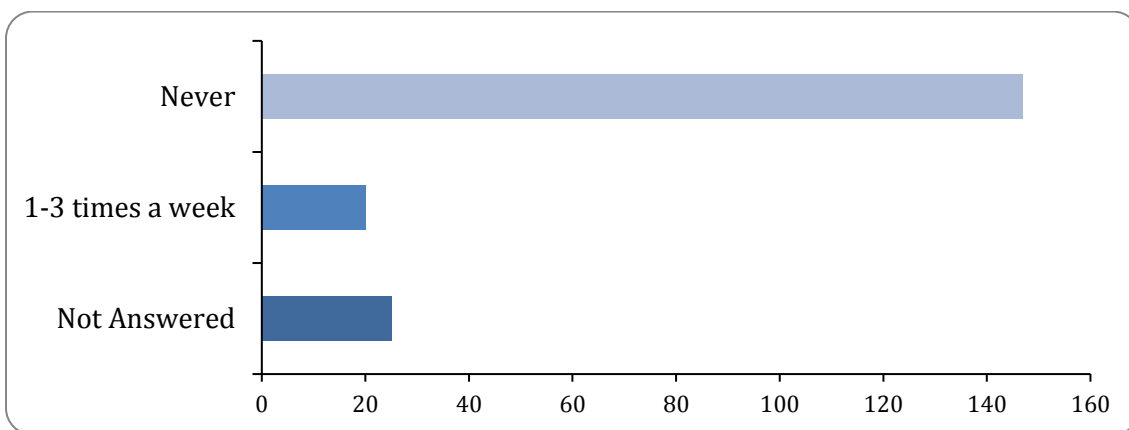


## APPENDIX A

Option	Total	Percent
Never	135	70.31%
1-3 times a week	30	15.62%
4-6 times a week	5	2.60%
5-7 times a week	1	0.52%
Not Answered	21	10.94%

### paid-for activity - Sports Club

There were 167 responses to this part of the question.

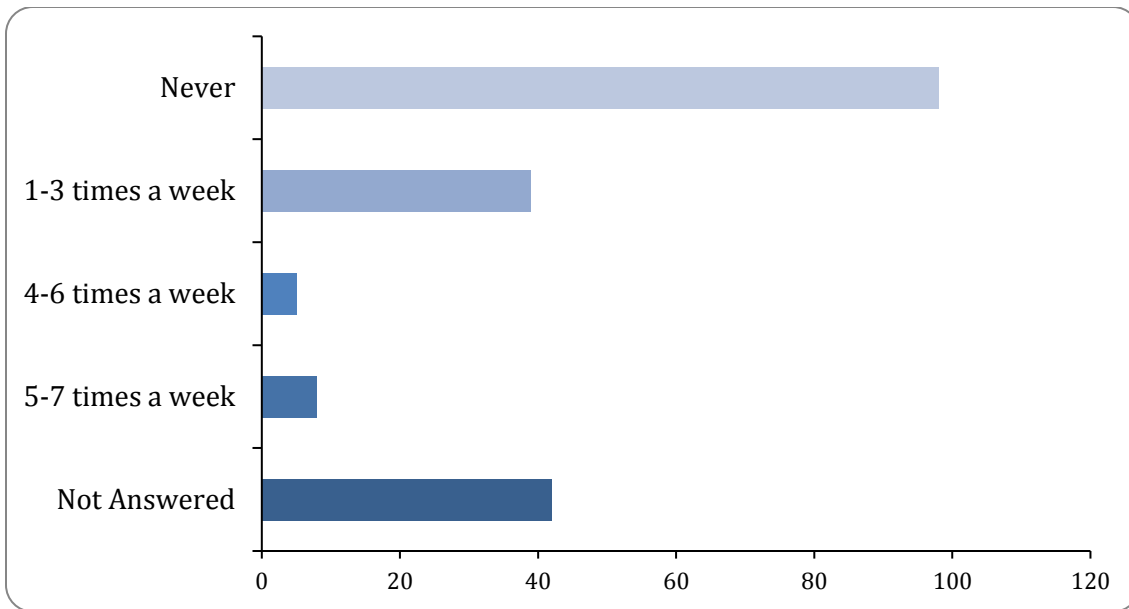


Option	Total	Percent
Never	147	76.56%
1-3 times a week	20	10.42%
4-6 times a week	0	0.00%
5-7 times a week	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	13.02%

### paid-for activity - Other

There were 150 responses to this part of the question.

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Option	Total	Percent
Never	98	51.04%
1-3 times a week	39	20.31%
4-6 times a week	5	2.60%
5-7 times a week	8	4.17%
Not Answered	42	21.88%

### Other paid-for activity

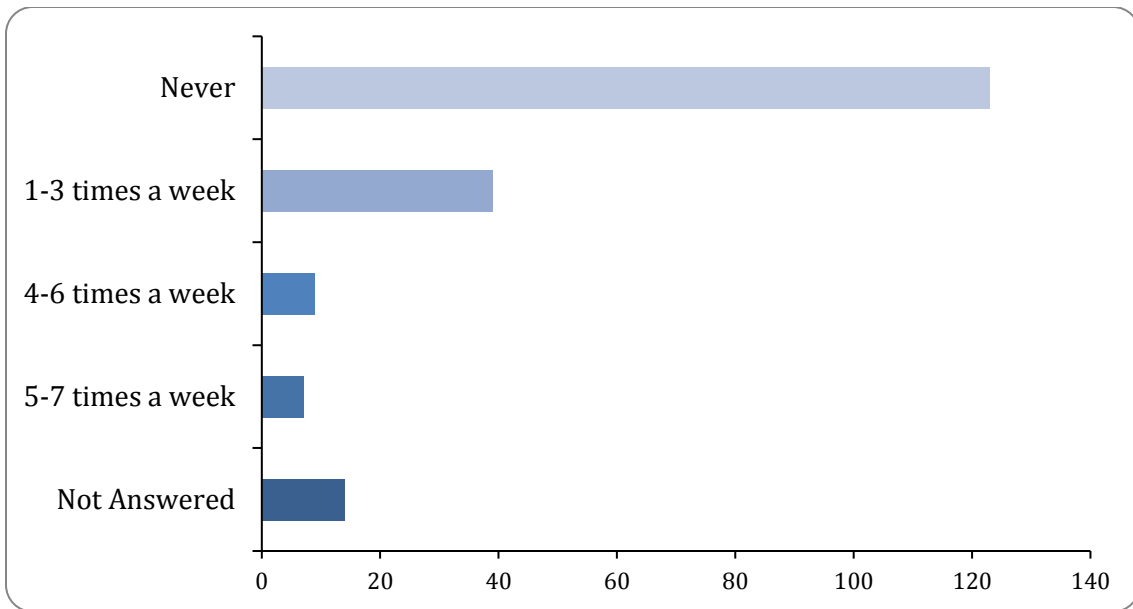
There were 52 responses to this part of the question.

### How often do you participate in recreational, non paid for physical activity per week?

#### non paid for activity - Cycle to work or school

There were 178 responses to this part of the question.

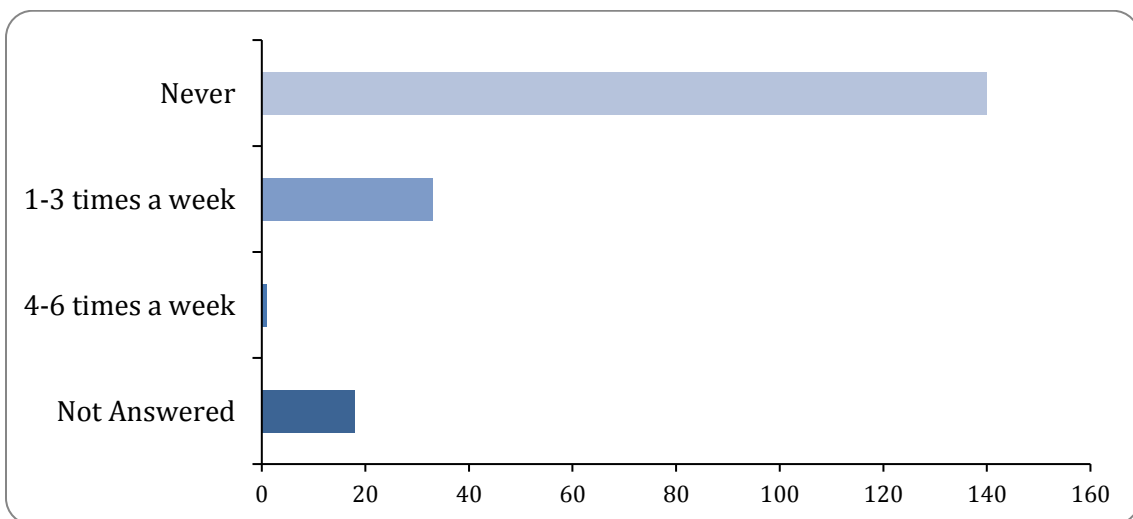
## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
Never	123	64.06%
1-3 times a week	39	20.31%
4-6 times a week	9	4.69%
5-7 times a week	7	3.65%
Not Answered	14	7.29%

**non paid for activity - Free organised activities (Parkrun, informal sports groups, etc)**

There were 174 responses to this part of the question.



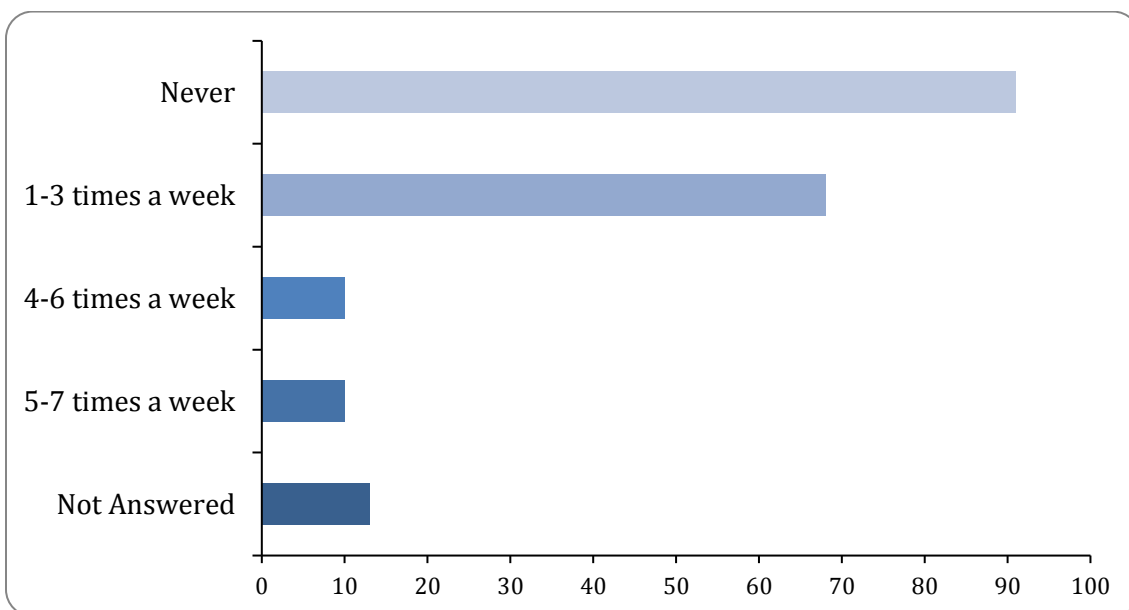


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Option	Total	Percent
Never	140	72.92%
1-3 times a week	33	17.19%
4-6 times a week	1	0.52%
5-7 times a week	0	0.00%
Not Answered	18	9.38%

### non paid for activity - Home workout (on your own)

There were 179 responses to this part of the question.

