

Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

DATE: TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2022
TIME: 5:30 pm
**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street,
Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Members of the Committee

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

Councillors Byrne, Kitterick, O'Donnell, Pickering and Rahman
One unallocated Labour group place
One unallocated non group place

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

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

Information for members of the public

Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings, and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes.

However, on occasion, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

NOTE: Due to COVID restrictions, public access in person is limited to ensure social distancing. If you wish to attend in person, you are required to contact the Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance. A guide to attending public meetings can be found here: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/decisions-meetings-and-minutes/public-attendance-at-council-meetings-during-covid-19/>

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk, or by contacting us using the details below.

To hold this meeting in as Covid-safe a way as possible, all attendees are asked to follow current Government guidance and:

- maintain distancing while entering and leaving the room/building;
- remain seated and maintain distancing between seats during the meeting;
- wear face coverings throughout the meeting unless speaking or exempt;
- make use of the hand sanitiser available;
- when moving about the building to follow signs about traffic flows, lift capacities etc;
- comply with Test and Trace requirements by scanning the QR code at the entrance to the building and/or giving their name and contact details at reception prior to the meeting;
- if you are displaying Coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, you should NOT attend the meeting, please stay at home, and get a PCR test.

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Filming and Recording the Meeting - The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press

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If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc..

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

Further information

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

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

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as directed by Democratic Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

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. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 17 March 2022 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS

Members will be asked to note the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Commissions as set out in the Council's Constitution.

[See Leicester City Council's Constitution here.](#)

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2022/23

Members will be asked to note the membership of the Commission for 2022/23:

Councillor Thalukdar (Chair)
Councillor Solanki (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Byrne
Councillor Kitterick
Councillor O'Donnell
Councillor Pickering
Councillor Rahman

6. DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2022/23

Members will be asked to note meeting dates of the Commission for 2022/23 which are as follows:

Tuesday 28 June 2022
Tuesday 16 August 2022
Tuesday 4 October 2022
Tuesday 15 November 2022
Thursday 12 January 2023
Thursday 2 March 2023

All meetings to take place at 5.30pm at City Hall unless otherwise notified.

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. PETITIONS

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

9. 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.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OVERVIEW [Appendix B](#)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a presentation giving an overview of the Services covered by the Commission.

**11. WARD ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDING REPORT 2021- [Appendix C](#)
22**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to provide an outline of how Ward Funding was spent across the city between April 2021 and March 2022. This report seeks to provide an insight into the variety of projects and initiatives that took place in the wards, and some of those that were important to residents locally.

12. STOCKING FARM REGENERATION UPDATE [Appendix D](#)

The Director of Planning, Development, and Transportation submits a presentation updating the Commission on the planned regeneration project in Stocking Farm.

13. TREE STRATEGY REVIEW 2021/22 [Appendix E](#)

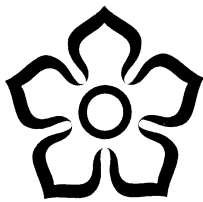
The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to provide Members with an update on progress for the period 2021/22 on the Tree Strategy which was adopted by the City Council in November 2018.

14. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix F

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

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

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

Councillor Joshi Councillor Nangreave
Councillor Waddington

In Attendance:

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor
(Culture, Leisure, Sport & Regulatory Services)

Councillor Patel Assistant City Mayor (Equalities)

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13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O'Donnell and Westley.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 28 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

16. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair commented that this was the final meeting of the Commission in the current Municipal Year, and he expressed his thanks to the Vice-Chair, Commission members, Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair, and Assistant City Mayor Councillor Master for their support during the year.

There was also an update concerning the recruitment and transition plan of the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services post, following the resignation of John Leach. It was reported that formal communication and confirmation of the newly appointed Director would be issued in due course.

17. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

18. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

19. VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE) ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Assistant City Mayor (Equalities) Councillor Patel was invited to introduce the report and reminded the Commission that the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations played an increasingly vital role in the city. It was noted that the sector had long been a valued partner of the City Council as well as many other public sector organisations and benefitted from closer working relationships.

Councillor Patel then commented that due to Covid-19, the VCSE relationships were changing and had been heightened during the pandemic. This impact had also been enhanced due to recent budget cuts where the sector had been asked to increase partnership working and strong relationships to ensure sustainability. It was noted that discussions were being held to guarantee that post pandemic, a coordinated approach and support to the sector could be continued.

The Head of the City Mayor's Office presented the details of the report and stated that ongoing research locally and nationally had been undertaken and that an evaluation of the support to voluntary sector organisations, faith groups and other partners had been delayed due to the pandemic.

The report demonstrated the methods of a proposed engagement strategy with stakeholders and referred to available resources and the intention to develop

the strategy, and review it over the year, including internal and external impacts and developments.

The initial work had identified a series of themes where clear pledges would be made against those themes, alongside a series of actions and identified principles behind the pledges.

It was recognised that the revised strategy would reposition the work of the City Council with the VCSE sector, particularly due to the potential of scarce future funding, but that support as an enabling partner would continue to ensure long term sustainability.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that the infrastructure support, a needs assessment process, and support from the Community Action Fund / Crowd Funding would all receive due consideration. The issues concerning the impact on the strategy following the conclusion of the Voluntary Action Leicestershire contract were also acknowledged.

Members also expressed concern at the significant numbers of voluntary organisations that had closed due to reductions in their financial support from the Council, and that the new strategy was therefore vital. It was considered that greater accessibility to the mapping of organisations receiving support was also required. It was recognised that some smaller organisations would be able to access funding through the commissioning approach, and that in many cases a relatively small amount of funding could lead to significant outcomes for those organisations. In relation to larger organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, the objectives of the strategy to increase partnership working and other support separate from funding to continue strong working relationships were reiterated.

In conclusion, the timeframe of the revised strategy was confirmed in accordance with the manifesto commitment, with updates being submitted to the Commission in the interim, particularly to provide updates on the availability of budgets and distribution of the funding.

AGREED:

To support the launch of the VCSE Engagement Strategy in April 2022.

20. DRAFT TAXI STRATEGY

The Strategic Director for City Development and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report which provided details of the objectives of the draft taxi strategy, which had been prepared setting out the vision for the taxi trade in the city. It was reported that, should the strategy be approved, some changes could be made immediately, and work could begin on implementing more detailed changes that would require additional work such as consultation or procurement.

It was also reported that the draft policy had received initial scrutiny through a consultation process including input from the Licensing and Public Safety Committee.

The links to the procurement of services was noted, including social care and education, and reassurance was provided in terms of safeguarding and the substantial levels of checks on drivers and vehicles.

In terms of the numbers of vehicles operating in the city, which had been licensed with other local authorities, the significant concerns were recognised, and the work undertaken in partnership with Legal Services and pursuing the issue including the contact with the Secretary of State was acknowledged and welcomed.

AGREED:

That the Draft Taxi Strategy be supported.

21. LIBRARY SERVICES PROVISION – SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor (Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services) introduced the item concerning the delivery of community and library services.

Jenny Young and Steve Pinchbeck from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) were welcomed and introduced to the Commission, joining the meeting remotely.

The Head of Neighbourhood services gave a presentation which advised members of Library Employment Support, including both the national and local strategic context, and reference was made to the 2019 Manifesto Commitments.

Advice and support sessions in libraries and Work Coach Sessions were described, and the following key points were noted:

- Partnership with DWP developed during pandemic
- Work coach sessions trialled in 3 libraries Autumn 2020
- Service rolled out to 6 libraries in total Summer 2021
- From 25 February 2022 sessions also delivered at BRITE Centre
- Weekly sessions

The support for skills development and access to information, together with support for children & young people were also reported.

The presentation also provided information concerning the access to computers and the internet and included the results of a survey to show what people were coming to do at libraries. The significant numbers of people searching for employment opportunities was highlighted and noted.

In terms of learning, the beginners IT sessions and support from library staff where signposting and support to computer users was offered. Information was also submitted concerning adult learning.

Details of the Kickstart scheme were reported, and key points were noted:

- Neighbourhood Services are providing Government funded “Kickstart” roles in libraries and community centres
- The scheme is open to 18–25-year-olds
- Offers an opportunity to develop skills in community settings
- 4 customer care roles, one in each area of the city
- 1 admin support role, centrally based
- Roles will commence in 2022, each for 6-month period

The presentation concluded with details and a summary of the results of a case study undertaken at Beaumont Leys Library in November 2021

The Chair welcomed the details in the presentation and asked for comments.

In response to questions, it was noted that the locations of the Kickstart and Work Coach sessions were carefully and properly considered, dependant on the suitability of locations. It was confirmed that other locations could be assessed but this relied on suitability of rooms and working space, and the separation of staff, including DWP colleagues, from other activities in buildings. Reference was made to the potential availability of space and rooms at Fosse and Belgrave Libraries, with Fosse Library due to reopen imminently. The strong and effective partnership working with the DWP was welcomed.

In terms of the beginners IT sessions, it was clarified that these had been operating for around ten years and that there was an intention to continue to provide and extend the service to other areas of the city. It was recognised and noted that there were currently 5 libraries involved in the scheme and increased demand was expected.

In response to questions concerning demand and monitoring, DWP partners provided an update and expressed the view that post-pandemic, more people were accessing the services as their confidence grew. It was also noted that services were assessed in terms of their need following the analysis of customer service surveys, which showed patterns of use and desire for any additional or revised services.

In reply to a question regarding the computer hardware being used, it was reported that during the lockdown, the opportunity to renew the network had been undertaken and many locations had received upgraded PC's, monitors, and scanning/printing equipment.

AGREED:

That the update be noted and the work to support the delivery of community and library services be supported.

