

Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND
CLIMATE EMERGENCY SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2023

TIME: 5:30 pm

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

Members of the Commission

Councillor Joel (Chair)

Councillor Fonseca (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Porter, Rae Bhatia, Singh Sandhu, Valand, Waddington and Whittle

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

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Anita Patel (Scrutiny Policy Officer),

Tel: 0116 4546342, email: anita.patel@leicester.gov.uk

Aqil Sarang (Democratic Support Officer),

Tel: 0116 4546350, e-mail: aqil.sarang@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester City Council, City Hall, 3rd Floor Granby Wing, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
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Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:
Aqil Sarang, Democratic Support Officer on 0116 4546350.
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AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**Appendix A
(Pages 1 - 6)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 January 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as correct record.

4. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer to report on any questions, representations and statements of case received in accordance with Council procedures.

5. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT DATA PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment, the city council's Corporate Data Consultant will present information about Unemployment data and demonstrate the capacity of the open data platform (Link to the open data platform - https://data.leicester.gov.uk/pages/unemployment_dashboard/).

Members of the Commission are recommended to note the update and pass any comments to the Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment.

7. ADULT EDUCATION AND MULTIPLY SERVICE

**Appendix B
(Pages 7 - 26)**

The Director for Tourism Culture and Inward Investment submits an update report to the Commission on the Adult Education and Multiply Service.

Members of the Commission are recommended to note the report and pass any comments to the Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment.

8. TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND AND CONNECTING LEICESTER

**Appendix C
(Pages 27 - 50)**

The Director for Planning, Development and Transportation submits a presentation providing the Commission with a programme update.

Members of the Commission are recommended to note the presentation and pass any comments to the Director for Planning, Development and Transportation.

9. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

**Appendix D
(Pages 51 - 88)**

The Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submits a report on the project update.

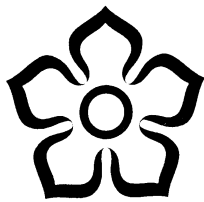
Members of the Commission are recommended to note the report and pass any comments to the Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

**Appendix E
(Pages 89 - 94)**

For Members' consideration, the work programme for the Commission is attached.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY
SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Joel (Chair)
Councillor Fonseca (Vice Chair)

Councillor Sandhu

Councillor Whittle

Councillor Waddington

* * * * *

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Joel as Chair led on introductions.

The Monitoring Officer noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Porter, Councillor Rae Bhatia and Councillor Valand.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

128. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development, Transportation and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission on 7 December 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

129. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

130. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer noted that none had been received.

131. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET AND DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24

The Head of Finance presented a report and provided an overview of the Draft Revenue Budget. It was noted that:

- The main issues affecting the budget were the decade of austerity, two year stop gap to get through the Covid-19 Pandemic and the recent rise in inflation.
- The potential of a new period of austerity.
- above inflationary cost pressures in Adult Social Care as a consequence of growth of those in need although additional recycled funding for Adult Social Care after delaying promised reforms was suggested in the Autumn Statement
- Due to the rise in inflation, £10 million of budget was being set aside for energy costs.
- A significant factor was staff pay, in 2022/23 saw 6.4% added to the pay bill. This was £7.2 million above what had been budgeted.

It was further noted that the final report to go to Budget Council would have the latest figures. Using the manged reserves strategy had shielded the authority from whilst other authorities were contemplating bankruptcy.

As part of the discussions with Members, it was noted that:

- There were a number of ways to bridge the gap and managing savings to continue to help build the reserves were some of the proposals in place. Additionally, sourcing government grants and departments setting savings targets to reduce the extent of which the service cost
- The estimates provided were broadly anticipated to be the final figures and there were no significant differences
- Departmental savings would be made through cashless payment systems and deleting vacant post in Planning and Transportation.
- Most work in Economic Development was delivered through grant funding
- The Adult Education service was budgeted to contribute £870k to the council's overall budget.

The Director for Planning, Development and Transportation noted that the transition to cashless systems would be a journey cognisant of all groups in society and migrate away from cash in an orderly fashion as society becomes more familiar with the technology available.

Following the concerns raised by Chair with various projections of health inequalities, the Head of Finance noted that, public health is also expected to continue within its budget as all other departments.

Capital Programme

The Head of Finance provided an overview of the Capital Programme. It was noted that:

- The Capital Budget was a limited programme on a one-year budget.
- £2.5 million was proposed for investment into multiuse games areas

(MUGA) program across the city.

As part of the discussion Members were impressed with the delivery of projects. The Deputy City Mayor for Transport and Climate Emergency noted that co-ordinated work, helped have a real impact across the city.

It was also noted that individual capital scheme information could be provided to Members outside of the meeting on request and Members had the opportunity to suggest schemes for the local environment works list for consideration.

In further discussions, Members queried the infrastructure to support the Electric Vehicles (EV's). It was noted that:

- The report outlined the budget for the council's fleet change
- All Park and Ride busses were EV's, including the Hospital Hopper and the city centre loop bus which was to be introduced
- Zebra funding would support 96 EV busses to be introduced to the commercial bus fleet which would make 1/3 of all commercial busses electric, and make the city leaders nationally outside of London
- The introduction of charging points would follow in the near future
- Some residential areas had charging points tested and the process for selecting suitable sites was underway
- The development of the EV Strategy was in progress, this would come before the Commission for consideration.

AGREED:

- 1) That the comments raised by the Commission be considered
- 2) That the Commission note the context of the report, and
- 3) That the Commission await the decision at Budget Council in February 2023.

132. WATERSIDE PROJECT UPDATE

The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation introduced the item.

The Programme Manager delivered a presentation providing the Commission with an overview on the riverside regeneration project.