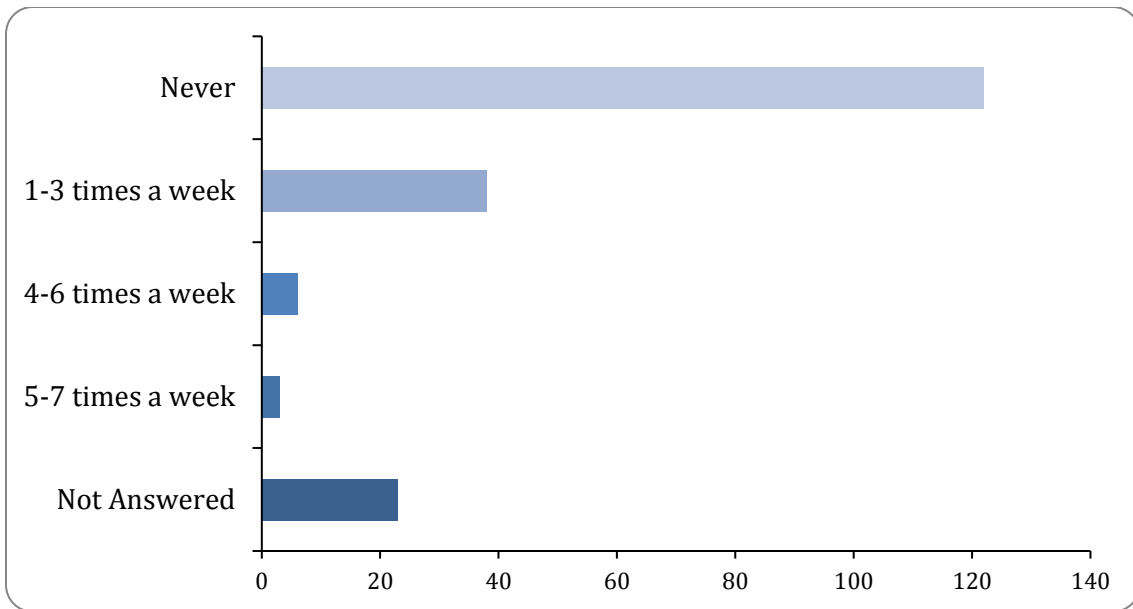


Option	Total	Percent
Never	91	47.40%
1-3 times a week	68	35.42%
4-6 times a week	10	5.21%
5-7 times a week	10	5.21%
Not Answered	13	6.77%

### non paid for activity - Home workout (online)

There were 169 responses to this part of the question.

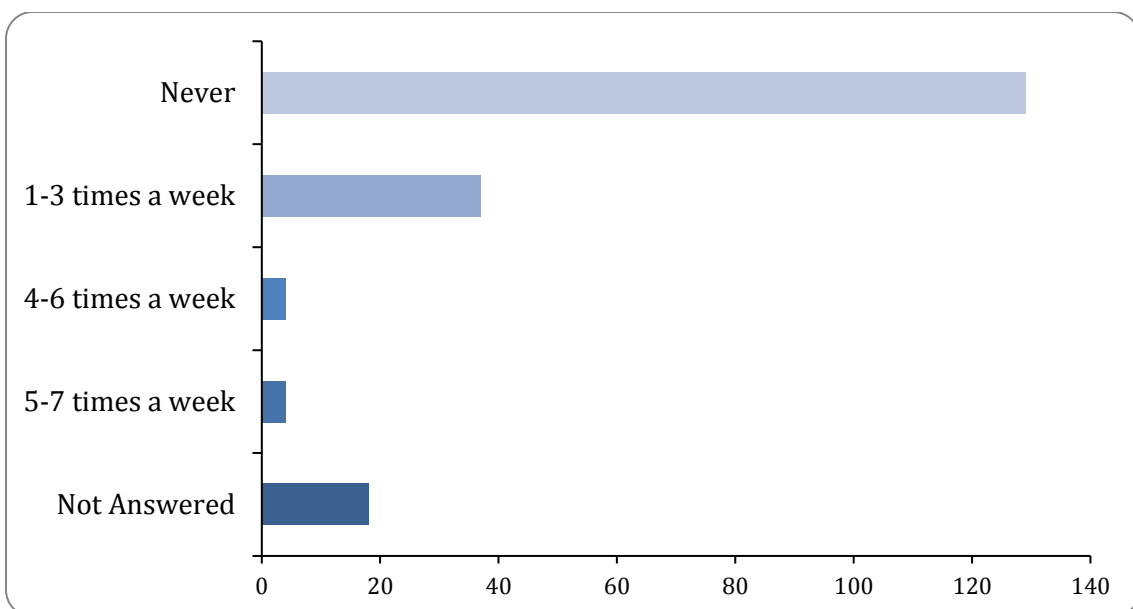
## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
Never	122	63.54%
1-3 times a week	38	19.79%
4-6 times a week	6	3.12%
5-7 times a week	3	1.56%
Not Answered	23	11.98%

### non paid for activity - Local park / recreational ground workout

There were 174 responses to this part of the question.

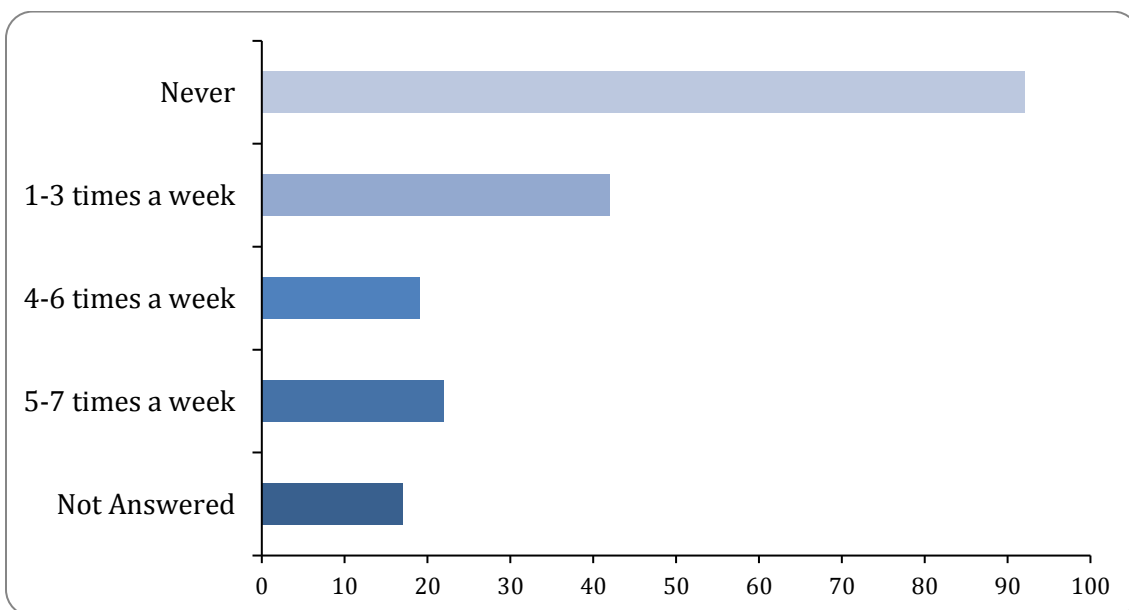


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Option	Total	Percent
Never	129	67.19%
1-3 times a week	37	19.27%
4-6 times a week	4	2.08%
5-7 times a week	4	2.08%
Not Answered	18	9.38%

### non paid for activity - Walk to work or school

There were 175 responses to this part of the question.

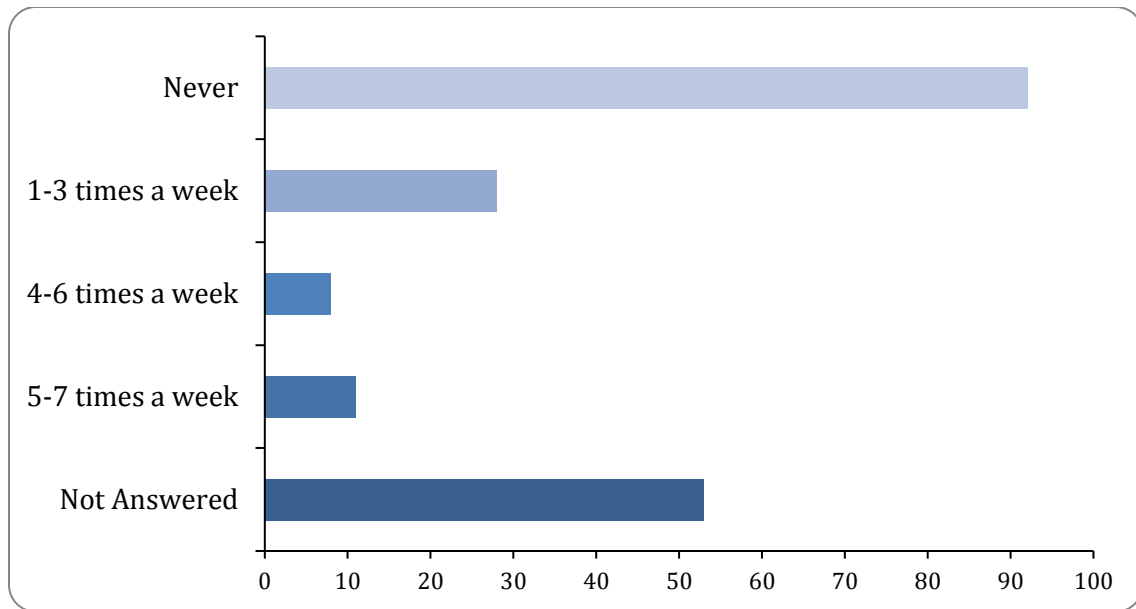


Option	Total	Percent
Never	92	47.92%
1-3 times a week	42	21.88%
4-6 times a week	19	9.90%
5-7 times a week	22	11.46%
Not Answered	17	8.85%

### non paid for activity - Other

There were 139 responses to this part of the question.

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Option	Total	Percent
Never	92	47.92%
1-3 times a week	28	14.58%
4-6 times a week	8	4.17%
5-7 times a week	11	5.73%
Not Answered	53	27.60%

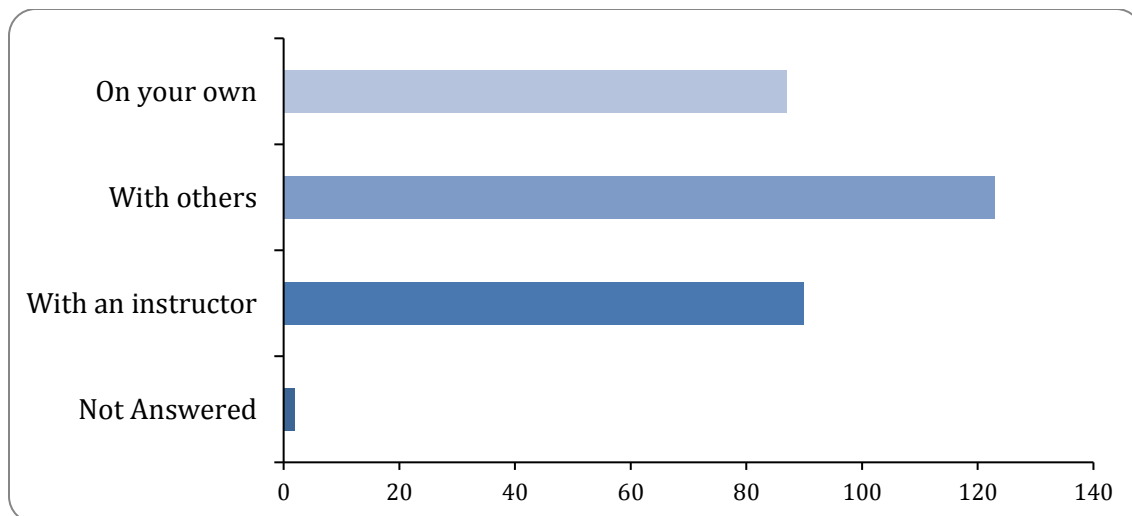
### Other paid-for activity

There were 50 responses to this part of the question.

### Do you prefer participating in physical activity: activity preferences

There were 190 responses to this part of the question.