22. NOISE AND POLLUTION MONITORING SERVICE OVERVIEW

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor (Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services) introduced the item concerning the noise and pollution monitoring service.

The Team Manager, Neighbourhood Services, submitted a report and gave a presentation providing an overview of the Noise and Pollution Control Team Management objectives. The report and presentation provided details of the monitoring service and advised of how evidence was considered, and information concerning the enforcement policy and statistics were also submitted.

It was reported that the Noise and Pollution Control (NPC) Team operated a monitoring service to deal with noise, odour, smoke, and other issues from residential and commercial premises. It was noted that the team had additional workloads including petroleum and contaminated land. The impact of the Covid-19 lockdown and the associated increased levels of homeworking, which had led to increased complaints was reported and acknowledged.

In response to questions relating to the staffing and structures, although a vacancy currently existed, it was confirmed that the team were able and confident to deal with the levels of complaints and enquiries being received.

In conclusion, the Chair reminded members that the report was an annual submission and would be included on the Work Programme for a further update in the next municipal year.

AGREED:

That the update and report be noted.

23. HATE CRIME POLICY

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor (Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services) introduced the item concerning the proposed Hate Crime Policy 2022/2025.

The Head of Community Safety and Protection submitted a report, which outlined the work undertaken to date, and the proposals to be taken forward around the hate crime/incident agenda. The report also provided details of the work undertaken in formulating the Hate Crime Policy, which was appended.

It was reported and noted that the vision of the policy was as follows:
“Leicester city is a great place to live in and we value and cultivate diversity, Leicester City Council is committed to tackling and reducing hate crime across both the council and the city. The Council will work with its staff, partners, and communities to tackle hate crime and incidents.”

In discussing the content of the report and policy, members referred to the need for individuals to be confident to report hate crimes and that this should be emphasised. The awareness of the seriousness and validation of hate crimes, rather than many people considering acceptance, was also highlighted and the legislative background and support that could be offered was emphasised. In terms of the priorities, it was reported that the document would be refreshed annually to consider any national changes to hate crime legislation and would be added to the Work Programme.

The need to ensure that the policy was available in alternative languages was raised and was acknowledged.

A particular comment was made in respect of misogyny, which required expanding and strengthened in the text, as currently the policy stated that this 'may' be considered as a hate crime. It was noted that the policy was currently a working document and amendments could be made.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked members and particularly Councillor Waddington who had been instrumental in raising the issue and bringing the item to the Commission.

AGREED:

That the Hate Crimes Policy be welcomed and endorsed.

24. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission's Work Programme was submitted for information and comment.

The Chair noted that any suggestions for future items should be emailed to himself or the Scrutiny Policy Officer.

25. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Neighbourhood and Environmental Services - Overview

Neighbourhood Services
Scrutiny Commission 28TH June 2022



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Sean Atterbury
Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

Overview

- **Neighbourhood and Environmental Services - supporting Leicester**
- **Services Areas**
- **2022 Priorities – A Snapshot**

Neighbourhood and Environmental Services Operating in Our Great City



Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services
(Sean Atterbury)



Service Areas – Parks and Open Spaces



- Parks Services, Bereavement Services, Trees and Woodlands Service, Landscape Services, Cleansing Services
- ↻ 153 local parks and open spaces
- Bereavement Services
- Management of tree stock of 150K individual registered trees and 109 hectares of woodland.
- Over 600 miles of city streets receive street cleaning services
- Fleet of 9 footway sweepers and two street hot washers
- Graffiti removal
- Corporate waste - collection from city centre litter bins, council buildings, fly tipping

Service Areas – Regulatory Services



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

Service Areas – Waste Management



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

Service Areas- Neighbourhood Services



Neighbourhood Services

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

Service Areas - Standards and Development



- Public realm CCTV - working in partnership with Police and external agencies
- Allotments – provision and management of these across the city
- City Wardens
- Pest and Dog Control
- Play Facilities
- Public Realm projects
- Performance and Intelligence Unit

2022 Priorities – A Snapshot

Parks and Open Spaces

- Continue to promote volunteering opportunities in the City – Leicester Environmental Volunteers
- Contribute toward our climate emergency action plan –
 - Carbon benchmarking of services
 - Exploring electric equipment
 - Reduction of chemical usage

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Waste Management

- Continue to deliver an effective and efficient waste collection service for a growing city, including addressing any problem areas
- Engage with matters relating to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy
- Contributing to our climate emergency action plan
 - Promoting reuse and the responsible recycling
 - Exploring opportunities for innovate our waste services

2022 Priorities – A Snapshot

Regulatory Services

- Promoting improved Private Rental Sector (PRS) housing standards – Mandatory HMO and Discretionary licensing viability

¹⁹ Standards and Development and Parks and Open Spaces

- Allotment strategy – develop and promote a new strategy for our allotments to promote the community benefit of these.
- MUGA / ballcourt investment – leading on improvements across the city

2022 Priorities – A Snapshot

Neighbourhood Services

- Continued recovery Work – Ensuring the public are safely welcomed back to libraries and community centres when appropriate to do so.
- 29 Further expand and promote online library resources to deliver a wider range of e-books and e-audio resources which are easier to find and use.

Thank you

Sean.atterbury@leicester.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission

Ward Engagement & Funding Report 2021 – 22

Date: 28th June 2022

Author: Lee Warner, Head of Neighbourhood Services

Lead Director: Sean Atterbury



Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of how Ward Funding was spent across the city between April 2021 and March 2022. This report seeks to provide an insight into the variety of projects and initiatives that took place in the wards, and some of those that were important to residents locally.

What is Ward Community Funding?

Each of Leicester's 21 electoral wards hold community events where members of the public have the opportunity to meet Councillors and council partners to help shape the services provided in their community. Each ward is allocated a yearly budget of £18,000 which can be used to support projects that bring benefits to that ward. In 2021/2022 a total of **482** applications for Ward Funding were received and of these **60** were withdrawn, leaving **422** for consideration. The table below provides an outline of the number of applications received and of those, the number withdrawn:

Constituency	Number of applications received
East	144 (14)
South	194 (30)
West	144 (16)
Total	482 (60)

Case study

Ward:	Abbey
Amount awarded:	£500.00
Project name:	Day at the coast

Summary of activity/event:

Through isolation, many people did not get to meet one another for 18 months. No groups had met at the local Tudor Centre as the Centre was closed to groups mixing and became a track and trace venue for COVID cases. Once restrictions had eased, a representative from each of the groups that meet at Tudor Centre got together and arranged a day out at the coast for local people to enjoy. Ward funding was used to pay for transport.

Outcome:

An excellent day was had by the 50+ people who attended, and by socialising together, this resulted in small groups starting to meet up again at the centre.

This reduced loneliness and social isolation caused by the pandemic, and improved the health and wellbeing of the local community.

*Spinney Hill and Wycliffe Wards carried out a similar scheme to the above to the benefit of local people

The application process

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

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

What cannot be funded?

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

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

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

Case study

Ward: Belgrave

Amount awarded: £1,087

Project name: Belgrave Community Dog Club

Summary of activity/event:

The Belgrave Community Dog Club are a group of residents who came together to create a local dog club. The Club's objectives were to address the concerns over the growing number of dog owners in the Belgrave ward, who use the Cossington Recreation Park to walk and exercise their dogs, in some cases irresponsibly. The Club received ward funding to be able to work with the dog owners who had limited control or who were inexperienced in owning a dog, to prevent bad dog, and owner behaviour, uncleared dog fouling, and to reduce the fear of dogs, by people who use the park.

The Dog Club Provided:

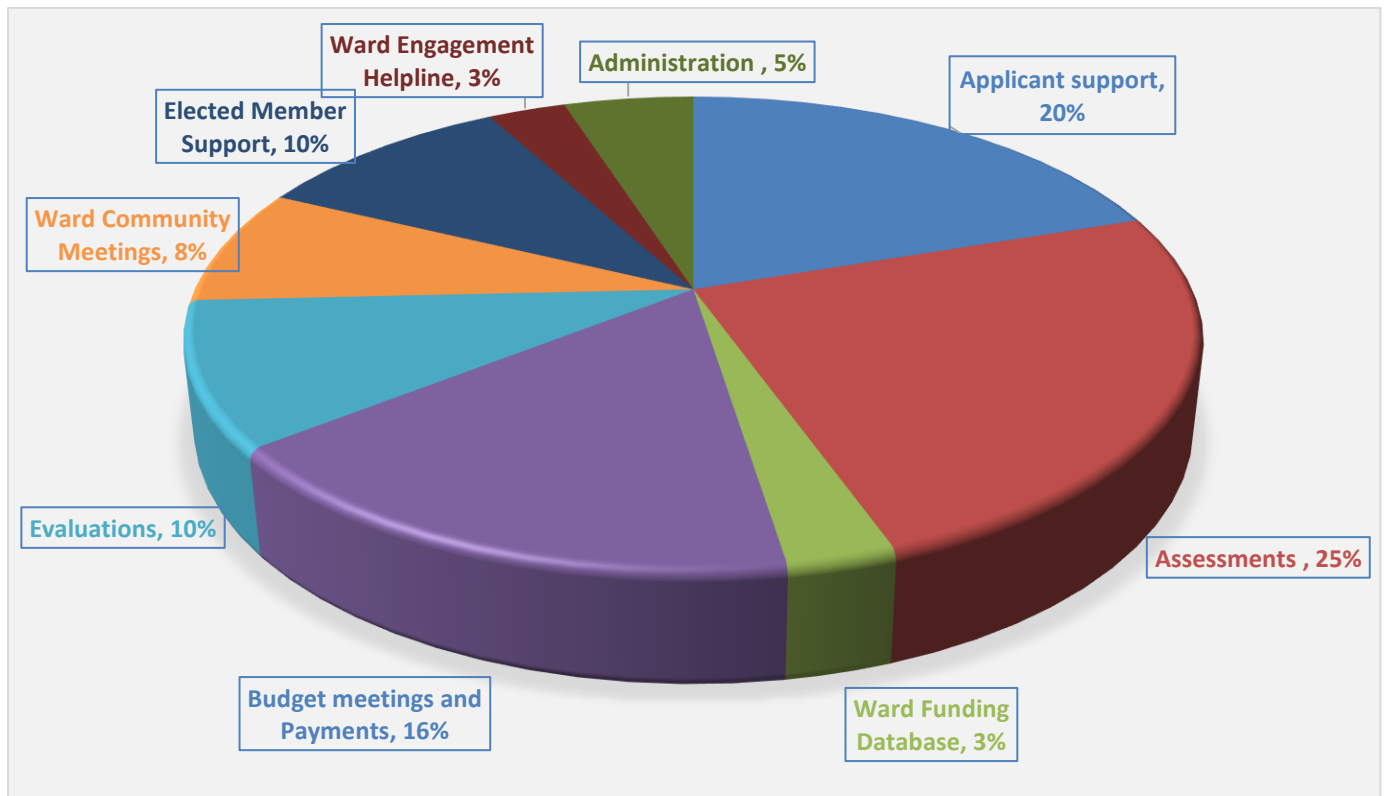
- Free, six-week dog and owner obedience training sessions, held on Cossington Recreation Park led by a qualified trainer
- Information on the legal responsibilities of owning a dog
- Equipment to dispose of dog fouling
- Organised joint walks
- Information on dog nutrition and wellbeing
- A contact point for non-dog owners to be able to discuss issues or problems with dogs on the park