As part of the discussions, it was noted that:

- Commission Members commended the Officers for the level of work carried out to regenerate the area, since it was introduced in 2011
- It was noted that receipts from the Right to Buy scheme which allowed for 74 supported Living accommodation, this was negotiated and planned according to the necessity of the site with the aim of developments to be mix communities
- It was noted that there were additional sites that were being considered with further development opportunities and it was an opportunity for the authority and partners to continue with the momentum
- The context of the site was key to the types of developments ensuring

- they work with the existing properties
- Make efficient use of the land and achieve the challenging targets for the city

The Assistant City Mayor for Policy, Delivery, Communications and Levelling Up took the opportunity to note that with the footfall data that was being made available suggested that the developments were sustaining the City Centre.

In further discussions it was noted there were derelict sites on Woodgate that could be potential good sites for employment use and that the Officers consider how they can be bought back into use or part of future developments in the area. The Director of Planning, Development and Transportation noted that, although there was no timescale, dialogues continued with partners to consider further options for the Woodgate area.

AGREED:

- 1) That the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation be requested to consider the potential development of derelict sites and take a steps to deliver more affordable housing to meet the pressing needs of the city
- 2) That the Officers be congratulated for the impressive development of once a derelict area. and
- 3) That the report be noted.

133. COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND - UPDATE

The Assistant City Mayor for Policy, Delivery, Communications and Levelling Up introduced the item.

The Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment took the opportunity to note that a lot of work had been delivered through collaborative work with multiple organisations.

The Regeneration Programmes and Projects Manager provided the Commission with an overview of the report.

Representatives who delivered projects supported by the Community Renewal Fund provided presentations on their projects.

It was noted that:

- The ESOL provided over 240 hours of learning to participants who were at the pre-esol stage. The project also provided support to participants accessing benefits, job applications and accessing services
- The ESOL project supported 225 women, 125 of whom were from South-Asian backgrounds, this also gave the opportunity to discuss integration and enhance British values during uneasy tensions in the city
- The Leicester Accelerator project supported existing projects to add value, evolve the programmes and adapt to change
- The project was very successful with small businesses and aimed to support businesses that had not been supported previously.

It was further noted that there was a celebration event planned and that Members would receive an invite to attend.

The Chair requested a breakdown of the types of businesses that were supported. It was noted that there was data available along with intelligence and evaluations going forward and that these could be circulated to Members.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report and presentations be noted
- 2) That the request for the data on what businesses were supported be circulated to Members. And
- 3) That the Members of the Commission look forward to the invite to the celebration event.

134. IMPLICATIONS OF THE 'LEARNING AND SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SOCIAL COHESION AND A MORE EQUAL BRITAIN'

The Assistant City Mayor for Policy, Delivery, Communications and Levelling Up introduced the item and thanked Councillor Waddington for requesting the item come to scrutiny.

The Head of Adult Education provided introduced and provided an overview of the report and party-political policy paper.

As part of the discussions it was noted that:

- The recommendations within the report were based on indepth research
- Members of the Commission suggested that a request be made to the City Mayor and his Executive to write to the Leader of the Opposition and Lord Blunkett that the Commission support the recommendations in the paper and that work should begin to implement the recommendations

The Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment noted that the document had areas of learning and findings that could be utilised. It would be beneficial to look at how devolution had worked elsewhere and see what could be learnt to prepare the authority going forward.

The Chair noted that the benefit of the document that had been produced sponsored and promoted social mobility and plans should be put in place to start to incorporate and enhance social mobility across the board. There were areas of the report that could be implemented to enhance the life of people and provide opportunities.

AGREED:

- 1) That the City Mayor be requested to write to the Leader of the Opposition and the author of the paper (Lord Blunkett) to pledge support to all of the recommendations and to suggest that work in

response to them starts sooner than anticipated.

- 2) That the Assistant City Mayor for Policy, Delivery, Communications and Levelling Up look at how the council can respond to the recommendation relating to procurement practice.
- 3) That the Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment be requested to provide detail of devolution pilot programmes from elsewhere with a view to bringing something to the commission at a later point in time.

135. WORK PROGRAMME

AGREED:

The Work Programme was noted.

136. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other items of urgent business the meeting closed at 7:53pm.



Adult Education

Lead director: Mike Dalzell

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When completing any report for consideration by an Executive Lead or for submission to Executive Briefing, please ensure that this table is completed. Delete from the final report.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION HAS IT APPEARED ON THE PUBLISHED FORWARD PLAN	No
ANTICIPATED DATE FOR DECISION (if required)	
DATE OF RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMISSION – please detail name of commission(s)	EDTCE 22 nd March 2023
DATE OF PAPERWORK ENTERING PUBLIC DOMAIN (note: if considered by scrutiny, this will be the scrutiny agenda publication date)	
MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS: Is a press release required? Will this be proactive or reactive?	No
PLEASE INCLUDE DETAILS OF OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS AS PART OF DECISION/CONSULTATION PROCESS: This should include details of discussions with relevant stakeholders and/or ward councillors.	LMB with Cllr Myers 1st March 2023

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kerry Gray
- Author contact details: Kerry.gray@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database:

Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is

- to update Scrutiny Commission members on the key achievements of the Adult Education Service, including the implementation of the new Multiply programme.
- To seek comment from Scrutiny Commission members on the draft Accountability Agreement which lays out planning priorities and targets for 2023-24 and will form the basis of the service's contract with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

2. Summary

2021/22 saw the continued recovery of the Adult Education service and 2022/23 looks set to continue that progress.

The service continues to have high levels of learner retention (97%) and achievement (88%) and positive learner feedback on the achievement of a range of key and transferable skills.

In 2022 the service launched the Multiply learning programme to improve residents' maths skills.

For 2023/24 the service is required to produce an annual Accountability Agreement for the Education and Skills Funding Agency by the end of May 2023. A draft is attached for comment in Appendix 1.

3. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

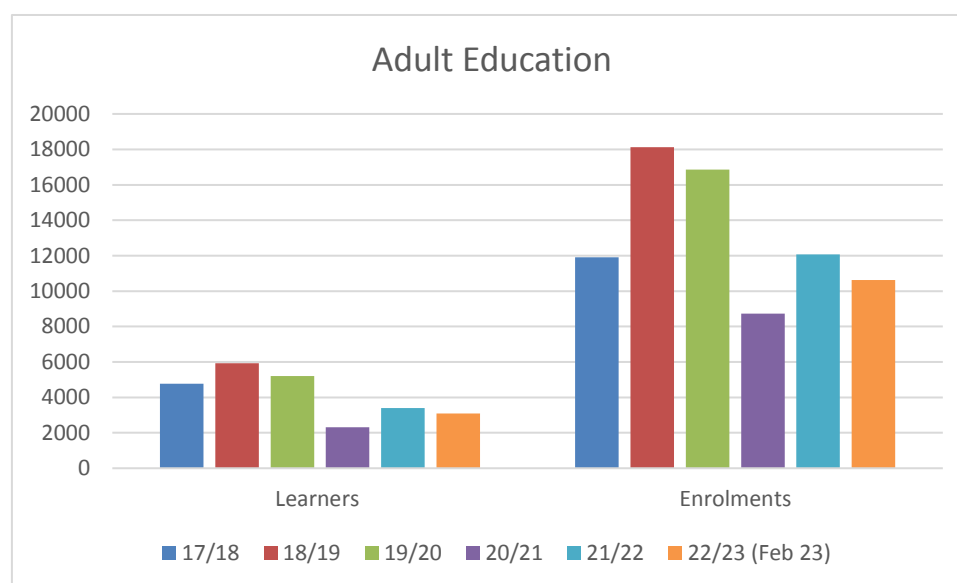
- Note the achievements of the service in rebuilding participation following the disruption of COVID.
- Note the implementation of the Multiply programme which aims to improve maths skills across the city.
- Note the contribution the Adult Education makes to wider Council objectives including the Anti-Poverty strategy, integration of new arrivals, economic development and health which is outlined in the draft Accountability Agreement 23-24.

- Note and comment on the contents of the draft Accountability Agreement in Appendix 1.

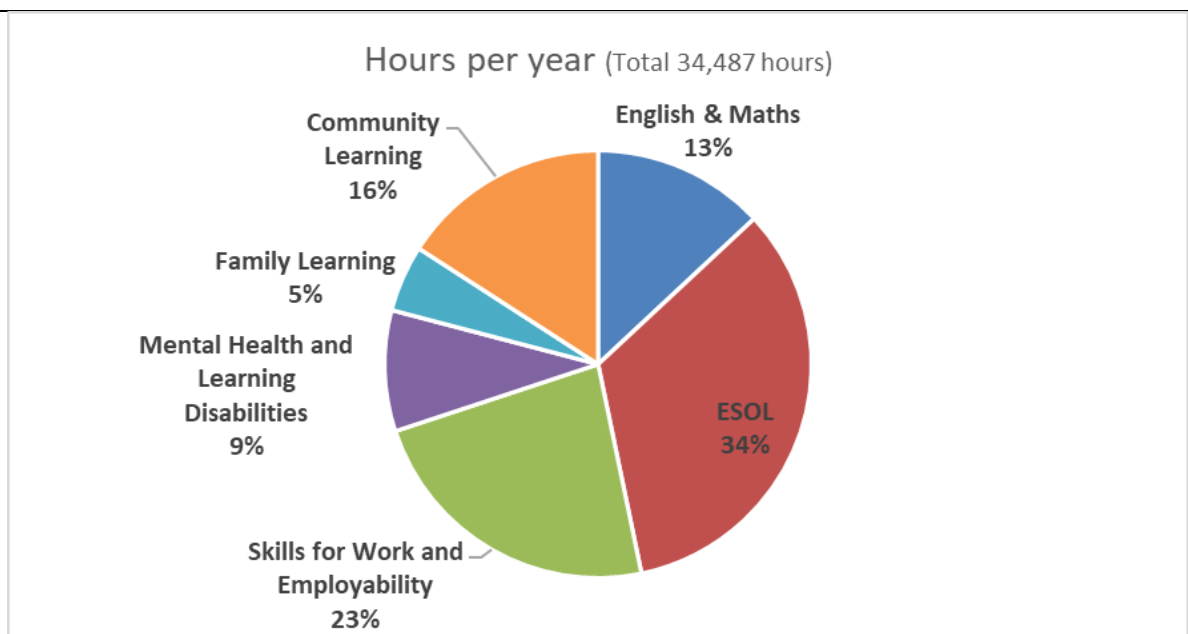
4. Report/Supporting information including options considered:

4.1 Adult Education performance

Participation – both learner numbers and enrolments are recovering post-COVID and in the part-year figures for 2022-23 participation levels continue to improve.



Year	Learners	Enrolments
17/18	4774	11907
18/19	5934	18124
19/20	5211	16853
20/21	2315	8720
21/22	3398	12076
22/23 (Feb 23)	3087	10619



Achievement 2021/22

In 2021 **retention was 97%** and 88% of learners achieved their qualifications or learning goals.

2262 qualifications were achieved including:

51 in Accounts

59 in Digital Skills

447 in English & Maths

1599 in ESOL

72 in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools

32 in Mental Health and Counselling

10% of learners studied online

Progression

Learners progress well across a diverse and flexible curriculum and improved data analysis means the service can now track this more effectively over time. For example, the 491 people who were referred by the Job Centre, in 2018/19 (pre-Covid) for a short employability course such as CV writing or interview skills, have each gone on to enrol on an average of 4 subsequent courses.