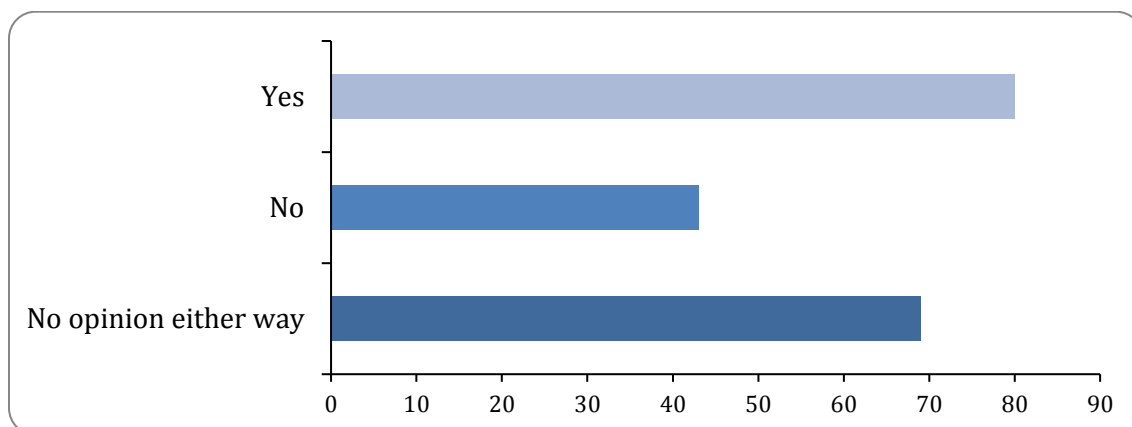
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Option	Total	Percent
On your own	87	45.31%
With others	123	64.06%
With an instructor	90	46.88%
Not Answered	2	1.04%

### Have you been inspired by seeing more women's sport, and women's sporting success, on TV? (e.g. The Lionesses, The Commonwealth Games, The Hundred) TV inspired

There were 192 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	80	41.67%

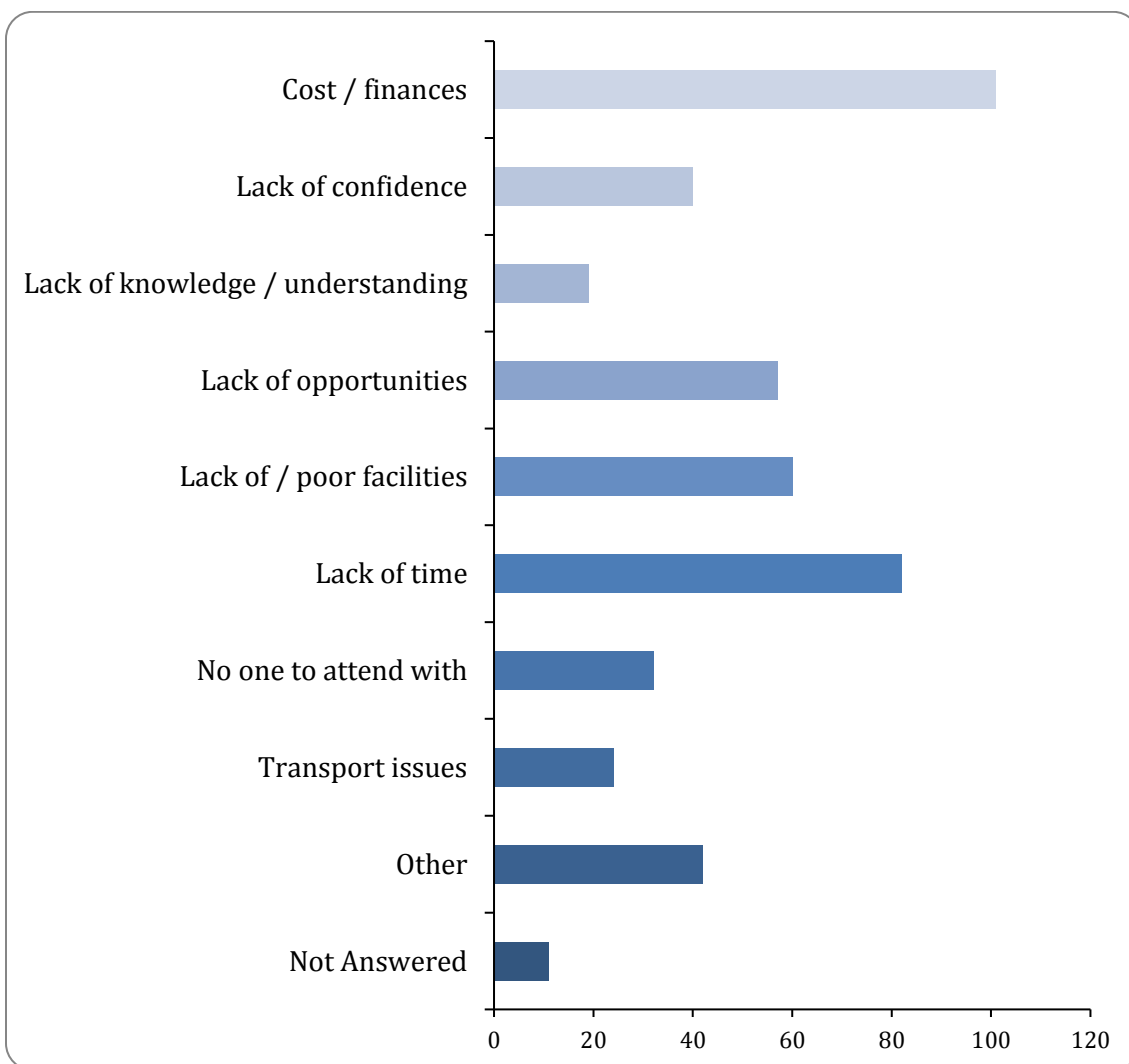
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<b>No</b>	43	22.40%
<b>No opinion either way</b>	69	35.94%
<b>Not Answered</b>	0	0.00%

**What (if any) barriers stop you participating in sport and physical activity?  
(please tick all that apply)**

**barriers**

There were 181 responses to this part of the question.



<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Cost / finances</b>	101	52.60%

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<b>Lack of confidence</b>	40	20.83%
<b>Lack of knowledge / understanding</b>	19	9.90%
<b>Lack of opportunities</b>	57	29.69%
<b>Lack of / poor facilities</b>	60	31.25%
<b>Lack of time</b>	82	42.71%
<b>No one to attend with</b>	32	16.67%
<b>Transport issues</b>	24	12.50%
<b>Other</b>	42	21.88%
<b>Not Answered</b>	11	5.73%

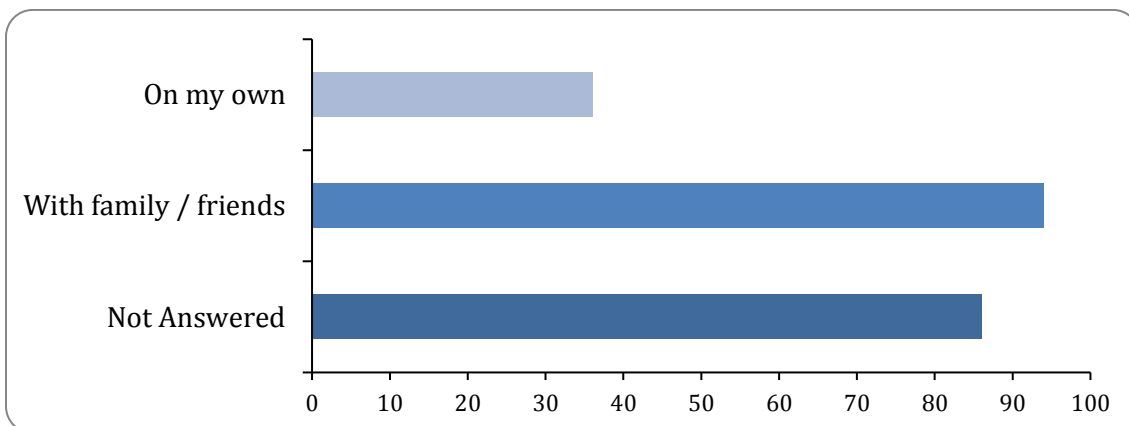
### Other barriers

There were 51 responses to this part of the question.

**Would you consider taking up a physical activity if it was integrated with another hobby or interest?**

**package options - Afternoon tea**

There were 106 responses to this part of the question.

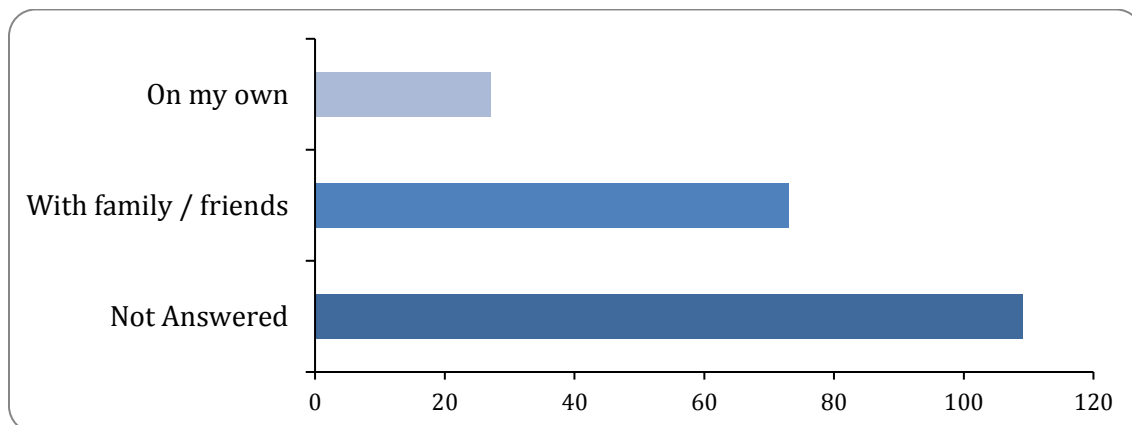


Option	Total	Percent
<b>On my own</b>	36	18.75%
<b>With family / friends</b>	94	48.96%
<b>Not Answered</b>	86	44.79%

**package options - A quiz**

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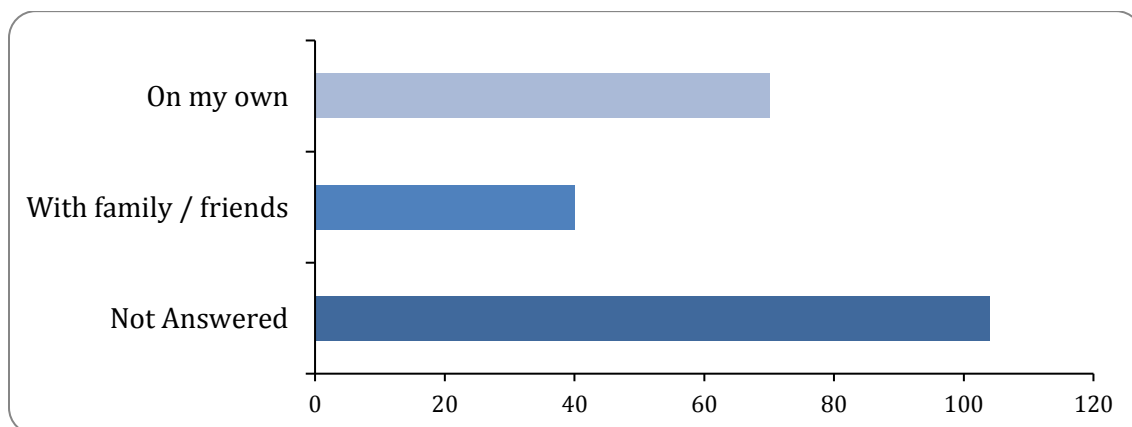
There were 83 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
On my own	27	14.06%
With family / friends	73	38.02%
Not Answered	109	56.77%

### package options - Beauty treatment

There were 88 responses to this part of the question.