Outcome:

The obedience training had eight to twelve participants, each week, during the six-week course. This resulted in up to twelve puppies, and dogs being socialised, and receiving basic obedience training. The overall outcome was that all park users could enjoy the park, feel safe around dogs, and a reduction in uncleared dog fouling. The Community Dog Club have been supported in two other wards, Aylestone and Eyres Monsell to deliver the Community Dog Training Project, within the ward's parks and green spaces.

Ward Engagement Duties

The ward engagement team manage all aspects of Ward Funding Applications, from submission by applicant right up until the evaluation has been received. Officers also play a significant part in the organisation and facilitation of Ward Community meetings across the city. Although every day can be different for each Ward Community Engagement Officer, below is an approximate breakdown of time spent on various duties, followed by a brief description.



Applicant support

Ward Engagement Officers provide one to one support to applicants wanting to apply for Ward Funding. Officers meet with applicants in person, at either Community Centres or Libraries, where they provide advice and support with submitting their application. Officers will discuss the process with applicants along with explaining the requirements needed to meet the criteria and guidelines, including the evaluation stage. Officers also provide support to applicants over the phone and via e-mail.

Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement Assessments

Once an application has been submitted, it will be assigned to the relevant Engagement Officer who is responsible for the ward that has been applied to. Officers read through each application and contact the applicant to gather any additional information. Once all necessary information has been received, an assessment is then completed with an overview of the project, and a detailed check that the application meets Ward Funding Guidelines. Every assessments moderated by another Ward Community Engagement officer who is not connected with the application.

Ward Funding Database

All applications can be accessed through the Ward Funding Database, and it is where the Engagement Officers monitor each application. Officers update and make notes on each application along various stages of the process. For example, dates of contact with applicant, dates of application sent to members and once a decision has been reached on an application. Officers also extract data and reports from the database which are needed to obtain information on previous applications and to provide a breakdown of current spend per Ward.

Budget meetings and Payments

There are three funding rounds per year (end of January, May and September) and after each funding round, officers arrange to meet with Ward Councillors to discuss all of the applications received, ensuring assessments and applications are supplied prior to the meeting.

During the budget meeting, officers and Councillors discuss each application and assessment to inform their decision. Councillors may ask for additional information to support their decision which may require officers to make further contact with applicants before Councillors can make a decision.

Applications under £500 do not need to be considered at a budget meeting. Instead, Officers will e-mail members the application and assessment under a fast-track process. Officers will then monitor the outcome and responses from members.

Once a decision is reached on an application, the database is updated accordingly. All supported applications are listed on a report generated ahead of Executive sign off.

Once supported applications have been signed off by the appointed Executive lead, Ward Engagement officers send e-mails to all applicants informing them of the outcome of their application.

Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement Evaluations

For every application that has been supported, an evaluation along with receipts and invoices are required by stated deadline. Officers proactively chase outstanding evaluations with applicants. Applications are only closed once evaluations have been received and receipts and invoices checked to reconcile expenditure.

Ward Community Meetings

Ward Engagement Officers discuss venues, dates, and agendas at budget meetings with members. Officers will contact the Democratic Support Team to inform them of the preferred venue and dates. Once an agenda is confirmed, officers will then contact those asked to attend and the confirmed agenda will also be sent to the Democratic Support Team who will publish online. Prior to the Ward Meeting officers will e-mail members all confirmed attendees and send over the budget briefing report which will be presented at the Ward Meeting. Prior to the Ward Meeting, officers ensure that any necessary actions noted in the previous meetings minutes, are followed up and completed, ready to confirm at the Ward Meeting.

At the Ward Meeting officers will support Members at the head table by highlighting any matters to the Chair and to confirm the action log from a previous meeting. Officers are also on hand to take back any concerns or queries from the public and that they are noted in the minutes if necessary. Officers present the Ward Funding Budget under the agenda item where a breakdown of the funding is presented. Often members of the public have questions on the budget or how they can access funding and so officers will answer accordingly.

After the Ward Meeting, officers confirm with the Democratic Support Team that the minutes are correct ahead of publishing. Officers also monitor and track the actions noted.

Ward Engagement Helpline

The ward engagement helpline allows applicants to call the team for information, advice, and guidance around any stage of the application process. Officers take calls and provide information and support accordingly. Each call is logged on a spreadsheet. If the call is for a specific officer, then an e-mail is sent to inform them of the call. This information is used for annual reports.

Case study

Ward: Westcotes

Amount awarded: £500

Project name: Stay Fit and Healthy in Pregnancy

Summary of activity/event:

The 'Stay Fit and Healthy in Pregnancy' Project was formed following a meeting of two pregnant women, who met in their doctor's surgery. They began to discuss resources and healthy activities which would enable them to stay fit and active whilst pregnant. The women wanted to provide a space that would enable themselves and other women to access prenatal exercises, breathing techniques, health and nutrition, and general self-care advice and information. The project aimed to engage, in particular, with those from diverse backgrounds to increase knowledge and awareness. The Ward Funding enabled the women to hire a room in a local community centre and help pay towards the initial costs for a specialist instructor. The weekly prenatal classes also included specialist information sessions on health, nutrition and self-care during and after pregnancy, from local health care providers.

Outcome:

The group expanded from six to twenty two women. Many of the women have given birth, including the women who started the project. As a result of the success of the project the women will be looking to restart the group, to include prenatal and postnatal fitness and health sessions.

Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement

Successful applications

Between April 2021 and March 2022, a total of **363** applications were successful in receiving Ward Funding. The following table provides details of the number of successful applications per constituency:

Constituency	Number of applications received for consideration	Number supported over £500	Number supported up to £500	Total Number of applications supported
East	144	68	42	110
South	194	79	62	141
West	144	46	66	112
Total	482	193	170	363

Types of ward funded activity

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

Category	Description
Community and Social Events	A way of promoting community cohesion, to integrate and network. Examples include family fun days, day trips and lunch clubs.
Arts /Cultural/Celebration Events	Events that are specified as key cultural aspects, can sometimes be inclusive around religion for example Holi Celebrations, Eid Celebrations, Christmas, and Halloween events that are open and welcome to all.
Developing and Supporting Communities	To meet the current needs of the community, making neighbourhoods stronger and empowering for sustainable development. For example, Coronavirus initiatives, mental health advice in school projects, community events and foodbanks.
Education and Improving Skills	Projects that support the community in gaining further skills, e.g. computer, numeracy, and literacy, back to work and self-confidence.

Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement

Environmental events/projects	Improving the environment throughout neighbourhoods and communities. Examples include City Warden clean ups, clearing fly tipping and litter picking campaigns, and work in Parks with volunteers.
Sports and Leisure	A way of improving health and well-being through sports and leisure. Examples include football teams, various sporting activities, indoor bowls, knitting clubs, art groups and exhibitions.
Traffic and Highways	Work/initiatives around highway improvements, speeding and raising awareness throughout the community, and traffic safety including installation of bollards.