Subject area	enrolments
ESOL	484
COMPUTING & DIGITAL SKILLS	385
LEICESTER TO WORK	367
MATHS	142
REMIT	128
ENGLISH	77
WORKING WITH CHILDREN & ADULTS	74
DRAWING, PAINTING & PRINTING	31
LANGUAGES	27
BUSINESS ADMIN & ACCOUNTS	27

	COMMUNITY ARTS	19
	LEARNING TO LEARN ONLINE	15
	ADMIN & ACCOUNTS	13
	FAMILY LEARNING	9
	TEXTILES & SEWING	9
	BUILDING / HEALTH & SAFETY	5
	COOKING, BAKING & CAKE	4
	ACCESS TO HE	3
	PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM	3
	SKILLS FOR WORK	3
	BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT	2
	HISTORY & LITERATURE	2
	JEWELLERY & CRAFT	1
	DANCE, MUSIC & EXERCISE	1
	MUSIC	1

Learner Profile (2021-22)

2626 Learners (6416 Enrolments)

77% female

24% disabled or health condition

65% not White British

- 35% White British
- 22% Indian
- 8% African
- 7% White Other
- 5% Arab
- 4% Bangladeshi
- 3% Pakistani

Age

- 21% 60+
- 75% 26-59
- 4% 19-25
- 0.2% 16-18

However, participation is very different in different curriculum areas and analysis showed that three percent of learners from Black British, African Caribbean and African backgrounds and two percent of learners from dual heritage communities have enrolled on art, languages and wellbeing courses. This is the lowest figure in the service. Therefore, in summer 2022, the service asked an ESOL lead tutor to undertake a review of the data and to interview a sample of students and staff from Black British, African Caribbean, African and dual heritage backgrounds, in order to better understand barriers to participation and opportunities for improvement.

The report's recommendations include:

- Increased marketing campaigns in targeted areas of the city
- Improved use of case studies highlighting the successes of under-represented groups.

- A broader range of less euro-centric programme of history, history of art and languages courses.
- Developing a new trainee tutor role, to support those without teaching qualifications to enter the profession. This is being successfully piloted on the Multiply programme.
- Supplementing the existing online equalities training.

Learner Feedback (2021/22)

87% of learners reported that participating in learning has improved or maintained their **wellbeing**

86% of Skills for Work and English, Maths and ESOL learners report improved **employability skills**

82% of all learners reported learning new **vocabulary**

70% of all learners reported improved use of **technology**.

63% of all learners reported improved **reading skills**

61% of all learners reported improved **writing skills**

4.2 New for 2022/23

The service has recently been renamed, rebranded and, with the new website, www.leicesteradulthood.ac.uk launched in March 2023. It is anticipated this will further increase awareness and participation in learning.

So far there have been 148 enrolments on the 40 courses of the **Let's Get Resourceful** programme which was developed in partnership with Public Health to address the 'cost of living' crisis. As part of the Warm Hubs initiative in Libraries and Community Centres the participants could participate in three workshops. The programme will continue through the Spring of 2023.



The service continues to work collaboratively with Council services and other education providers to co-ordinate and support the integration and language skills development of new arrivals in the city. The funding for this work is fragmented and inconsistent but feedback from participants and key stakeholders demonstrates the

positive impact of giving new arrivals a positive welcome to the city and building their sense of belonging.

4.3 Multiply

Multiply is a new Adult Learning programme with the aim of supporting adults without a Level 2 (GCSE) Maths qualification, to engage in learning maths and progress to achieving a qualification.

The Adult Education service is leading a range of partners and other education providers to develop and deliver this initiative which is funded until March 2025 as ring-fenced element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Employer Engagement – Employment Hub staff are consulting with employers in different vocational sectors to identify specific and relevant maths needs of existing and potential staff. They are working with training organisations to develop bespoke courses that help individuals to gain entry to or progress in the following sectors:

Textiles – WEA and Fashion Enter
Logistics – Business 2 Business
Social Care – Twin Training
Food and Drink – Twin Training
Construction – Keith Cook Training

The Multiply Hub – a city centre drop-in facility has recently been established on Market St. The public can get information and support about maths and other learning opportunities, have their maths skills assessed, be supported to access online maths learning, receive one to one support and mentoring and take Functional Skills Maths qualifications when they are ready.

Family Numeracy – a Lead Tutor for Family Numeracy will work in partnership with schools and childcare settings to help parents support their children with maths learning and improve their own skills and qualifications.

Community engagement – Multiply is also supporting the Let's Get Resourceful programme (described above) and embedding maths and budgeting skills in all the sessions. Three voluntary sector training providers, Bangladeshi Youth & Community Shomiti, Pakistani Youth and Community Association and Somali Development Services, are also providing first steps engagement activity and maths courses.

Workforce development - A key challenge for the project is the availability of qualified Maths Tutors and therefore as part of the programme a team of trainee maths tutors have been recruited and will complete their training and gain experience of developing and teaching community-based Adult Education over the duration of the project.

In the first reporting period, September to December 2022,

- 238 people engaged with the programme
- 160 started substantial learning activity.

4.4 ESFA Accountability Agreement 2023-24

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) accountability agreements are part of a wider system of quality assurance in FE, and they are designed to help ensure that public funding is being used effectively to support high-quality education and training. They also provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance of FE providers, which helps to identify areas for improvement and support further development.

The Adult Education service is required to submit an Accountability Agreement for 2023-24 by the end of May 2023 and the targets identified in it will form part of the annual contract. This will replace the previous Service Plan.