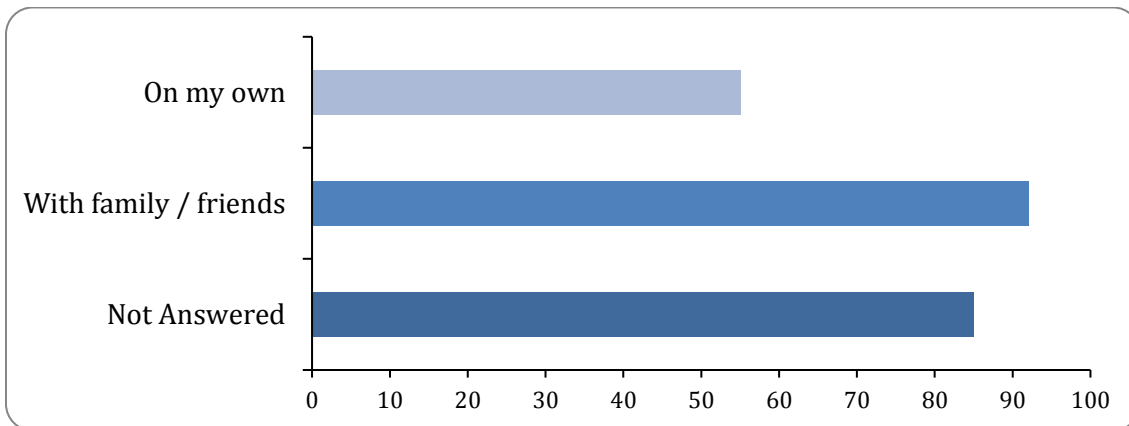
Option	Total	Percent
On my own	70	36.46%
With family / friends	40	20.83%
Not Answered	104	54.17%

### package options - Charity walk or jog



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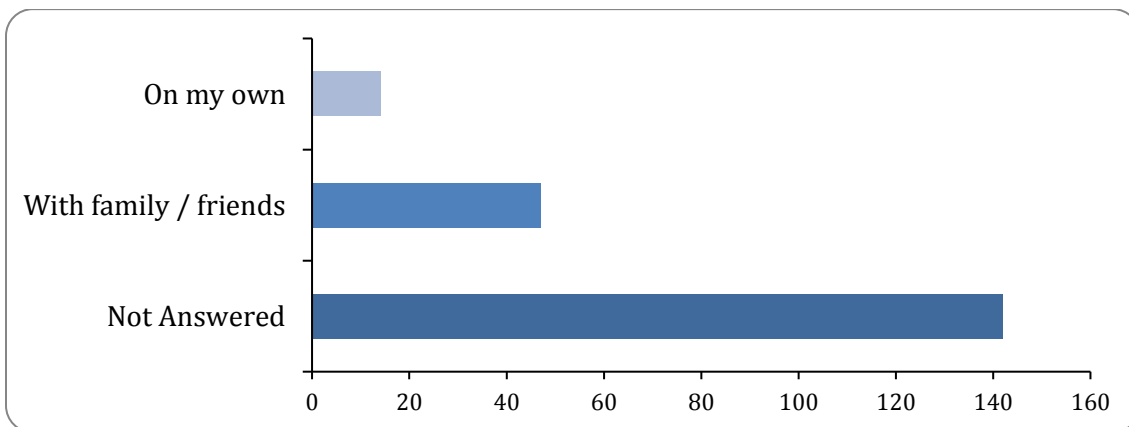
There were 107 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
On my own	55	28.65%
With family / friends	92	47.92%
Not Answered	85	44.27%

### package options - Karaoke

There were 50 responses to this part of the question.

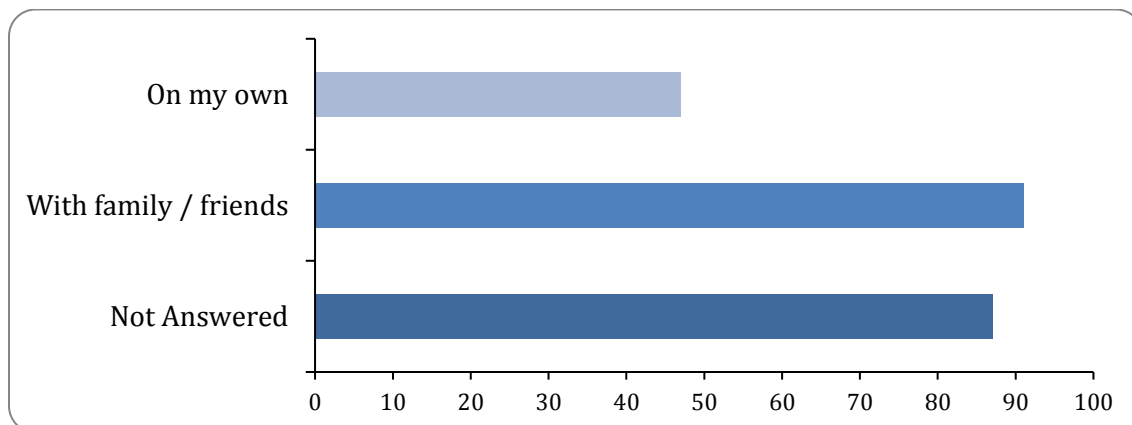


Option	Total	Percent
On my own	14	7.29%
With family / friends	47	24.48%
Not Answered	142	73.96%

### package options - Lunch

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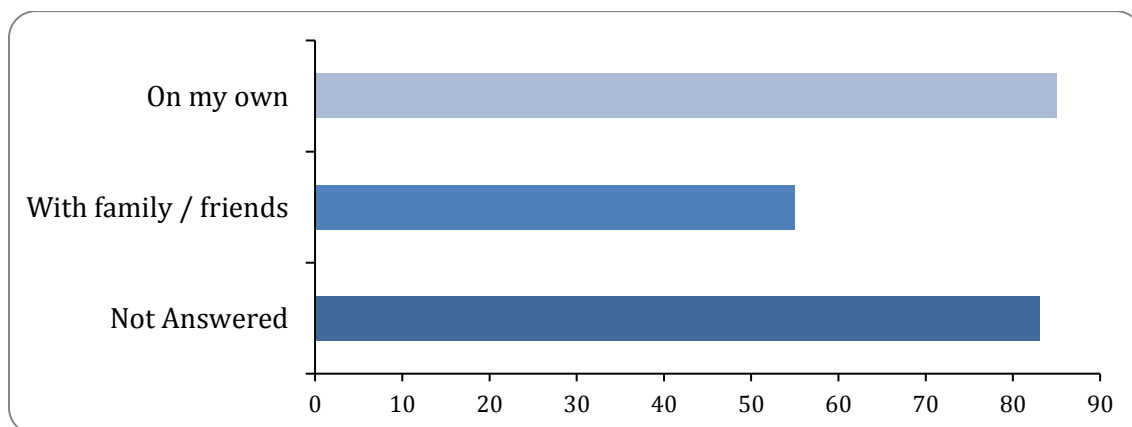
There were 105 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
On my own	47	24.48%
With family / friends	91	47.40%
Not Answered	87	45.31%

### package options - Mindfulness

There were 109 responses to this part of the question.

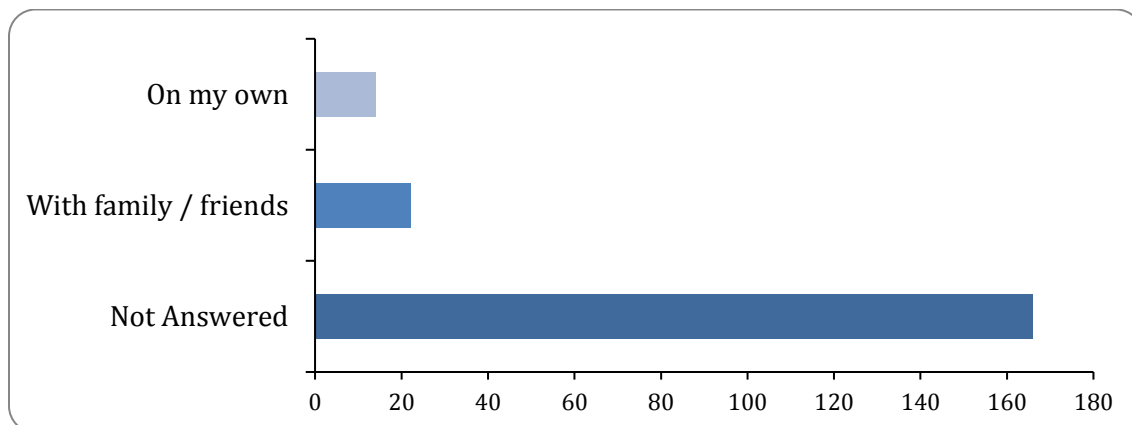


Option	Total	Percent
On my own	85	44.27%
With family / friends	55	28.65%
Not Answered	83	43.23%

### package options - Something else

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There were 26 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
On my own	14	7.29%
With family / friends	22	11.46%
Not Answered	166	86.46%

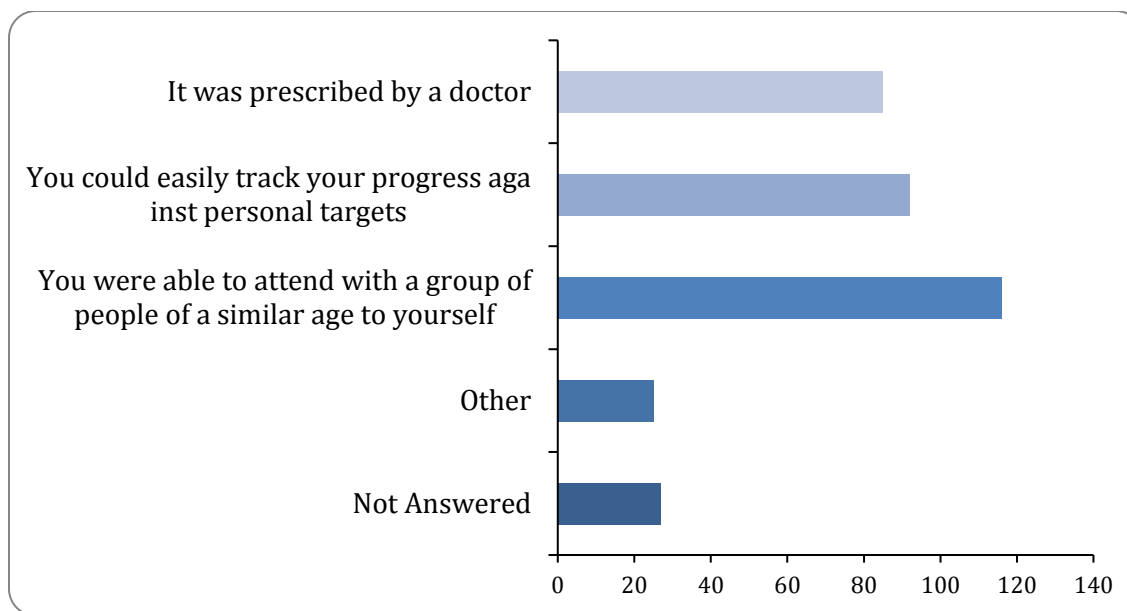
### Other package option

There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

### Would you consider taking up a physical activity if... activity preferences 2

There were 165 responses to this part of the question.

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Option	Total	Percent
It was prescribed by a doctor	85	44.27%
You could easily track your progress against personal targets	92	47.92%
You were able to attend with a group of people of a similar age to yourself	116	60.42%
Other	25	13.02%
Not Answered	27	14.06%

### Other activity preferences 2

There were 32 responses to this part of the question.