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

Constituency	Type of activity							Total
	Community / Social events	Arts & Culture	Developing & Supporting Communities/Volunteering	Education and Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Sports/ Leisure	Other	
East	14	10	46	5	7	22	6	110
South	18	10	76	9	2	20	6	141
West	9	10	54	3	4	20	12	112
Total	41	30	176	17	13	62	24	363

The following table provides details of the amount of funding awarded in support of activities across the different categories. The total awarded was **£383,929.12**

Constituency	Type of activity							Total
	Community / Social events	Arts & Culture	Developing & Supporting Communities/Volunteering	Education & Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Sports/ Leisure	Other	
East	£15,136	£7,610	£58,668	£6,035	£17,416.50	£18,468.44	£4,930	£128,263.94
South	£23,560	£8,296	£77,471.42	£13,445.58	£1,040	£18,380.98	£3,800	£145,993.98
West	£5,500	£7,615	£49,187.20	£2,869	£8,930	£24,710	£10,860	£109,671.20
Total	£44,196	£23,521	£185,326.62	£22,349.58	£27,386.50	£61,559.42	£19,590	£383,929.12

Case study

Ward: Rushey Mead, Belgrave and Abbey wards

Amount awarded: £1200.00

Project name: 'I'm Jit and I'm an alcoholic'

Summary of activity/event:

The applicant, after many years of drink addiction, causing years of heartache and pain to his family and friends, decided to try and get his life back on track. He was successful, with a great deal of family, friends, and agency support. He wanted to put a video together to talk about addiction, in particular the taboo nature of the subject within the South Asian culture. The video showed the implications of drinking heavily; loss of family, friends and relationships, loss of employment, increased debt, and exposure to domestic violence. After consulting with other agencies and individuals about the project, the applicant began to work with others to put the video together. The message was clear and powerful; 'Let's Get Talking'. The video emphasised the importance of asking for help and not being ashamed of struggling. The aim was to increase awareness of the negative effects of addiction, and to encourage conversation and peer support within the community.

Outcome:

A preview of the video was attended by over 70 people at Judgemeanow College, with a Question and Answer session to follow. The video will now be shown in various venues in the hope that people affected by addiction can access help and support.

Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement

Volunteer engagement

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

Constituency	Number of Volunteers Engaged							Total
	Community / Social events	Arts & Culture	Developing & Supporting Communities/ Volunteering	Education & Improving Skills	Environmental Events/ Projects	Sports/ Leisure	Other	
East	224	222	357	49	35	168	47	1102
South	333	438	608	69	6	143	112	1709
West	75	334	630	8	16	174	430	1667
Total	632	994	1595	126	57	485	589	4478

Council schemes

Through discussions with local residents and Council services, ward specific priorities or issues are often identified. A total of 19 applications for Council led projects/schemes were awarded Ward Funding to a total value of **£46,806** (21.64% of the total amount of funding awarded) to help address local issues/priorities that could not be funded by core service budgets. The table below provides details of the service areas that received funding in 2021/22.

Service area	Number of schemes	Amount of funding
Children /Youth Services	0	£0
City Wardens	3	£6,125
Community Safety	0	£0
Festivals/Events	1	£1,500
Highways/Transport	4	£19,145
Housing	1	£607
Libraries	7	£3,477
Parks	3	£15,952
Police	0	£0
Public Health	0	£0
Total	19	£46,806

Annual Report 2021/22 Ward Engagement Declared 'Other Sources' of Funding

As part of the application process, applicants show how the projects/activities are supported through other sources of funding. In total £567,767 of matched funding was leveraged through the Ward Funding scheme. The table below shows the matched funding by ward:

Constituency	Amount
East	£167,889
South	£171,403
West	£228,475
Total	£567,767

Ward Community Meetings

Background

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

The framework which determines the meetings objectives and how they operate is detailed at part 3 of the Council's Constitution. Whilst they aren't formally part of the Council's decision making structure, they offer a clear route for matters of concern to be raised with decision makers. Each ward in the City has the opportunity to undertake three meetings or other forms of engagement (such as a patch walk) per year. Most wards however utilise a familiar meeting format within a suitable accessible venue within each ward which tends to have good public recognition.

Current Status

The coronavirus pandemic restricted the delivery of Ward Community Meetings over the past 2 years, and several pilot / trial meetings, were developed following efforts to explore how they could work in a virtual format. A call for interest was made to elected Members, and plans were put in place to hold meetings which covered a range of areas of the City and to test engagement using virtual meeting formats.

Nevertheless, many restrictions have eased, and The Ward Engagement Team, Elected Members and Democratic Services are now able to deliver Ward Community Meetings in the same way as before. An initial trial of physical meetings has already taken place, in a safe and measured way, with more planned in. A holistic approach is being taken when organising these meetings, something that will continue going forward.

Moving Forward

Ward Community Engagement officers will continue to support Ward Councillors with three engagement activities per year. These include Ward Community meetings, Consultation events and Patch walks. Officers will arrange planning meetings with elected Members from each ward, to discuss and agree the shape of each meeting going forward. The option to hold virtual meetings will now remain an option going forward, and this can be considered alongside the other possible formats. In partnership with the Democratic Support Team, Ward Engagement Officers will meet with elected members to set agendas, and discuss proposed dates and venues, with a view to increase participation and engagement from the local community.

In addition, Ward Community Engagement Officers will continue to process all Ward Funding applications from assessment right up to consideration from Elected Members and arranging payment. Officers will also continue to collate all evaluations for successful applications. Applicants are now able to receive one to one support with Ward Community Engagement Officers when applying for Ward Funding. Officers will be arranging drop-in sessions at Libraries or Community Centres, where potential applicants can come and be supported with the process. The team will also continue to take calls on the Ward Engagement Helpline and provide information and support to applicants.

Stocking Farm, North West Leicester

Claire Gooch
Development Team

Planning, Development and Transport



Presentation contents:

- Project overview and objectives-site location
- Project vision
- Public engagement details
- Public engagement responses
- Newsletters
- Proposed masterplan-artist's aerial impression
- Artist's impression-bird's eye view of existing site layout.
- Artist's impression-bird's eye view of proposed site layout.
- Neighbourhood facilities
- Investment
- Key programme dates

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Project overview and objectives- Site location

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Stocking Farm-Project vision

To create a new residential community at the heart of the Stocking Farm area which will provide [50] new council homes and facilities to serve the local community and will reflect the principles of **exemplar development including public engagement, design quality, public realm, energy efficiency, access, legibility, community safety and cohesion, and environmental and economic sustainability.**

Public engagement details

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Engagement Phase	Method of engagement	Objective	Results
Phase 1 January/February 2021 (3 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Paper information pack and paper surveys 	Sought to understand demand for facilities, frequency of use and local sentiment. Raised the prospect of new council housing with the community.	Findings led to design changes.
Phase 2 October/ November 2021 (3 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Paper information pack and paper surveys 	Re-confirmed findings of phase 1, shared generic layout of proposed site to seek opinion.	Findings provided general support for proposals
Phase 3 April/ May 2022 (3 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Paper information pack and paper surveys • Bookable online meetings with officers • In-person event 	Shared latest iteration of masterplan to seek comments ahead of Planning application submission.	Proposals generally well received and supported. Will lead to a final design to be submitted for Planning.

Public engagement responses

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Number of survey responses received in total	238	141	130
Number of above responses received online	92%	68%	100%
Number of visitors to the website	760	266	1266
Device used to access website %	72.9% Mobile 21.2% Desktop PC 5.9% Tablet	68.5% Mobile 29.6% Desktop PC 1.9% Tablet.	90% Mobile 6% Desktop PC 4% Tablet
Number attended in-person event.	N/A	N/A	28
Number of people used online meeting option	N/A	N/A	0

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Based on 2 letters being sent to each of 2,200+ addresses before and during each phase, in addition to 4 newsletters being sent to the same addresses over the last 18 months.

Stocking Farm- Resident Newsletters

(Delivered to 2,200+ addresses in April, July, December 2021 and February 2022.
Next one due to be delivered July 2022.)

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Stocking Farm

NEWSLETTER
April 2021 Issue 1

This newsletter has been prepared by Leicester City Council to update local residents and stakeholders with the latest information about our Stocking Farm neighbourhood centre proposals.

Public Engagement phase 1 - Thank you!

We wrote to you in January because we wanted to hear your views about the Stocking Farm neighbourhood centre. We would like to thank you for the excellent response we received. A total of 238 people and families took the time to tell us what you value most, and also what changes you would like to see. These helpful comments will now be used to inform future masterplan options which we will share with you in a second phase of public engagement. Please look out for letters landing on your doorstep in summer 2021 detailing how and when you can get involved.

Coming soon! Community Shop

We previously shared with you that Community Shop would like to open in the council's Youth Centre building, which has been underused for some time. They have now submitted a planning application. You can view and make comment on their application at: planning.leicester.gov.uk/ and searching reference number 20210864. Community Shop is an award-winning social enterprise that supports individuals, families and communities. All of their community shops are built around three connected community spaces – a store, hub and kitchen. A separate community space will be available to all members of the local community to hire.

- In their Community Stores they sell surplus food and household products at discounted prices. These products, which are all in date and are perfectly good to use, are donated by retail and manufacturing partners. Whilst making savings, members also help to make sure that perfectly good products do not go to waste.
 - Their Community Hub provides life-changing training and personal development and over 5,300 people have accessed their Success Plan, helping them increase their confidence, build on strengths and overcome barriers in their lives, including anything from health and wellbeing, to money matters, and community leadership training.
 - The Community Kitchen is a welcoming space for everyone living in Stocking Farm where you can enjoy good quality cooked meals at low-cost prices, with kids eating these but it is much more than that. Through a range of events and family activities, including cookery clubs, they bring communities together and 95% of their members say they are eating more healthily since joining.
- Subject to planning permission they hope to open late Summer 2021. Membership is open to eligible members of the local community and it is free to join. For more information on Community Shop membership please visit: communityshopgroup.co.uk/ or community-shop@our-society-enterprise



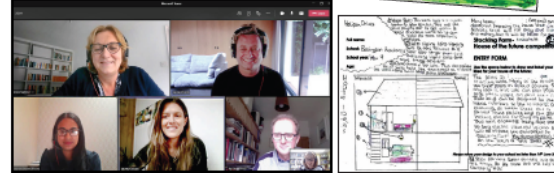
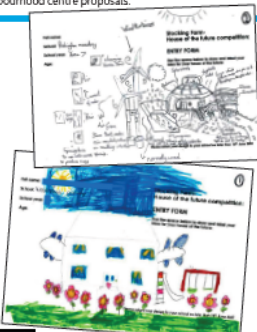
Stocking Farm

NEWSLETTER
July 2021 Issue 2

This newsletter has been prepared by Leicester City Council to update local residents and stakeholders with the latest information about our Stocking Farm neighbourhood centre proposals.