The draft objectives and associated targets laid out in the agreement are based on the newly revised seven purposes of Adult and Community Learning:

1. improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning
2. acquisition of skills preparing people for training and further learning
3. acquisition of skills preparing people for employment or self-employment
4. improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills - includes English (including English for speakers of Other Languages), maths, and digital provision
5. parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning
6. improved/maintained health and/or social well-being
7. develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected, and pro-active citizens, leading to increased volunteering, civic engagement, and social integration; reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour; increased online learning and self-organised learning; the lives of our most troubled families being turned around

These objectives align well with the needs of the city and the recommendations of the Leicester and Leicestershire Learning and Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), The LSIP is produced by the East Midlands Chamber and identifies the knowledge, skills and behaviours local employers identify as priorities for growth. These are embedded in all Adult Education courses and include:

Knowledge - Across all sectors, technical and vocational knowledge areas are the most important to a business's success. The next four top areas are: Basic literacy; Basic numeracy; Health & Safety; Basic IT.

Skills - Team working is the most important skill across all sectors, followed by, verbal communication, specific occupational skills, written communication, and time management

Behaviour - Being a team player is the most important behaviour, followed by; being hard working, reliable, resilient, and honest

5. Financial, legal, and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

There are limited legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Advice may be sought from legal Services as required in relation to the negotiation and drafting of the Council's contract with ESFA, of which the Accountability Agreement forms part.

Annie Moy, Solicitor, ex 6669

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are limited climate emergency implications directly associated with this report. In general, however, as the provision of services by the council and partners contributes to council carbon emissions potential impacts can be managed through service delivery. This could include measures such as enabling sustainable staff and service user travel options, providing remote participation options for services and ensuring buildings are utilised efficiently, as appropriate and applicable to the service.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 27 2284

5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in making decisions and carrying out their activities they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

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

The report provides an update for stakeholders on the key achievements of the Adult Education Service, there are no direct equalities implications arising from it. Leicester City Council Adult Education provides learning opportunities that aim to engage and support the most disadvantaged in our diverse communities while remaining open to all and supporting wellbeing and prosperity in the city whilst fostering good relations and advancing equality of opportunity.

Adult learning is particularly powerful in bringing together people from different walks and stages of life, in developing mutual understanding and respect, and in contributing to personal development and well-being. Collection of equalities data will better enable us to understand the experiences of learners from different protected characteristics. The Education and Skills Funding Agency provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance of FE providers, which helps to identify areas for improvement and support further development.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

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

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6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Accountability Agreement 2023-24

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

Yes/No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision, please explain reason

In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:

- to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City*.

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

- (a) In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.
- (b) In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved.
- (c) In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

- Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic, or environmental risk.
- The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the city.
- The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest
- The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.



Accountability Agreement 2023/24

Statement of Purpose

Leicester City Council Adult Education provides learning opportunities that engage and support the most disadvantaged in our communities while remaining open to all and supporting growth, wellbeing and prosperity in the city.

Service Vision

We anticipate and respond to the needs of individuals, communities, employers and Leicester's economy through the delivery of outstanding, inspirational and highly flexible learning opportunities.

Strategic Aims

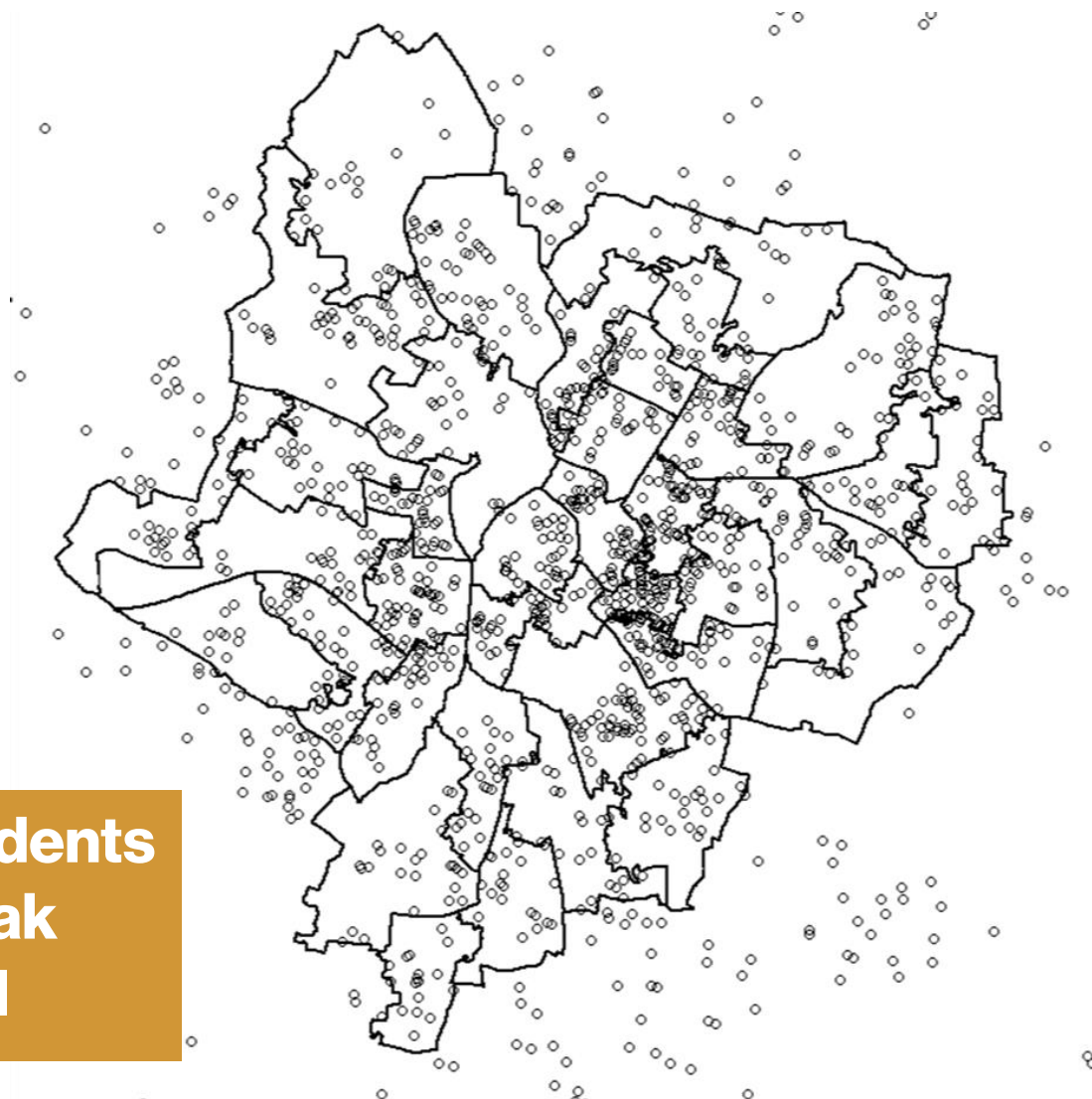
We have adopted The Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) seven purposes of Adult and Community Learning as our strategic aims:

1. improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning
2. acquisition of skills preparing people for training and further learning
3. acquisition of skills preparing people for employment or self-employment
4. improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills - includes English (including English for speakers of Other Languages), maths, and digital provision
5. parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning
6. improved/maintained health and/or social well-being
7. develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens, leading to: increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration; reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour; increased online learning and self-organised learning; the lives of our most troubled families being turned around

'My route via Family Learning has given me the confidence to have a go, take the first step, not give in, make and learn from making mistakes and to believe in myself. At the same time, I've shown my children that learning can take place at any age and I hope that I am inspiring them too.'

Context and Place

Leicester Adult Education serves the residents of Leicester and the surrounding area reaching around 3000 learners per year (6000 enrolments) in each academic year. The map below highlights the distribution of learners across the city and surrounding area.



30% of residents cannot speak English well

At the 2021 census,

■ 151,492 Leicester residents were born outside of the UK. This represents 41% of Leicester's population and an increase of 7% in the last decade. Excluding the UK, the most common countries of birth were: India (59,842); Other South and East Africa inc Uganda* (12,674); Poland (8,924); Kenya (6,417); Pakistan (4,989); Romania (4,698) India, Romania and Italy saw the largest increases. There are 15 times more Leicester residents who were born in Romania than 2011.

■ 30% of residents cannot speak English well (23% / 24,541) or at all (7% / 7499).

■ 61% of Leicester households have at least one dimension of deprivation compared to 52% for England overall. By this measure Leicester is the fourth most deprived upper-tier local authority in England, behind Blackpool (62%).

■ A significantly larger proportion of Leicester's 16+ population have no qualifications

(26.7%) compared to England (18.1%). Leicester has the second highest percentage of its 16+ population of all English UTLAs with no qualifications at 26.7%. (Sandwell, highest – 28.9%). A smaller proportion of Leicester residents have a Level 4 qualification or higher (26.8%) compared to England (33.9%). Leicester has one of the highest percentages of its population with 'Other' qualifications, including those obtained outside of the UK (4.3%) of all English UTLAs.

■ Areas to the East of the city centre generally had higher proportions of their population with no qualifications, as would be expected for an area with large numbers of international migrants. Spinney Hill Road MSOA has the highest percentage of its 16+ population of all English MSOAs with no qualifications at 45%. Other areas of the city such as Braunstone and New Parks also have relatively high percentages of the population with no qualifications (c.30%-35%).

27% of the 16+ population have no qualifications

Leicester Household Survey.

In 2021, Leicester City Council undertook the Leicester Household Survey. This survey indicates that 2 in 5 households in the city speak more than one language, with Gujarati (24%) and Hindi (12%) the most widely spoken after English. The survey asked a wide range of questions which are not covered by census data, including aspects of health and wellbeing, financial health and digital access and skills.

■ Nearly half of respondents felt isolated from others some of the time (37%) or often (12%)

■ 35% are slightly or much worse off compared to before COVID

■ 95% have access to the internet at home

■ 80% are confident or very confident at online learning

■ 17% of households have someone who would benefit from support or training in how to access services or carry out transactions online.

17% of households have someone who would benefit from training in accessing services online.

The Leicester and Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) is produced by East Midlands Chamber. The report focusses on the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviour areas that businesses identified as priorities to meet growth aspirations.

Knowledge - Across all sectors, technical and vocational knowledge areas are the most important to a business's success. The next four top areas are: Basic literacy; Basic numeracy; Health & Safety; Basic IT.

Skills - Team working is the most important skill across all sectors, followed by; verbal communication, specific occupational skills, written communication and time management

Behaviour - Being a team player is the most important behaviour, followed by; being hard working, reliable, resilient, and honest

The Planning cycle

The core planning cycle begins in the autumn and concludes in the late spring of the previous academic year. However, a dynamic and responsive approach allows the service to respond agilely to emerging needs and changing demands throughout the year. In future, the Accountability agreement will be updated in the autumn to inform planning for the following academic year.

Step 1 – review of current enrolment patterns, performance, feedback from learners and partners and viability of programmes as part of self assessment.

Step 2 – research and analysis of national and local needs and priorities, taking account of government policy and funding regimes, changes to qualifications and new and emerging opportunities and threats.

Step 3 – consultation with internal and external partners and the Economic Development, Transport and the Climate Emergency scrutiny commission.

Step 4 - accountability agreement approved by the Assistant City Mayor for Skills and Jobs

Step 5 – planning of the curriculum with clear outcome and impact measures aligned with the accountability agreement.

Stakeholders and Partners

A wide range of stakeholders and partners contribute to the development of the plan. The nature of the involvement ranges from ongoing, informal networking and collaboration through to formal consultation, partnerships and co-production of learning opportunities.