### Do you have any final comments on sports and physical activities in Leicester?

#### Final comments

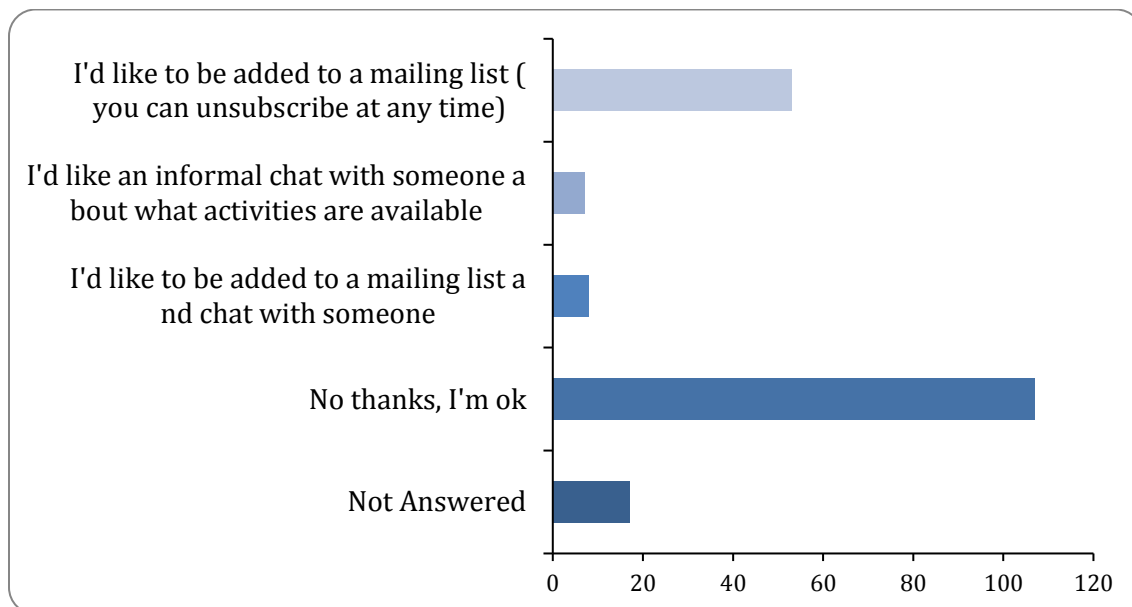
There were 101 responses to this part of the question.

### Would you like to receive information / talk to someone about sports / leisure activities that would benefit you and fit in with your lifestyle?

#### contact choices

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There were 175 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
I'd like to be added to a mailing list (you can unsubscribe at any time)	53	27.60%
I'd like an informal chat with someone about what activities are available	7	3.65%
I'd like to be added to a mailing list and chat with someone	8	4.17%
No thanks, I'm ok	107	55.73%
Not Answered	17	8.85%

### Your contact details (if you would like more information)

#### Name

There were 68 responses to this part of the question.

#### Email

There were 68 responses to this part of the question.

#### Contact number

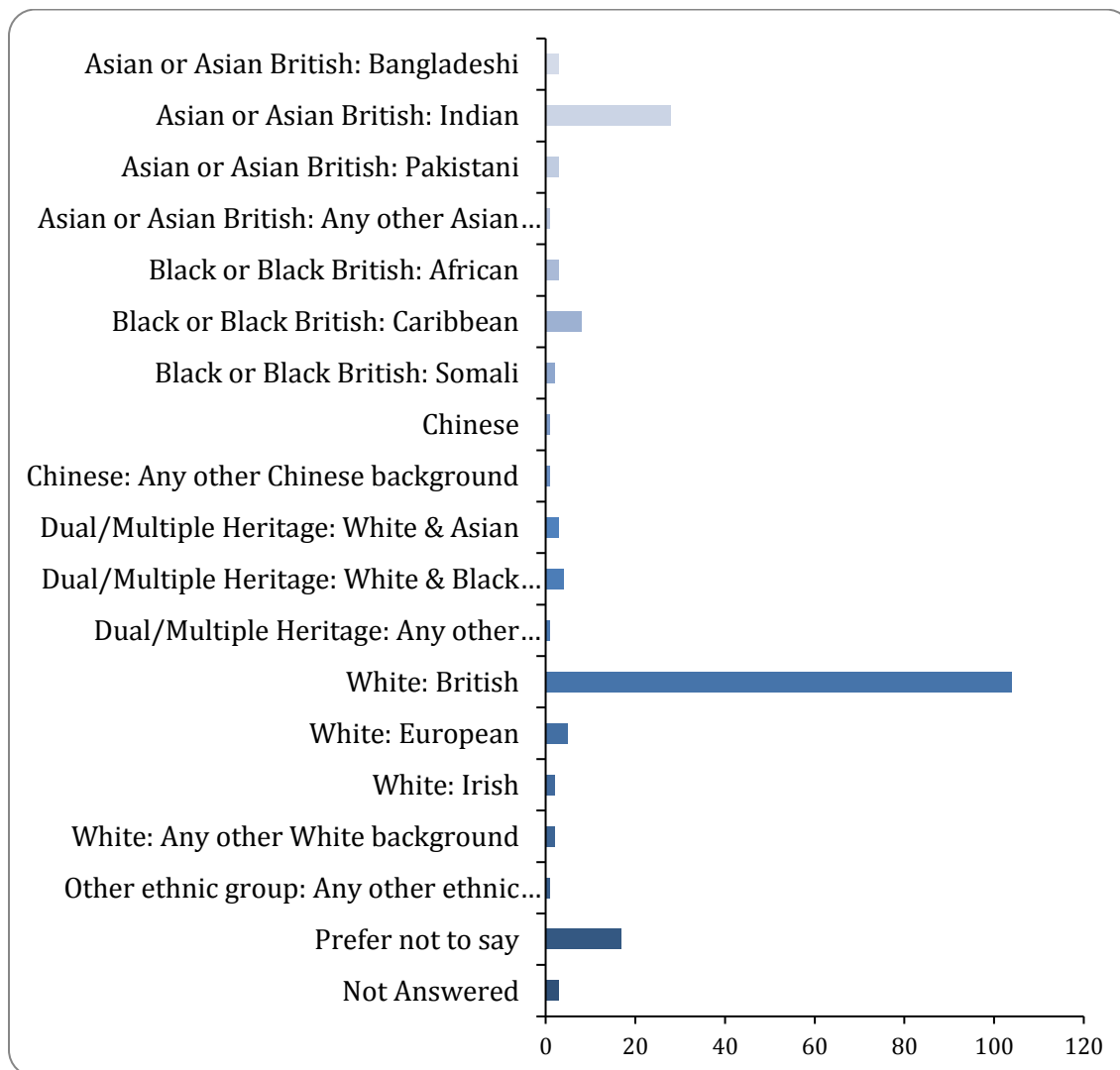
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There were 42 responses to this part of the question.

### Ethnic background:

#### Ethnicity

There were 189 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	3	1.56%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	28	14.58%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	3	1.56%
Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background	1	0.52%
Black or Black British: African	3	1.56%

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<b>Black or Black British: Caribbean</b>	8	4.17%
<b>Black or Black British: Somali</b>	2	1.04%
<b>Black or Black British: Any other Black background</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Chinese</b>	1	0.52%
<b>Chinese: Any other Chinese background</b>	1	0.52%
<b>Dual/Multiple Heritage: White &amp; Asian</b>	3	1.56%
<b>Dual/Multiple Heritage: White &amp; Black African</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Dual/Multiple Heritage: White &amp; Black Caribbean</b>	4	2.08%
<b>Dual/Multiple Heritage: Any other heritage background</b>	1	0.52%
<b>White: British</b>	104	54.17%
<b>White: European</b>	5	2.60%
<b>White: Irish</b>	2	1.04%
<b>White: Any other White background</b>	2	1.04%
<b>Other ethnic group: Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group</b>	1	0.52%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	17	8.85%
<b>Not Answered</b>	3	1.56%

**If you said your ethnic group was one of the 'Other' categories, please tell us what this is:**

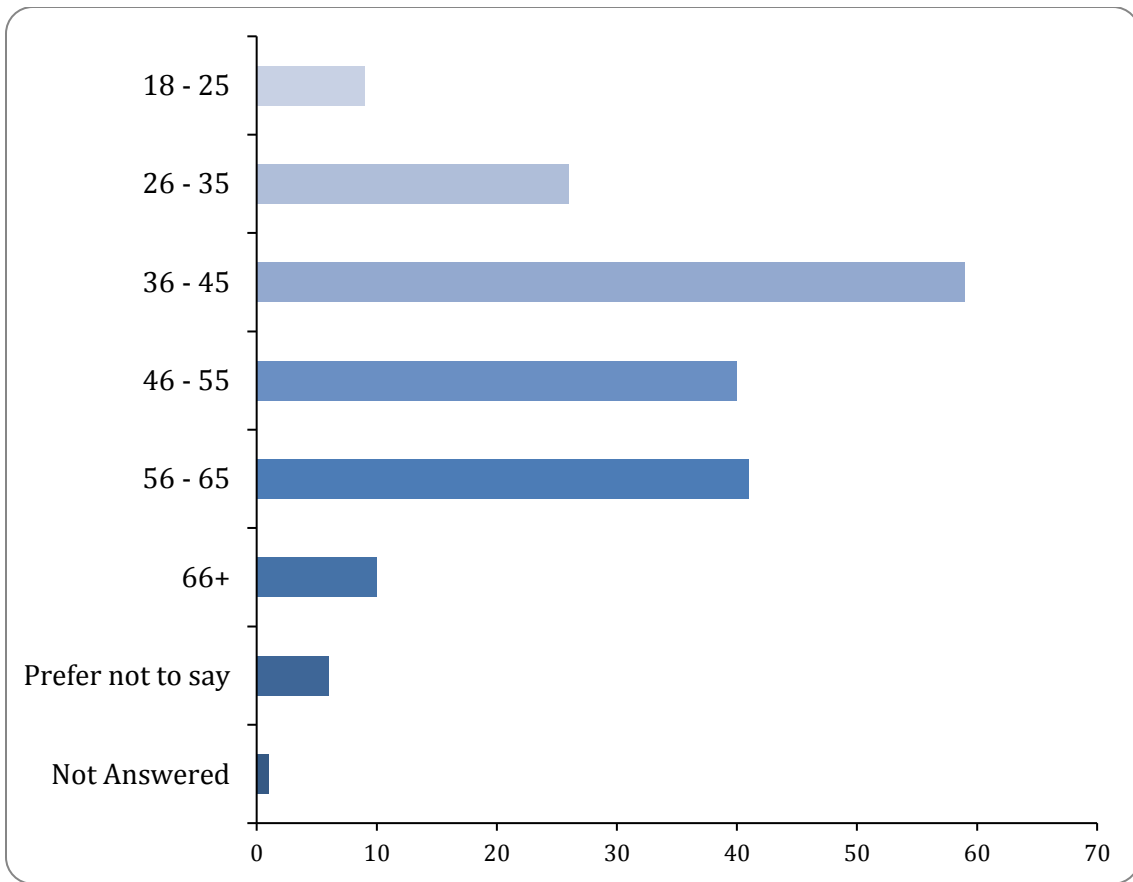
There were 5 responses to this part of the question.

**Age:**

**Age**

There were 191 responses to this part of the question.

## APPENDIX A



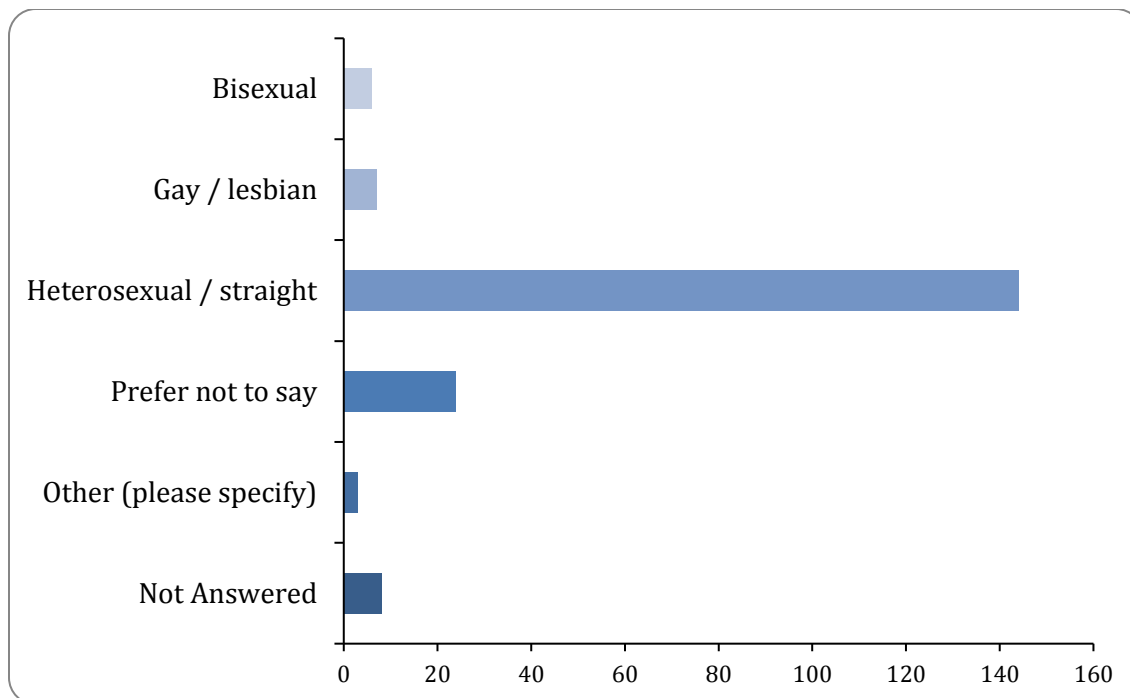
Option	Total	Percent
under 18	0	0.00%
18 - 25	9	4.69%
26 - 35	26	13.54%
36 - 45	59	30.73%
46 - 55	40	20.83%
56 - 65	41	21.35%
66+	10	5.21%
Prefer not to say	6	3.12%
Not Answered	1	0.52%

### Sexual orientation. Do you consider yourself to be ... sexuality

There were 184 responses to this part of the question.



## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
Bisexual	6	3.12%
Gay / lesbian	7	3.65%
Heterosexual / straight	144	75.00%
Prefer not to say	24	12.50%
Other (please specify)	3	1.56%
Not Answered	8	4.17%

### Other sex

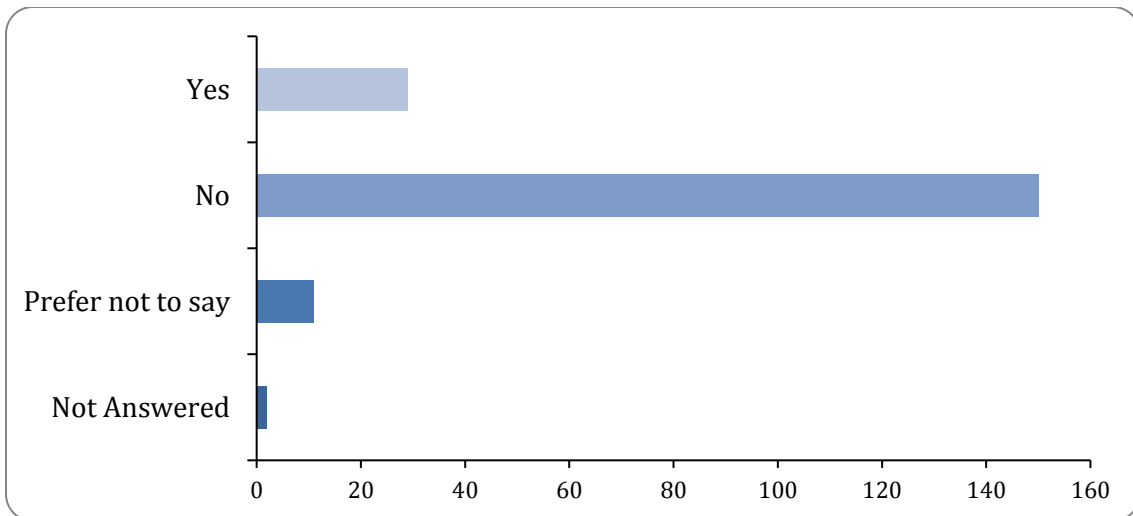
There were 4 responses to this part of the question.

### Disability

#### Q7

There were 190 responses to this part of the question.

## APPENDIX A

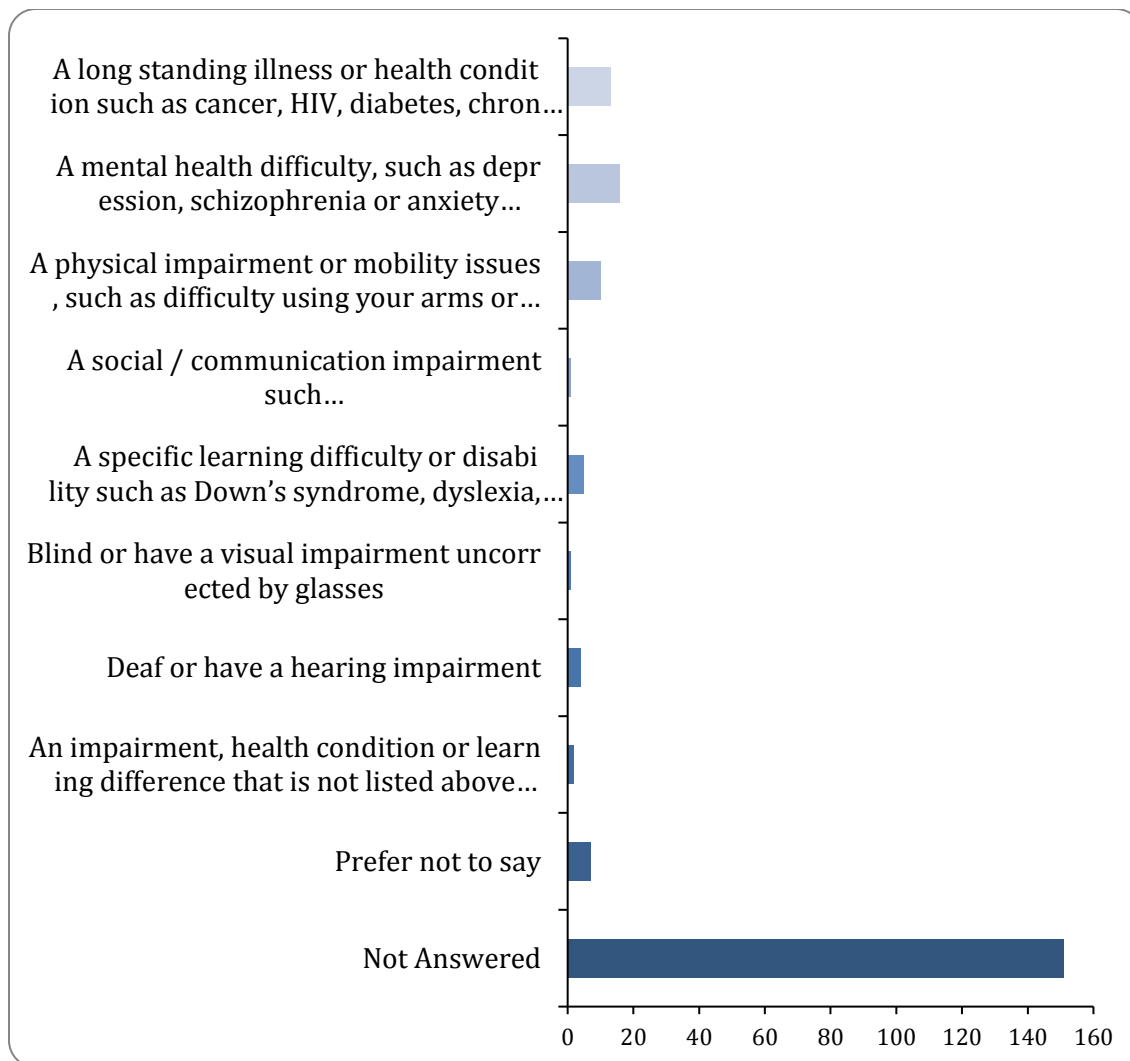


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	29	15.10%
No	150	78.12%
Prefer not to say	11	5.73%
Not Answered	2	1.04%

### Disability detail

There were 41 responses to this part of the question.

## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy	13	6.77%
A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder	16	8.33%
A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches	10	5.21%
A social / communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome / other autistic spectrum disorder	1	0.52%

## APPENDIX A

<b>A specific learning difficulty or disability such as Down's syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D</b>	5	2.60%
<b>Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses</b>	1	0.52%
<b>Deaf or have a hearing impairment</b>	4	2.08%
<b>An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed above (specify if you wish)</b>	2	1.04%
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	7	3.65%
<b>Other</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Not Answered</b>	151	78.65%

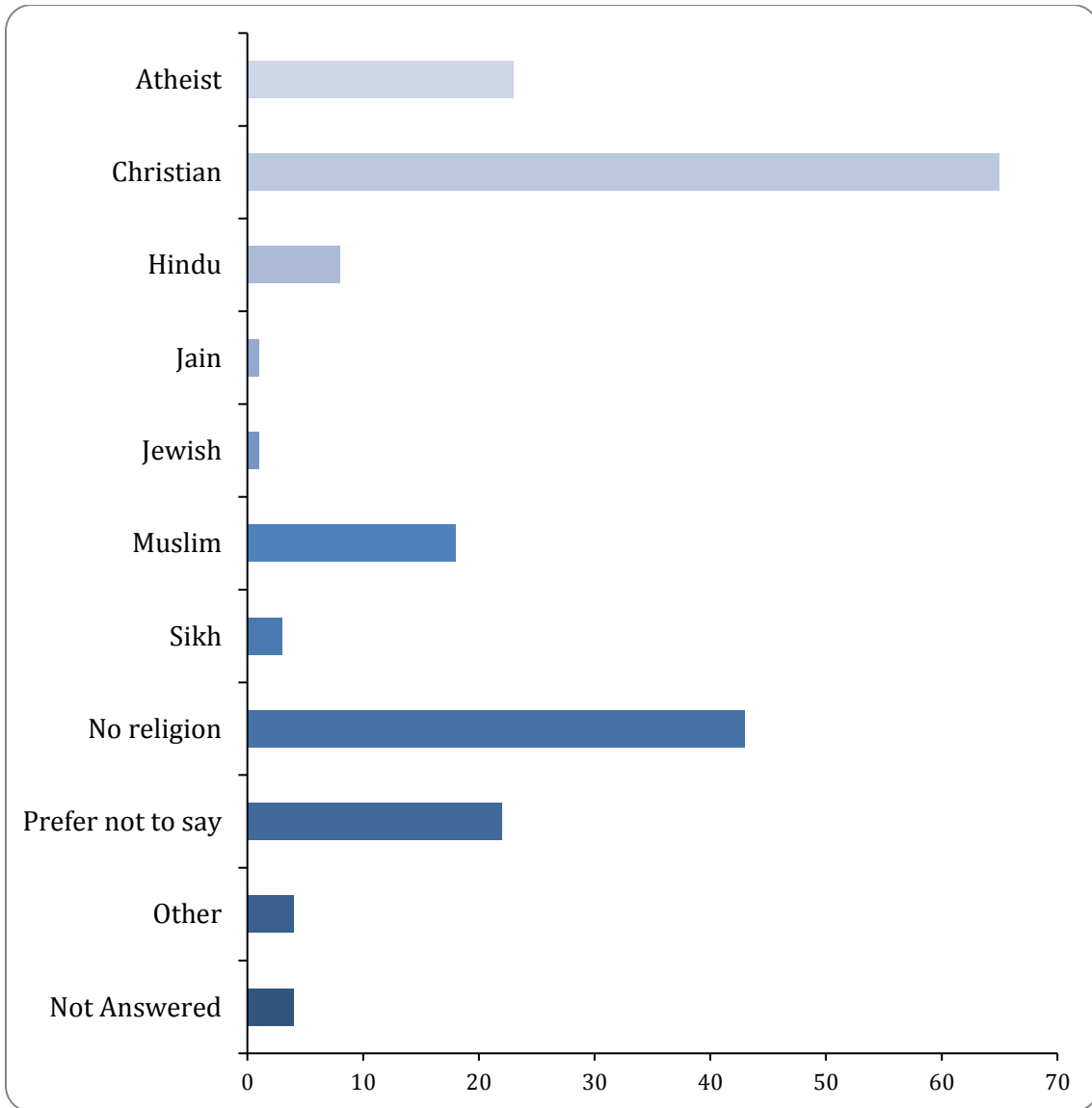
### **Other disability**

There were 4 responses to this part of the question.