House of the future Schools design competition - Winners announced

As part of our engagement with the local community we were very keen to hear from the younger residents who are the future generations of Stocking Farm. We teamed up with Woodstock Primary Academy and Babington Academy and ran our 'House of the Future' competition over the summer half term. The competition encouraged young people to think creatively about the type of homes they would like to see in their local area. We received lots of exciting entries and are beyond impressed with the work of talented young designers from the two schools and their ideas for homes of the future. We were also thrilled to have architect and TV personality George Clarke on-board as one of the judges. Congratulations to the winning pupils who received their prizes ahead of the summer holidays.



St. Luke's Church - Vicar Update

Welcome to the Revd. Robert (Rob) Hirdley who has recently been appointed as the new vicar of St Luke's Church (and of Christ the King, Beaumont Leys). He is moving from Ipswich and will officially start in October. The Bishop of Leicester will lead a service of welcome on Thursday 30th September at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Church.

Fire safety advice

The fire brigade will be at St Luke's Church at 3:30pm on Wednesdays 4th August and 18th August. There will be a talk on fire safety, maybe a fire engine and the possibility to have free smoke alarms fitted if required. All adults (and children too) are welcome.



Stocking Farm

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE 3

This newsletter has been prepared by Leicester City Council to update local residents and stakeholders with the latest information about our Stocking Farm neighbourhood centre proposals.

Public Engagement Stage Two - Thank you!

We wrote to you in October 2021 because we wanted to share with you our initial proposals for Stocking Farm Neighbourhood Centre, which we hope will inject fresh life and make lasting improvements to the area. We would like to thank everyone who took part in the second stage of engagement and for the excellent responses we received from the local community. These are still being assessed and will go on to inform more detailed proposals for the site. We will share these with you in the new year, hopefully at an event in the new Community Shop as well as online.

Community Shop update

Community Shop, opening in the Stocking Farm Youth Centre building, will provide an indoor community space available to everyone for hire and a new community café offering low price hot meals and refreshments. The shop will be available to Community Shop members. Membership criteria/eligibility will be confirmed in the new year. Works to create the Stocking Farm Community Shop will start early in the new year and we hope to see it open in Spring 2022. Despite the last year, with the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Shop have managed to successfully open five brand new shops across the country. Their success was recently recognised by being awarded The Queen's Award for Enterprise, which the team collected from Buckingham Palace.



LEFT: Example of a Community Shop.

Don't feel the cold this winter

Did you know that it is estimated that around 26,000 households in Leicester will face fuel poverty this winter? If you find yourself struggling to afford heating or need help with other bills, a new scheme has been launched which you may be eligible to receive financial help from. For more information and how to apply please visit: <https://news.leicester.gov.uk/news-articles/2021/november/new-support-fund-opens-to-help-those-on-a-low-income/> or contact Citizens Advice Leicestershire on 0800 278 7970 (9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday).



Stocking Farm

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE 4

This newsletter has been prepared by Leicester City Council to update local residents and stakeholders with the latest information about our Stocking Farm neighbourhood centre proposals.

Community Shop - We're opening in April, so come along and visit us

Community Shop, the award-winning social enterprise offering a retail store, Community Hub, and café is set to open in Stocking Farm which will benefit hundreds of local people on the cusp of food poverty.

The new store will open in April at the former youth centre on Marwood Road. It has been supported by Leicester City Council, who provided the building and additional funding, as well as long-term partner Ocado who have provided significant funding for the new store.



ABOVE: Example of a Community Shop store.

Leicester-based food manufacturer Sarworth Brothers has also provided significant stock for the new store.

Community Shop Membership Why should I become a member?

Community Shop Stocking Farm will provide members from the local community with access to high-quality, deeply discounted surplus food and products, like the 'Plenty for 20' range of everyday items at just 20p. Members can also access professional and personal development programmes to kick-start positive change in their own lives. From inspiring motivation and confidence in members, to improving health and economic outcomes for their families.

How do I become a member?

Membership is open to eligible residents of the local community who are in receipt of means tested benefits, and it is free to join. For more information on Community Shop Stocking Farm and to sign-up for membership please visit: communityshopgroup.co.uk/community-shop-membership

Stocking Farm Neighbourhood Centre - public engagement stage 2 update:

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the second stage of engagement in October/November 2021 and for the excellent responses we received from the local community.

Your comments will inform more detailed proposals for the site and we will share these with you in the Spring, hopefully at an event in the new Community Shop as well as online.



Proposed masterplan



Artist's impression of existing site
- aerial view from Marwood Road, looking south



Artist's impression of proposed scheme - aerial view from Marwood Road, looking south



Neighbourhood facilities

- Community Shop opened April 2022 in the former Stocking Farm Youth Club building, offering a retail store and community hub (training e.g. financial management and healthy cooking etc) for members, and a café and Community Zone which is open to all members of the community.
- Community Zone is the new community space run by Community Shop on behalf of the council's Neighbourhood's Team which replaces current facilities at Community Hall and the Healthy Living Centre. These latter buildings are proposed to be demolished as part of the masterplan plans, subject to Planning.
- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) local sites being considered to relocate the court, subject to Planning.
- A new open space will be provided with new children's play area. A co-design exercise will be run later in the year working with interested locals to design the area.

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Investment

Leicester City Council Funding	Amount	Comments
Feasibility	£500,000	From the capital programme to carry out feasibility studies, initial project development and public engagement.
Works	To be confirmed	Full cost of the plans will be available as part of the formal decision to be taken on Stocking Farm. Until then, the costs are evolving along with the development of the site plans. The majority of the costs will fall to the HRA and budget provision for this has already been made in the 2022/23 Capital programme.

External Funding	Amount	Comments
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and One Public Estate (OPE)-Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF)	£490,000	Awarded following a successful bid for funding. Funding allocated to unlock surplus local authority land for housing.
DLUHC PropTech Digital Engagement Round 2 Fund	£86,700	Awarded following a successful bid for funding. Funding allocated to push the boundaries of local authority digital engagement.

Key programme dates

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Milestone	Date
Planning application submitted	July 2022
Classroom toolkit delivered to Babington Secondary Academy to use in Geography curriculum	July 2022
Newsletter no. 5 to be distributed to 2,200+homes	July 2022
Co-design exercise to design play area and mural.	End of Summer 2022.
Start demolition onsite (Subject to Planning)	January 2023
Main works start onsite (Subject to Planning)	March/April 2023
Works complete	End of 2025

Executive report to Scrutiny

Scrutiny Commission: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny
Commission

Date of scrutiny commission: 28 June 2022

Title: Tree Strategy Review

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

Lead director: Sean Atterbury, Director of Neighbourhood
Environmental Services

Useful Information:

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Report author: Dave Jones

Report Version: 1

1. Summary

To provide members with an update on progress for the period 2021/22 on the Tree Strategy which was adopted by the City Council in November 2018.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/185470/trees-strategy-2018-23-v2.pdf>

2. Recommendations

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

3. Introduction

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

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

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

A formal review of all of the aims and actions within the strategy for the period 2021/22 has been undertaken and the data collated in a table for ease of reference as attached at appendix 1.

4. Report

The Tree Strategy review considers the financial year 2021/22 and aims to monitor the delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy via the five key strategic objectives:

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

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

The review document gives the current position statement and identifies what has been achieved over the 12 months period, with a series of measures.

Each section is colour coded for ease of reference.

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

5. Consultations

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this update report.

Stuart McAvoy – Acting Head of Finance, ext. 37 4004

6.2. Legal Implications

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

Katherine Hall, Locum Solicitor, Planning & Highways

6.3. Climate Emergency Implications

Leicester's tree stock plays an important role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This includes helping to reduce the risk of flooding by slowing the run-off of rainwater during heavy and prolonged rainfall, as well as moderating the impact of heatwaves and providing shade. Trees also store a significant amount of carbon and the planting of new trees can make a small but symbolically important contribution to removing carbon from the atmosphere.

The Tree Strategy delivery activities reported here are contributing to the above climate benefits by maintaining the existing tree stock in a healthy condition and increasing it through new planting. Certain activities, including the tree planting and tree wardens scheme, are included in the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Duncan Bell, Climate Change Manager. Ext. 37 2249.

6.4. Equality Implications

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

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

Groups that are more affected by air pollution include:

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

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Ext 37 4148

7. Author

Dave Jones, Trees & Woodlands Manager

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Trees bring enormous environmental and ecological benefits to our city.

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

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

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


Sir Peter Soulsby
CITY MAYOR


Cllr Adam Clarke
DEPUTY CITY MAYOR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Our Aims

The city council will:

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

It will also:

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

Review:

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

Trees & Woodlands Portfolio Key Facts

Management of tree stock of 168k individual registered trees and 111 hectares of woodland.

In-house team comprising of an establishment of 36 staff, as appendix 1. Annual maintenance budget of £1.5m

11,076 small trees and 677 heavy stock planted. 607 trees felled in 2021/22 as part of stock management & storms. That's 19 trees planted for every tree felled.

The Trees & Woodlands team were successful in passing the Arb. Association Approved Contractor Certification, being one of only two LA's with this accreditation.

100% of by-product waste recycled, combination of biofuel woodchip material and logs. Over 1000 tonnes per annum, saving £115k in landfill costs plus transport costs.