- Learners and potential learners
- Elected members
- Economic Development Team / Leicester Employment Hub
- Public Health
- Arts and Museums
- Housing and support services
- Libraries and Neighbourhood services
- DWP/ Job centre Plus
- Connexions
- VCS organisations
- Local employers & LLEP, Work & Skills Forum
- Schools & Early Years providers
- Other education providers – DMU, Leicester Uni, LC, WEA, Training Providers

Our contribution to national, regional and local priorities

Strategic Aim	Contribution to National and Local Learning and Skills Priorities (SMART target)	Priorities addressed and reason for objective
1	Through our outreach and engagement activity we will engage 2000 new learners in 2023/24.	<p>ACL 1: improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning</p> <p>Health Leicester Strategy -- 'Increase the number of people with basic level skills by promoting our adult and family education services to improve employment and earning potential'</p> <p>To address the city's low qualification levels identified in the Census</p>
2	We will support at least 50% of 2022/23 learners to progress to further learning in 2023/24.	<p>ACL 2 : acquisition of skills preparing people for training and further learning</p> <p>To address the city's low qualification levels identified in the Census</p> <p>To address employer's needs for improved Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours as identified in the LSIP</p>
3	<p>We will deliver a flexible and responsive employability programme to 100 unemployed and/or economically inactive individuals referred by the Job centre and other partners.</p> <p>We will provide additional training to 25 tutors and further embed the employability skills valued by employers in all vocational and English, maths and ESOL courses.</p> <p>200 learners will achieve vocational or professional qualifications to help them progress in/into work or self employment</p>	<p>ACL 3: acquisition of skills preparing people for employment or self-employment</p> <p>To address the high levels of deprivation identified in the census</p> <p>To address employer's needs for improved Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours as identified in the LSIP</p>
4	We will deliver English (including ESOL), maths and digital skills to 1500 people, preparing them better for employment, independent living, further training and learning.	<p>ACL 4: improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills - includes English (including English for speakers of Other Languages), maths, and digital provision</p> <p>To address employer's needs for improved core skills identified in the LSIP</p>
5	In partnership with our schools and childcare settings we will provide Family Learning to at least 400 parents and carers in 35 locations across the city.	ACL 5: parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning
6	Through participation in our community learning programme we will improve / maintain the health and/or social wellbeing of 1500 older people (60+), reducing social isolation and inactivity.	<p>ACL 6: improved/maintained health and/or social well-being</p> <p>Healthy Leicester Strategy – encourage older people to access leisure and cultural spaces in their local communities to overcome social isolation and improve mental and physical health</p>
7	<p>We will work with our partners in public health and other Council departments to develop and deliver courses to support 150 residents with digital inclusion, the cost of living and to improve their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We will deliver a programme of ESOL with community orientation courses for 150 new arrivals in the city. This will improve social integration, reduced costs on welfare, health and council support services.</p>	<p>ACL 7: develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens, leading to: increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration; reduced costs on welfare, health and anti-social behaviour; increased online learning and self-organised learning; the lives of our most troubled families being turned around</p>

Corporation Statement

On behalf of Leicester City Council, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the City Mayor on Date TBC

The plan will be published on the Leicester Adult Education Website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link:
TBC

Links to key supporting documents ·

Levelling Up the United Kingdom: Executive Summary (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Learning and Skills for Economic Recovery, The Labour party WR-16813_22-Labour-Skills-Council-report-Edit-19-10-22.pdf

Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Partnership LLEP Skills Plan 2022-24

Healthy Leicester The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 (leicester.gov.uk)

Leicester & Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan , East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, Insight Unlocked | Collective Intelligence Skills Observatory (insight-unlocked.co.uk)

Home — Leicester Open Data

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different form we will do our best to help

Contact us on 0116 4541900 or adult.ed@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester Adult Education
Leicester Adult Education College, Belvoir Street, Leicester LE1 6QL
Tel. 0116 4541900
leicesteradulthood.ac.uk



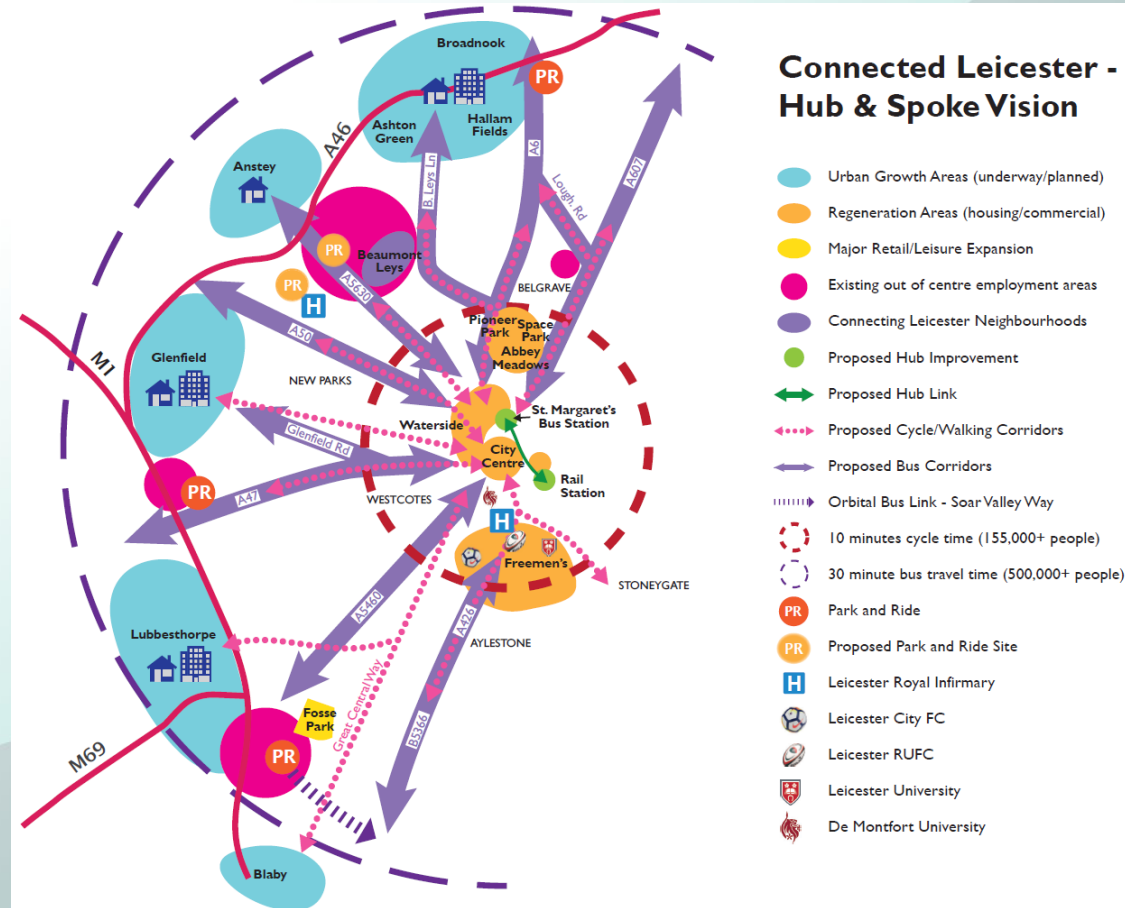
Connecting Leicester - Transforming Cities Fund Programme Update