### **How would you define your religion or belief? religion**

There were 188 responses to this part of the question.

## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
Atheist	23	11.98%
Bahai	0	0.00%
Buddhist	0	0.00%
Christian	65	33.85%
Hindu	8	4.17%
Jain	1	0.52%
Jewish	1	0.52%
Muslim	18	9.38%
Sikh	3	1.56%
No religion	43	22.40%
Prefer not to say	22	11.46%
Other	4	2.08%

## APPENDIX A

<b>Not Answered</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.08%</b>
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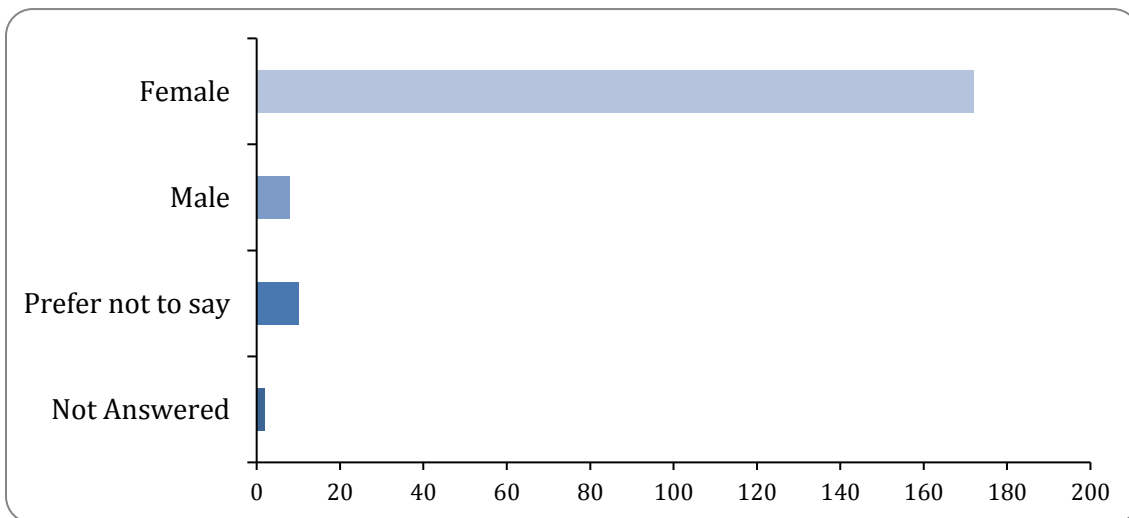
### other religion

There were 5 responses to this part of the question.

### What is your sex?

#### sex

There were 190 responses to this part of the question.

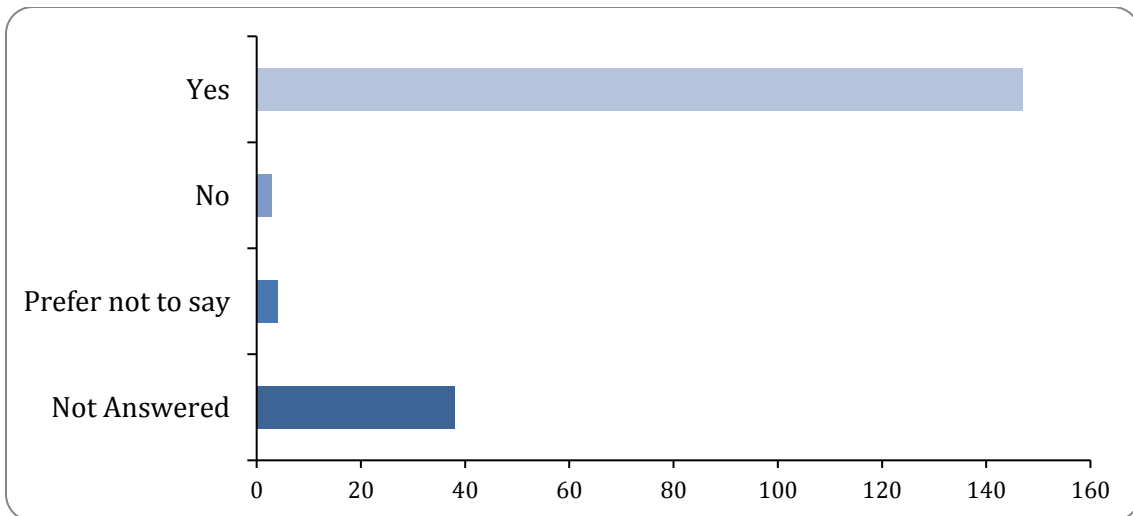


Option	Total	Percent
<b>Female</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>89.58%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.17%</b>
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5.21%</b>
<b>Not Answered</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.04%</b>

### gender same as birth

There were 154 responses to this part of the question.

## APPENDIX A



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	147	76.56%
No	3	1.56%
Prefer not to say	4	2.08%
Not Answered	38	19.79%

### Other gender

There were 0 responses to this part of the question.





# Women in Sport

## Current Best Practice

183



# This Girl Can

- This Girl Can is a national initiative funded by The National Lottery,
- The campaign believes that there's no "right" way to get active. If it gets your heart rate up, it counts.
- The campaign celebrates active women who are doing their thing no matter how they look, how well they do it or how sweaty they get. They want to challenge the conventional idea of what exercise looks like and reach out to women of all backgrounds and ethnicities who feel left behind by traditional exercise, and allow them to find what's right for them.
- 2.8 million women were inspired to exercise due to the campaign. 1.6 million started exercising and 1.2 million increased their participation.
- Over 700,000 women now follow TGC on social media as part of a community who encourage and support each other to stay active.
- Over 13,000 partners have signed up to use the TGC toolkit



LOTTERY FUNDED #thisgirlcan

I kick balls. Deal with it.

THIS GIRL CAN



Full-time Mum.  
Part-time Mermaid.

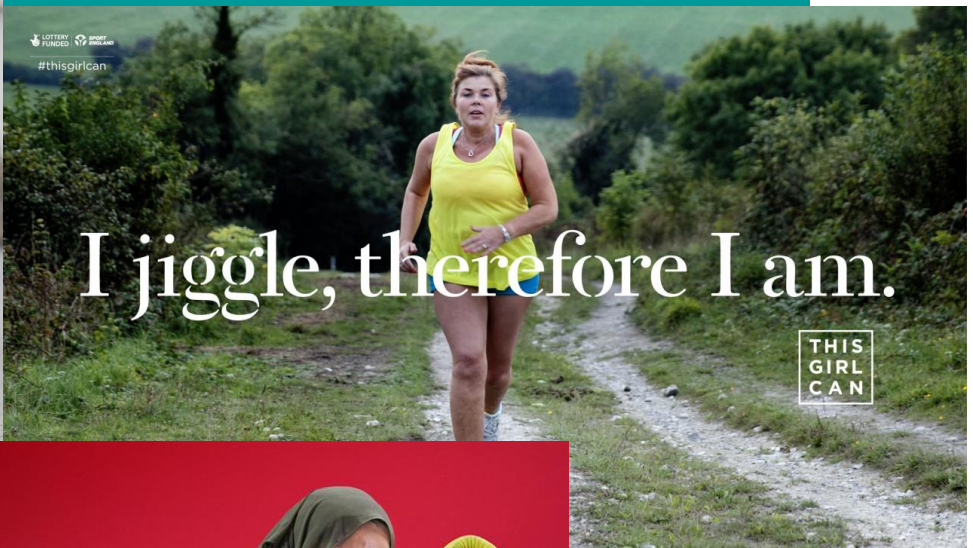
THIS GIRL CAN



LOTTERY FUNDED #thisgirlcan

I jiggle, therefore I am.

THIS GIRL CAN



185  
Sweating  
like a pig,  
feeling  
like a fox.

THIS GIRL CAN



I'm slow but I'm lapping  
everyone on the couch.

THIS GIRL CAN



THIS GIRL CAN

A kick right in  
the stereotypes.



Under these gloves is  
a beautiful manicure.

THIS GIRL CAN



**BABY'S AT HOME,  
BUT PLAYTIME'S  
JUST BEGUN.**

THIS GIRL CAN



Talk to the backhand.

THIS GIRL CAN







# Active Together - Let's Get Moving This March

- Active Togethers annual online initiative
- Let's Get Moving this March will run from 7th-18th March giving the chance for participants to try new and different activity sessions online, from the comfort of their own home.
- Access passes for the event are £10 and there is no limit on the amount of sessions that can be attended during the two weeks.



## LET'S GET MOVING THIS MARCH



### WEEK 1

### TRY SOMETHING NEW

Mon 7th	7:00pm	Bhangra Zumba	⌚ 60
<i>A fun, energetic way to give your body an all over dance style workout.</i>			
Tue 8th	11:00am	Postnatal Session	⌚ 60
	11:30am	Nordic Walking	⌚ 60
<i>A full-body walking workout at Everards Brewery.</i>			
	6:00pm	HIIT	⌚ 45
<i>Short bursts of intense exercise with low-intensity recovery periods.</i>			
Weds 9th	7:30pm	This Girl Can Class	⌚ 40
<i>A lower intensity, fun and supportive exercise session.</i>			
Thurs 10th	6:00pm	Nordic Walking	⌚ 60
<i>A full-body walking workout at Kibworth Beauchamp.</i>			
	7:00pm	Bhangra HIIT	⌚ 60
<i>A fun, energetic way to give your body an all over dance style workout.</i>			
Fri 11th	11:00am	Pilates	⌚ 60
<i>Low-impact exercise to strengthen muscles and improve flexibility.</i>			
	5:30pm	Boxercise	⌚ 45
<i>A high intensity interval training class based on boxing training.</i>			
Sat 12th	10:00am	Nordic Walking	⌚ 60
<i>A full-body walking workout at Victoria Park.</i>			

**BOOK TODAY at [active-together.org](https://active-together.org)**

## LET'S GET MOVING THIS MARCH



### WEEK 2

### TRY SOMETHING NEW

Mon 14th	2:00pm	Nordic Walking	⌚ 60
<i>A full-body walking workout at Watermead Park.</i>			
	7:00pm	Positive Pause Session	⌚ 120
<i>Gain useful tips and information on menopause. <b>Additional cost and booking required.</b></i>			
Tue 15th	5:00pm	This Girl Can Class	⌚ 40
<i>A lower intensity, fun and supportive exercise session.</i>			
	6:00pm	LBT	⌚ 45
<i>Shape up and burn fat as you lunge, step and squat your way to fitness.</i>			
Weds 16th	12:00pm	Nordic Walking	⌚ 60
<i>A full-body walking workout at Knighton Park.</i>			
	12:00pm	Bolly Fusion	⌚ 60
<i>A fun, energetic way to burn calories using traditional bhangra steps.</i>			
	5:30pm	Circuits	⌚ 60
	7:30pm	Yoga Nidra	⌚ 60
<i>Mindfulness, Meditation and Relaxation practice rolled into one.</i>			
Thurs 17th	7:00pm	Bhangra Beats	⌚ 60
<i>A fun, energetic way to give your body an all over dance style workout.</i>			
Fri 18th	4:00pm	Nordic Walking	⌚ 60
<i>A full-body walking workout at Burbage Common.</i>			
	5:30pm	Clubbercise	⌚ 45
<i>A fun-filled full body workout to great music.</i>			

**BOOK TODAY at [active-together.org](https://active-together.org)**



Leicester  
City Council



# Zfit Leicester

- Zumba, Zumba toning, HIIT and boxercise classes throughout venues in Leicester.
- Ladies only sessions
- Fun, friendly party atmosphere for all abilities aged 16-86.
- Run by Zee who is currently an Active Together Champion and community ambassador.
- Aiming to empower women to be the best version of themselves through fitness.





# Active Through Football

- Funding obtained to run women's only activity sessions in the Wycliffe ward area for 18-49 year olds over the next 5 years.
- The project is being led by Leicester City in the Community with the support of Active Leicester.
- This project will be starting in April/May.
- The hyperlocal nature of the project will hopefully attract a wide audience of women to participate

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**LeicesterCity**  
in the Community



# Cossington Street and Spence Street Sport Centres

- Ladies only gym area at Cossington to actively help break down some of the barriers faced by women wanting to attend the gym.
- Ladies only swim lessons are a regular on the timetable at Spence Street.
- The diverse population of Leicester City has seen real benefit from the above offerings at our leisure centres







Leicester  
City Council







# Active Leicester- Building a strong and Active future for all

5 year strategy - 2017 to 2022

Ambition to get 20,000 more  
active.