In partnership with The Tree Council, we now have 23 volunteer tree wardens, 11 of these wardens joined us this year.

Leicester City Council's Ash Dieback Action Plan is being drafted; this will outline how LCC will manage the risks associated with this disease over the next 10 years.

Tree planting schemes in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Earthwatch & Trees for Cities have resulted in over 10,396 new trees planted in the city.

534 Tree Preservation Orders & 25 Conservation Areas in place offering a level of amenity tree protection.

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

Successful completion of phase 1 Western Park Sanitation project. 60 diseased trees felled and 122 heavy stock trees planted.

As part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee tree planting was undertaken at Abbey Park, Castle Gardens and Alderman Richard Hallam School with 1,000 small trees given out to the public to plant in their gardens.



Tree Inspection – Pine Tree Avenue



Abbey Park – Queens Jubilee carved seat



Volunteers tree planting – Appleton Park

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
1	Promoting amenity	Monitor the health of the council's trees.	Inspection and survey programme.	T&W	Schools, Highway, Housing and Parks tree stock inspections undertaken to identify works required to manage the health of the tree stock. 2021/22 - 350 surveys completed This equates to 27% of all LCC sites with trees were surveyed (total 1,285 sites). Sites include 208 parks, 185 housing transects, 642 highway transects etc.
			Continue to expand the council's tree stock	T&W	Replacement planting of heavy stock has been undertaken in the highway, housing areas and parks & open spaces, along with new developments. 2021/22 - 677 large trees were planted Examples: 122 Western Park 70 Various housing estates 19 Abbey Park
			Engage a team of volunteer Tree Wardens.	LEV	In partnership with The Tree Council LCC now has a dedicated team of 23 Tree Wardens registered as a constituted group, trained to assess and report issues and assist in tree planting and establishment, e.g. early identification of Ash Die Back etc.
2	Promoting amenity (cont)	Maintain trees with the aim of reducing nuisance, hazard and complaint	Level of complaints.	T&W	Formal complaints received: 2021/22 - 1 complaint

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					No complaints have been upheld by the LG Ombudsman.
			Tree inspection programme to identify and eliminate potential risk. Maintain inventory register for each tree on Ezytreev database.	T&W	<p>Visual tree inspection regime as ref 1 above: Sites inspection frequency 3 – 7 years based on potential risk depending on location:</p> <p>This identifies the condition and health of the tree stock and any impact the whole tree, might provide in terms of nuisance, hazard and complaint, typical examples being, obstruction of highway/street lamp, removal of deadwood, tree disease and potential tree failure, etc.</p>
			Aim for two thirds of available budget to be targeted on proactive maintenance, rather than emergency works.	T&W	<p>Annual programme of works identified following site surveys with the aim to manage the stock in a safe and healthy condition and reduce the reliance on emergency reaction works.</p> <p>2021/22 Reactive spend £207k (33%) Proactive spend £428k (67%)</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
3	Promoting amenity (cont)	Use a variety of species and cultivars.	Planting plans	T&W	Tree species are chosen to meet the suitability to location being planted using a range of native trees but also recognising that exotic trees have a place in the landscape. e.g., Western Park used predominantly native tree stock, but some exotics species were planted where the location warranted this.
			Promote the wide selection of species and cultivars used at key parks	P&OS	Development of a tree trail template which can be downloaded or used as an App to showcase and promote core species across a site encouraging the user to visit the whole site. Abbey Park tree trail will be launched in 2022. With further park tree trails added throughout the year.
4	Promoting amenity (cont)	Reduce problems that can be associated with the presence of trees when making decisions about planting design and the positioning of trees in the landscape.	Right tree right place	T&W Planning	Early engagement between planning team and developer as part of the design process to build in tree stock which provides appropriate amenity suitable for the location. eg. Ashton Green, green infrastructure planning with Tilla Homes. 30 highway trees, 11 SUDS area planting & 3 front garden plantings.
5	Promoting amenity (cont)	Purchase planting stock of good quality and prepare an underground environment that is conducive to good tree growth.	Procurement policy to ensure quality and scope of species.	T&W	Tender developed for a procurement exercise to establish a framework contract for the supply of a range of species and cultivars to meet the needs of the council.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
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			Successful establishment of heavy tree stock.	T&W	<p>Preparation of tree pits with appropriate soil conditioner, drainage and irrigation system to ensure successful establishment.</p> <p>2021/22 – 98% establishment rate</p> <p>Any establishment failures are replanted within the following planting season.</p>
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Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
6	Promoting habitat and wildlife	Encourage the planting and management of woodland and groups of trees.	Identify sites with scope for planting of woodland groups and seek funding to support projects.	P&OS	<p>Climate Woods group with representatives from a range of services meet several times a year, scoping opportunities for mass tree planting and utilising suitable schemes. Successful projects in 2021/22 include:</p> <p>Trees for Cities, in partnership with this charity, 3416 small trees were planted in Appleton Park and 905 small trees in Monks Rest Gardens.</p> <p>Urban Tree Challenge, in partnership with the Forestry Commission, 70 large trees planted at 10 locations within the city.</p> <p>Local Authorities Treescape Fund, in partnership with the Forestry Commission, 1875 small trees, 85 large trees & 60 fruit trees planted at Western Park.</p> <p>Tiny Forest, in partnership with Earthwatch, 600 trees planted in a space the size of a tennis court. 4200 small trees planted at 7 schools.</p>
7	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Where it is compatible with amenity, seek to retain old tree stock, including trees in decline and manage them in a way that promotes their value to wildlife.	Number of trees identified and surveyed.	T&W & Nature Conservation	There are 177 mature trees which meet the Local Wildlife Site criteria for designation due to the size (girth) generally being over 3.77m and containing features likely to be of value for wildlife such as cracks, fissures and crevices.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					<p>Where practicable large standing dead trunks (habitat poles) are retained to support wildlife, as they are valuable eco systems.</p> <p>The Saving the Saffron Brook project aims to improve the condition of the woodland Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the catchment, improving structural diversity via selective thinning and coppicing works, along with woodland creation and tree species enrichment within Knighton Spinney and Washbrook Local Nature Reserves (LNR's).</p>
8	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Favour native trees over exotics when specifying, planning and implementing new planting.	Species type and quantities	T&W/Planning	<p>Examples of schemes utilising British native tree stock, including oak, silver birch, hornbeam, field maple, cherry & hawthorn.</p> <p>Western Park Sanitation works replacement planting</p> <p>Local Authorities Treescape Fund planting at Western Park</p> <p>Trees for Cities planting at Appleton Park & Monks Rest Gardens</p> <p>Urban Tree Challenge Fund at 7 locations</p> <p>Tiny Forest planting at 7 schools</p>
9	Promoting habitat and wildlife (cont)	Protect and conserve protected or rare species through appropriate	Staff training. Bio diversity action plan	T&W/Planning	Tree inspection prior to felling to determine presence of protected bat species, team are LANTRA trained to undertake bat inspections

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
		compensation when loss cannot be avoided.			<p>and utilise specialist equipment, such as the endoscope.</p> <p>Trees & Woodlands team work closely with the Nature Conservation team to ensure Biodiversity Action Plan is adhered to.</p> <p>Ensure that the Wildlife & Countryside Act is taken into consideration when undertaking any maintenance works to protect nesting birds.</p>
10	Responding to global obligations	Respond appropriately and proportionately to the threat of pests and disease epidemics.	Monitor the impact of Ash Dieback.	T&W	<p>Ash dieback disease will have a significant impact on the tree stock in the city. Nationally the disease has been under reported and public awareness of it is low. It is still unclear how fast the disease will establish itself in the city and start to cause significant practical problems.</p> <p>In 2021/22 10 Ash trees in poor condition were felled due to Ash Dieback, but many others have been identified with this disease, and significantly more Ash will be removed in 2022/23.</p> <p>Contingency budget in capital programme for 2022/23 to react and manage.</p> <p>The council's Ash Dieback Action Plan will be released in 2022/23. This will give more</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					details on the ash trees in the city and budget and human resources required.
			Through tree surveys identify concerns on individual tree's health & condition and where necessary review a site for potential pathogens.	T&W	<p>Western Park phase 1 sanitation works was completed in 2021/22. This was the felling of 60 trees, the majority infected by Phytophthora a fungus that infects the host tree.</p> <p>Western Park phase 2 works will be undertaken in 2022/23 to fell & replace the Pine trees infected with Needle Blight. This fungus infects the needles and gradually defoliates the tree.</p> <p>Contingency budget in capital programme for 2022/23 to react and manage.</p>
11	Responding to global obligations (cont)	Recycle the materials that arise from the management of trees, including the use of wood as a carbon-neutral fuel.	Volume of material diverted from landfill and recycled.	T&W	<p>By diverting by-product waste from landfill costs of £115k per annum have been avoided on landfill costs and transporting costs Woodchip is recycled for biofuel.</p> <p>Recycled by tonnage/total sale value/percentage recycled</p> <p>2021/22 – 1000t / 100%</p>
12	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership	Seek to preserve amenity afforded by trees when considering our response to	Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) created.	Planning	LCC has 535 Tree Preservation Orders in place offering a level of amenity protection.

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
		tree work applications made under planning controls.			2021/22 short list made of highest priority TPO sites for revoke & renew as ongoing project.
			Revise policy to support tree preservation.	Planning	Pine Tree Avenue, tree preservation strategy in place. In planning terms, the document represents Informal Guidance. It promotes the trees as a “material consideration” when planning or assessing works that might affect their retention.
13	Managing the pressure on trees in others’ ownership (cont)	When assessing planning applications, take into account the effect on trees and protect them where the balance of factors favours preservation.	Consider all planning applications within timeframe.	Planning	2021/22 – 200 (all within timeframe)
14	Managing the pressure on trees in others’ ownership (cont)	Where landscaping that includes tree planting is made a condition of planning consent, incorporate quality design and specification.	Process to ensure conditions issued provide suitable design outputs.	Planning	All Planning consents issued seek to secure the standard and specification as requested by Trees and Woodlands officers. Where this cannot be negotiated the reasons are reported and recorded in the Decision Report.
15	Managing the pressure on trees in others’ ownership (cont)	Work directly with landowners and developers to support them with the management, inclusion and retention of trees affected by the planning process.	Number of planning consultations undertaken.	Planning	Planning consultations undertaken relating to TPO applications and notifications of trees in conservation areas. 2021/22 – 155 (all within timeframe)

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					<p>T&W offer British Standard 5837 surveys required to ensure all trees are considered as a material consideration for all planning applications, e.g. Saffron Lane & Aylestone Rd cycleways, Beaumont Park P+R.</p> <p>Planning, Development and Transportation team work with each developer as part of the design process to ensure that existing landscape features can be retained and preserved and are enhanced with new design features.</p>
16	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Provide a 24/7 call out service ensuring a response to tree emergencies at any time.	100% of emergencies responded to within two hours.	T&W	<p>Responding to a range of situations, e.g. tree failure, road traffic accident. storms etc.</p> <p>2021/22 370 total emergencies responded to 67 out of hours</p>
17	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Respond within 24 hours to reports of other contraventions, actionable nuisance and hazards and deal with these quickly and proportionately - making appropriate resources available.	Number of contraventions responded to within timeframe.	Planning	2021/22 – 17 tree related claims received, and site visits undertaken. 70.5% undertaken within 24 hours.
18	Managing the pressure on trees in others' ownership (cont)	Be bound by the relevant planning practice guidance when managing protected tree regulations.	Consider planning enforcement action as required.	Planning	2021/22 - 11 cases where no breaches, 3 resolved through negotiations by removing harm to trees, no action agreed for 1 case, 2 under investigation.

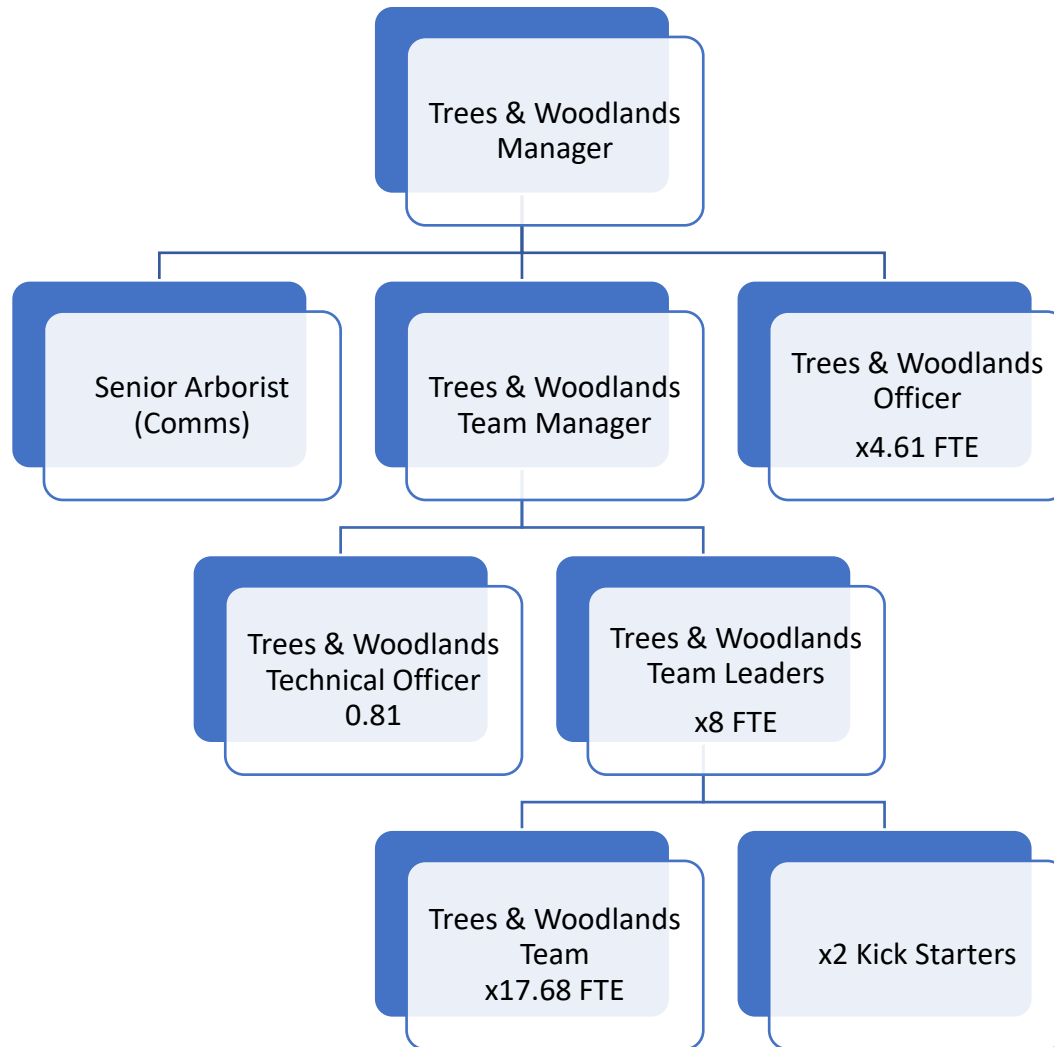
Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					Prosecution action was taken against 1 breach from last year.
19	Delivering this strategy	Adequate financial resources from council budgets and income generation.	Annual review of budget allocation and income forecast.	P&OS	<p>In addition to a small revenue budget the T&W team have a £500k capital budget for the sanitisation works at Western Park and the treatment of Ash Die Back during 2021/22 and 2022/23.</p> <p>Salaries budget reduction due to centralisation of employee insurance costs in 2020/21.</p> <p>All vehicle and plant expenditure budget held centrally by Fleet; annual budget £226k</p>
20	Delivering this strategy (cont)	Appropriately qualified, skilled, motivated and experienced staff	Certificates of competence and CPD for all staff.	T&W	<p>100% of operative's have achieved the required certificate of competence for the range of tasks undertaken.</p> <p>2021/22 – 117 refresher & technical training undertaken.</p> <p>The majority of operative training is a legal requirement as nearly every function requires certification, leading to some operatives holding as many as 50 certificates, many of which require regular refreshment, e.g. climbing at height, use of chain saw, pesticides use etc.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
					All staff training and competency is reviewed as part of the quality conversations.
21	Delivering this strategy (cont)	The organisation, systems, depots, facilities and good quality equipment that our staff need.	Infrastructure in place to support T&W team in service delivery.	T&W	<p>Health and safety audit identified pressures on Beaumont Park Depot capacity, identified opportunities to relocate part of service to reduce pressure on available space.</p> <p>Beaumont Park Depot will lose the storage compound area to the Beaumont Leys park and ride site. A suitable replacement site is being sought.</p> <p>Ongoing replacement programme of chippers and chainsaw equipment.</p> <p>Ezytreev software system in place to manage tree stock.</p>
			Accreditation to the Arboricultural Association as an approved contractor.	T&W	<p>The Arb Approved Contractor programme is the only comprehensive accreditation scheme for Tree Surgery businesses in the UK. Every approved contractor has been thoroughly assessed and found to carry out tree work to the highest standard. Assuring customers of good quality tree care undertaken safely and efficiently.</p> <p>T&W team successfully passed the 2-day assessment by the Arboricultural Association in October 2021.</p>

Ref	Strategic objective	Delivered by	Measured by	Lead responsibility	Current position
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					Leicester City Council is one of only two LA to hold the AA accreditation in the country.
22	Delivering this strategy (cont)	Support from all appropriate sections of the council.	Awareness and understanding of the Tree Strategy within departments and with core clients.	Marketing & Comms	<p>Tree Strategy marketed with clients and council divisions, including Members.</p> <p>The document is available of the LCC website.</p> <p>Directing officers to online documents and reiterating policy on replacement planting and tree policy management guide.</p>

Trees & Woodlands Team Structure



Neighbourhood Scrutiny 28 June 2022

Trees Strategy Review 2021/22

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Dave Jones, T&W Manager, Stewart Doughty, Head P&OS

Annual Review

- The Strategy outlines how we manage the city's trees to ensure that we sustain and enhance Leicester's urban forest for future generations.
- The annual review monitors the delivery of the aims of the Tree Strategy via the five key strategic objectives:
 - Promoting amenity
 - Promoting habitat and wildlife
 - Responding to global obligations
 - Managing the pressure on trees in others ownership
 - Delivering the strategy
- This is undertaken via a series of 22 actions as specified in the Tree Strategy, which are reported on in the review document.