12 priorities and themes.



# Active Leicester – Context

- The importance of Physical Activity to population health
- Nationally 1 in 4 adults are inactive (25%), Leicester it is higher at 34%
- Inequalities are high in Leicester: females, low socioeconomic, BME
- Covid had an impact on childhood obesity

# Active Leicester – Context

## Active Lives physical activity data – 2020 to 2021

198

	May 2020-21		
	Active across the week (≥150 minutes per week)	Fairly active (30-59 minutes a day)	Less active (<30 minutes per day)
Leicester	52.8%	13.2%	34.0%
England	60.9%	11.6%	27.5%

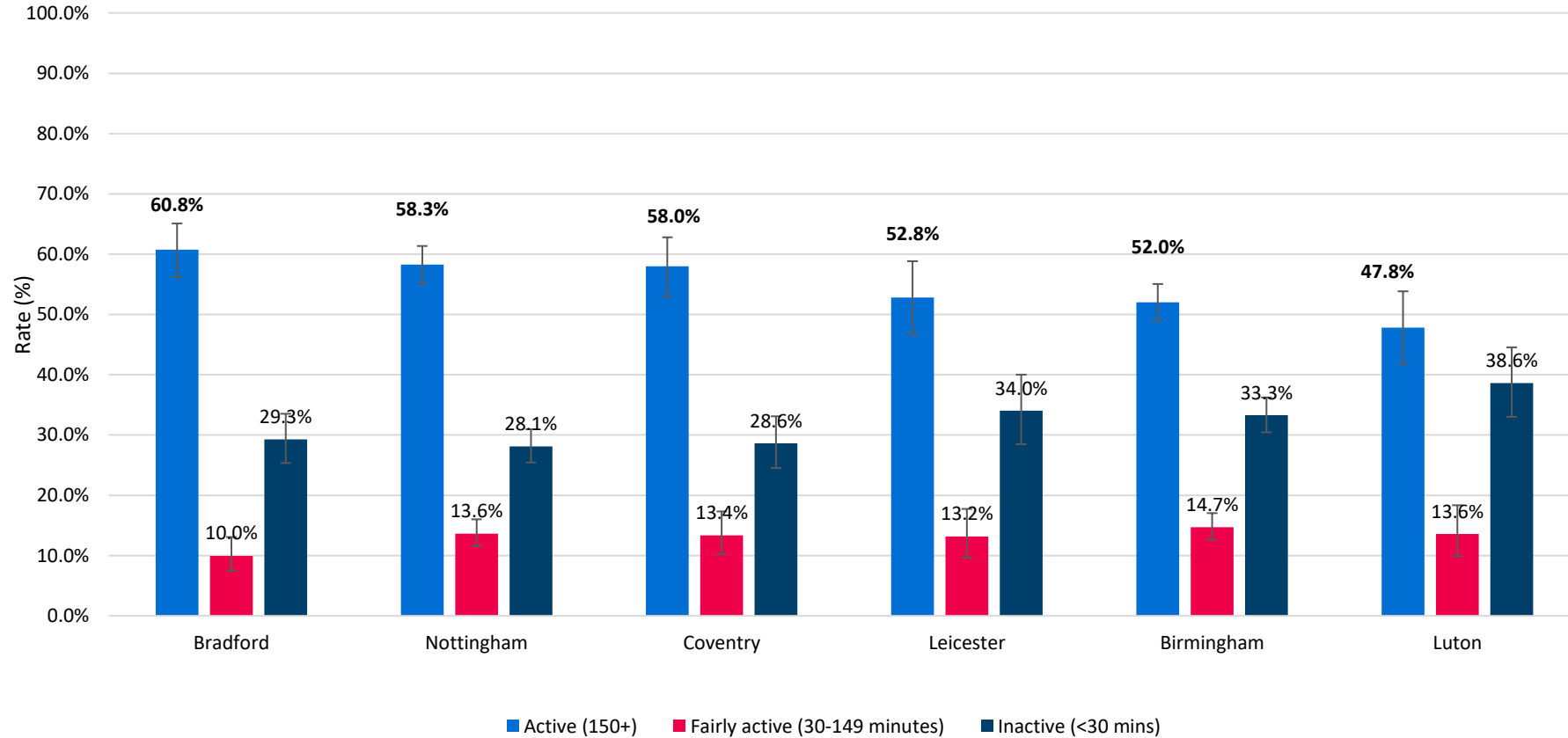
Significantly higher than England

Significantly lower than England



# Active Leicester – Context

## City Comparators

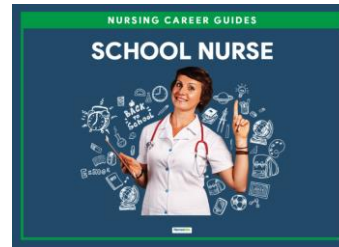


# Active Leicester – Context

200



# Active Leicester – Context





# Active Leicester

## Strategy

### 2023 - 2028

202

# Active Leicester – Vision

## Vision for the new strategy:

- Five years - 2023 to 2028
- Focusing on the inactive and reducing inequalities
- Covid recovery
- Harnessing the power of collaboration
- Small changes can make a big difference (individuals and organisations)

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# Strategy Development – Phase 1

- 28 partners and stakeholder groups were consulted. Representatives from:
  - Public health
  - Healthcare
  - Pre school children
  - Education- Schools, Colleges, Universities
  - Voluntary sector
- 6 main questions + sector specific questions were asked.
- Interviews conducted via MS Teams October/ November 2021
- A report of finding's has been drafted.

# Strategy Development – Headline feedback

- A focus on the inactive and targeting inequalities.
- Hyper-local
- Informal, social and low commitment/cost
- Better information sharing and collaboration.

205

# Strategy Development – Phase 2

- A stakeholder engagement event was held in April 2022.
- The purpose was to:
  - Check and challenge the key findings from the consultation and identify any gaps.
  - Did the findings & content resonate with organisations?
  - What would stakeholders want from a city strategy?
  - What changes can stakeholders make to improve the cities activity levels?
  - Can stakeholders collaborate better and how?
  - Vision, Governance and Monitoring



## Strategy Development – Phase 3

- Officers are reviewing all the content and are creating a strategy draft.
- Aim to seek final comment and approval by mid summer.
- Aim to launch a new five-year strategy **late summer of 2022.**

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**Overview Select Committee**  
**Work Programme 2022 – 2023**

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising/Notes	Progress
Thursday 30 June	1) Survey of Leicester 2) Anti-poverty Strategy – Microsite demo 3) Finance reports – to include: (i) Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021-22 outturn (ii) Capital Budget Monitoring 2021 -22 Outturn (iii) Income Collection April 2021 – March 2022 (iv) Review of Treasury Management Activities 2021/22 4) Questions to City Mayor 5) Work Programme 2022/23 – draft planning	1) That each individual Scrutiny Commission be recommended to look at relevant elements of the survey in more detail	1) A separate meeting with scrutiny chairs to co-ordinate this is to take place.
Thursday 8 September	1) Corporate Estate Annual Report 2) Call-in – Purchase of 22 Market Place 3) Carbon Neutral Road Map 4) (i) Revenue Monitoring April – June 2022 (ii) Capital Monitoring April – June 2022 5) Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23  Items 1 and 3-5 were not taken as this meeting was adjourned.	1) Deferred to 3 November 2) Call-in resolved to be withdrawn by OSC 3) Deferred to 15 December 4) Deferred to 27 September 5) Deferred to 27 September	

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising/Notes	Progress
Tuesday 27 September	<p>Special Meeting for consideration of Local Plan proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Local Plan Proposals</li> <li>2) (i) Revenue Monitoring April – June 2022 (ii) Capital Monitoring April – June 2022</li> <li>3) Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23</li> <li>4) Final Housing Scrutiny Task Group Report –Housing Crisis</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The key local plan strategies, policies, site allocation, and provisions for consultation be noted be made available to Members for review; and  The associated Local Plan policies and strategies be brought to the next ordinary meeting of Overview Select Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.</li> <li>2) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Director of Housing to be asked to provide information on the management of voids and that information regarding recruitment to vacant posts in Housing repairs should also be provided to Members.</li> <li>b) Information on the additional waste contract to be provided to Members.</li> <li>c) An energy costs report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) This took place during 5-19 October.</li> <li>2) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) This was provided to members for the 3 November meeting.</li> <li>b) This was provided to members for the 3 November meeting.</li> <li>c) To initially be examined as part of the cost-of-living update items. A full report is to also be programmed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising/Notes	Progress
Thursday 3 November	1) Market Redevelopment Update 2) Corporate Estate Annual Report 3) Cost of Living Crisis – Verbal Update 4) Refugee Resettlement Programme update 5) Local Plan – <i>consideration of policies and strategies</i>	1) A report on anti-social behaviour and street lifestyles in relation to the market area to be brought to a relevant commission 2) That the current performance of the Corporate Estate be noted and that a briefing session be set up for all Members on the Corporate Estate; and That Officers check whether or not rent fees for the Corporate Estate could be disclosed. 3) That the Cost-of-Living Crisis be added as a standing item to the Committee agenda; and That Officers inform Committee Members as to how many families in Leicester use foodbanks.	1) To be programmed for the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission 2) Members Briefing session to take place in February 2023. A note on rent fees to be provided to members 3) To be included as a standing item for OSC. Information on foodbank provision to be provide to members.

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising/Notes	Progress
Thursday 15 December	1) Cost of Living Update 2) Survey of Leicester/Census 3) Haymarket Shopping Centre 4) (i) Revenue Monitoring April – September 2022 (ii) Capital Monitoring April – September 2023 (iii) Mid-Year Treasury Management Activities Report (iv) Income Collection April – September 2022 5) Final Scrutiny Task Group reports (i) The Experience of Black People Working in Health Services in Leicester and Leicestershire (ii) Cost of Adult Social Care Packages	1a) That the Committee requests that Members be informed of how Government support to improve energy efficiency in homes is being publicised by the Council. B) That the Committee requests that Members be informed of how new homes being built in the city will meet current and future energy efficiency requirements. C) That the Committee requests that Members be informed of information of employment rates in the areas of greatest deprivation in the city. 2) Information on the results of the children's survey to be provided to the co-producers and to Cllr Cassidy once it is available.	1 – information to be provided to members directly 2 – To be taken through scrutiny in the early 2023/24 municipal year.

Meeting Date	Topic	Actions Arising/Notes	Progress
Thursday 9 February	1) Housing Revenue Account (including Capital Programme) 2023/24 2) General Revenue Fund 2023/24 3) Capital Programme 2023/24 4) Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 5) Investment Strategy 2023/24 6) Key Strategic Priorities	1a) That the Committee requests that the Council consider a consultation for District Heating users on being able to enter the open market. 1b) That the Committee requests that officers circulate the modelling on the proposals of Councillor Kitterick and the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum. 2. That the Committee requests that officers let Committee Members and Youth Representative know where joint funding for High Needs Children came from. 6a) That the Committee requests that the presentation slides be circulated to Members. 6b) That the Committee requests that a site visit be arranged for all Members around the Waterside regeneration site.	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	1) Cost of Living Update 2) Corporate Parenting Strategy 3) Carbon Neutral Road Map – update 4) Revenue Monitoring April – December 2022 5) Capital Monitoring April – December 2022 6) Final Task Group Report – Women's Participation in Sport		

### Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Corporate Consultation Process	An overview report on internal consultation processes is sought following comments raised at commissions.	TBC
Tackling Racism, Race Inequality and Disadvantage – update on plans and progress		TBC
Further scrutiny re Census/Survey of Leicester		TBC
Leicester Children's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021/22		Summer 2023
Equalities Strategy Refresh		TBC
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy		TBC – later in 2023
Universities – Civic Agreement		TBC