The council has increased its tree stock of 150K trees from 2021 to 168K trees in 2022



- 90,000 – Parks
 - 21,000 – Highways
 - 23,000 – Housing estates
 - 20,000 – Schools
 - 14,000 – Misc.
-
- Woodland has increased from 109 to 111 hectares

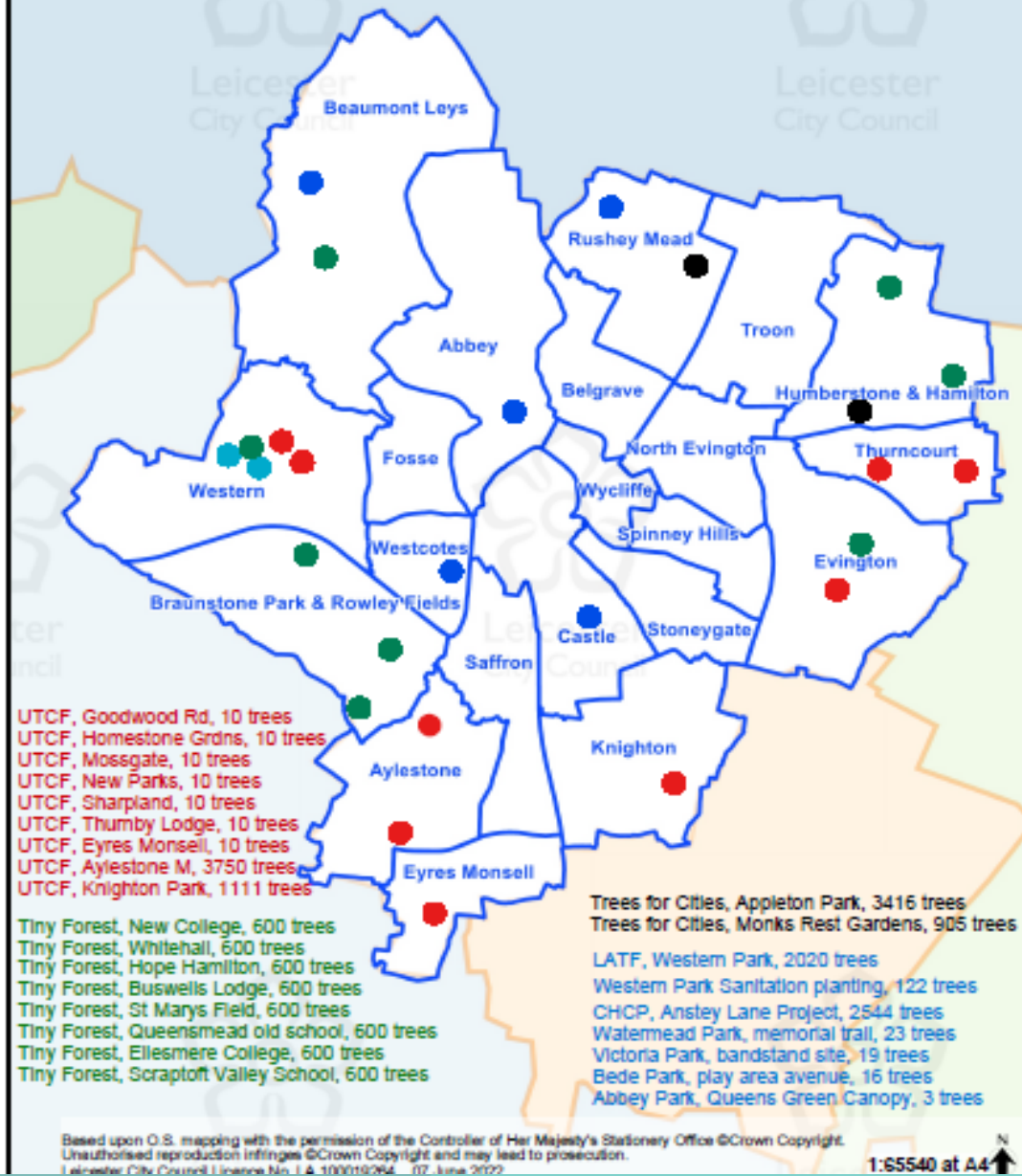
Progress

Promoting Amenity

- 350 Tree Surveys completed in 2021/22, which equates to 27% of all LCC sites. Up from 15% surveyed in 2019 – 2021
- 11,076 small trees planted
- 677 large stock planted
- 607 trees felled
- That's 19 trees planted for every tree felled in 2021/22
- LCC now has 23 trained tree wardens, up from 15 in 2019 - 2021



Tree Planting Locations from Funded Projects



Progress

Promoting Habitat & Wildlife



Successful external funding bids:

- Trees for Cities, Appleton Park & Monks Rest Gardens, 4321 trees
- Local Authority Treescapes Fund, Western Park, 2020 trees
- Urban Tree Challenge Fund, various housing estates, 70 trees
- Tiny Forests Earthwatch, 7 schools, 4200 trees

Saving Saffron Brook project undertaken at Knighton Spinney & Washbrook Nature Reserve, to improve condition and species diversity

Progress

Responding to Global Obligations



- Ash Dieback
 - Potential significant impact, separate paper from CMB
 - Action Plan being drafted
- Western Park Sanitation project
 - Successful completion of phase 1
 - 60 diseased trees felled, 122 trees planted
 - Phase 2 will start in October 2022
 - 40 diseased trees to be felled
 - 80 trees to be planted
- 100% by-product recycled
 - Over 1,000 tonnes diverted from landfill saving £115k



Progress

Managing the pressure on trees in others ownership



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- LCC has 535 Tree Preservation Orders in place & 25 Conservation Areas
- 155 TPO & CA tree applications processed
- 200 planning applications, with trees on site, processed
- 370 Emergency tree call outs attended, 67 out of hours

Progress

Delivering the Strategy

- Trees & Woodlands Staff:
 - 30 – Operational
 - 6.6 – Technical
- LCC retained Arboricultural Association accreditation (now one of two Local Authorities on list)
- 177 refresher & technical training courses completed by T&W team

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Queens Green Canopy

- LCC awarded Champion City status for its commitments to maintaining & expanding its tree stock



Questions

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Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2022 to 2023

Meeting date	Meeting items	Information
28 June 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ward Meetings and Ward Funding reports 2. Stocking Farm Regeneration 3. Tree strategy – annual review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing topic – suggested as an annual scrutiny item for ward meetings and ward funding (<u>Lead</u>: Lee Warner) 2. This was mentioned in the local media this month regarding the consultation on regenerating this area.
16 August 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic Abuse – Safe Accommodation Strategy 2. CRASBU report 3. Crowdfunding Project 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This has been deferred to the August meeting. (Housing Scrutiny members will be invited) 2. Previous request for this item to come back to the Commission in 12 months with the consideration of the recent review led by the Housing Task Group (<u>Lead</u>: Daxa) 3. Members requested a fuller report to come back to the Commission following the last update in January 2022. (<u>Lead</u>: Andrew S/Miranda)
4 October 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy work 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An update to return to the Commission, to monitor progress following the update six months ago.
15 November 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VCS & Engagement work report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members to receive a progress report on the strategy work and action plans and pledges and the budget info, to a future scrutiny meeting. (<u>Lead</u>: Andrew S / Miranda)

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2022 to 2023

12 January 2023	1. Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme	1. Standard items to go to all Commissions.
2 March 2023	1. Employment and Careers (in Libraries) Update 2. Community Safety Partnership Update (with Hate Crime Policy update included)	1. A report on progress expected to return, relating to the new initiative partnership with DWP. 2. New hate crime policy – a report on progress is expected OR can be picked up as part of 'Community Safety Partnership work', as an annual item

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FORWARD PLAN / SUGGESTED ITEMS		
Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
KEY DECISIONS & NON-KEY DECISIONS	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider relevant items to this commission, from the councils Corporate Plan of Key & Non-Key Decisions <i>None so far</i>	Ongoing / watching brief
CONSULTATIONS	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider relevant items to this commission from planned or live consultations to provide scrutiny comments and views <i>None so far</i>	Ongoing / watching brief
COUNCIL BUDGET	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider any budget impacts relevant to this commission, as necessary. <i>None so far</i>	Ongoing / watching brief

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2022 to 2023

POSSIBLE DRAFT ITEMS – FORWARD PLANNING	
Draft Local Plan	<i>Item will go to all Commissions in Summer 2022, where an additional meeting will be anticipated</i>
Safer Leicester Partnership Plan 2021-2024	<i>Last presentation to scrutiny was early 2021</i>
Pollution Control	<i>Last presentation to scrutiny was early 2021</i>
Waste & Recycling services	<i>An annual report to scrutiny to report on progress / any issues / funding re: contracts</i>
Cyber Fraud	<i>Enhancing support outside the city centre, to neighbourhoods (can potentially come under the Community Safety item)</i>
Community Gold project	<i>Historical item that has remained on the work programme and will need to be investigated, regarding relevant updates</i>
Hate Crime Policy (or Community Safety Partnership work as an annual item)	<i>The new hate crime policy – requested to remain on work programme to come back to report on progress OR can be picked up as part of ‘Community Safety Partnership work’, as community safety partnership is an annual item for the Commission</i>
Homelessness & Rough Sleepers Strategy report	<i>Commission to receive updates when available. Last update was in Dec 2021.</i>
Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy	<i>Last update was in October 2021; ongoing topic - to keep on work programme to receive update on progress and any issues.</i>
Public Safety Team Report	<i>Ongoing topic – can keep on work programme to receive update / any issues.</i>
Gambling Policy – 2022-25	<i>Ongoing – can keep on work programme for update on progress / any issues, if any.</i>
VCS Engagement and Strategy work	<i>Ongoing to keep on work programme to come to future meeting – see minutes when available.</i>

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2022 to 2023

Noise Control Update	<i>Last update was in March 2022</i>
Employment and Careers presentation	<i>Ongoing - progress report to return</i>
Licensing (cross cutting item with other Commissions)	<i>Discussions required on whether this item should be taken at; OSC, Housing or Neighbourhoods</i>
Crowdfunding Project	<i>An update to return in 2022/23</i>
Tree Strategy – Annual Review	

DRAFT