22nd March 2022

Programme Overview

- TCF 2 programme aim was to deliver a transformational programme of public and active transport schemes to support sustainable economic growth in the city
- Aims to provide improved alternatives for commuters to travel by bus, cycle and walking
- LCC awarded £32m TCF, and secured £31m other external funds, with £7m LCC funding towards a £71m programme
- Programme completes mid-2024



Theme 1 City Centre Hubs and Links
Theme 2: Park and Ride Hubs and Links
Theme 3: Green Growth Corridors
Theme 4: City Connectivity



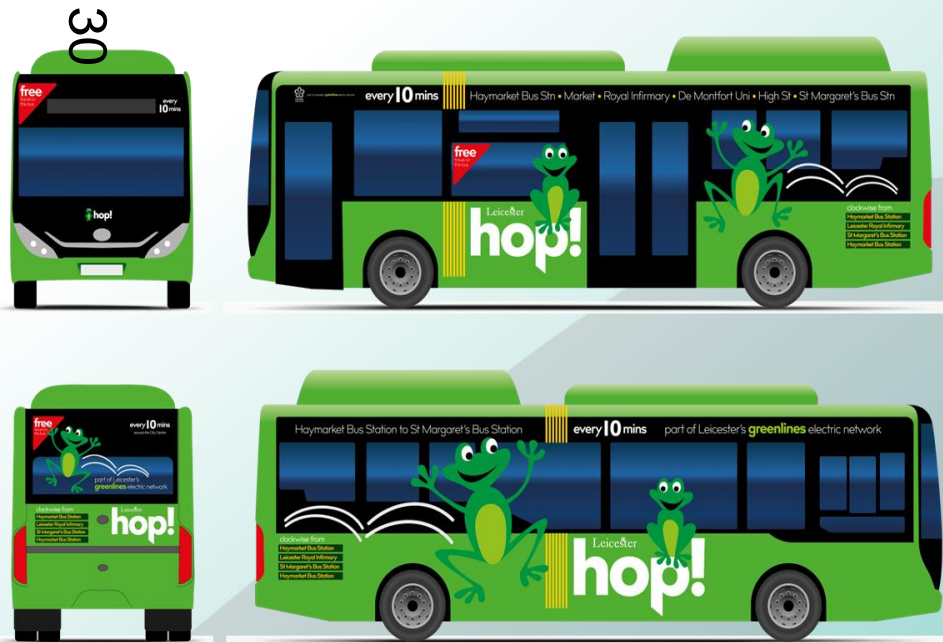
Park and Ride - electric buses

- Electrification of 11 Park and Ride Buses
- launched into service May 2021



City Centre Hop

- 3 Electric City Centre buses
- Connects bus and rail stations, LRI, DMU, Shopping centre
- Free travel
- 18 month trial
- Launch on 14th March – service starts April 3rd



City Bus Infrastructure

- Real time bus information – installed 575 totems in first phase. Further 125 RTIs and 250 standard bus stop poles to deliver by Dec 2023
- 31 • Smart integrated ticketing – First area in the UK to have multi-operator tap-on tap-off best value fare capping



Parker Drive



- Walking and cycling scheme – widening paths and segregated routes
- Connecting A50 and A6 corridors to B. Leys area
- Parker Drive - works complete





33

Beaumont Leys Lane/Parker Drive
Improved segregated parallel zebra crossing

Connected Neighbourhoods - Beaumont Leys

Pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme, including closing of pedestrian subway and installation of a safe surface level crossing

34



Connected Neighbourhoods, Beaumont Leys.

Pedestrian underpass infilling



Before and after of Strasbourg Drive crossing area – Babbington School



Great Central Way

- Widening of cycling and walking corridor connecting adjoining neighbourhoods to city centre
- Phase 1 completed Spring 2021
- Phase 2 – start Feb 23 on Mossdale Meadows section then move on to Kingsway and Aylestone Meadows
- Complete Dec 23



Anstey Lane

Pedestrian/cycle improvement scheme connecting B. Leys area to City Centre – completed. Bennion Road Links to B Leys Centre 2023

Before



After



Abbey Park Road

- Walking and cycling improvements linking A6 to Belgrave Rd - connects to Abbey Park and riverside
- New bus lane to reduce bus delay in general traffic

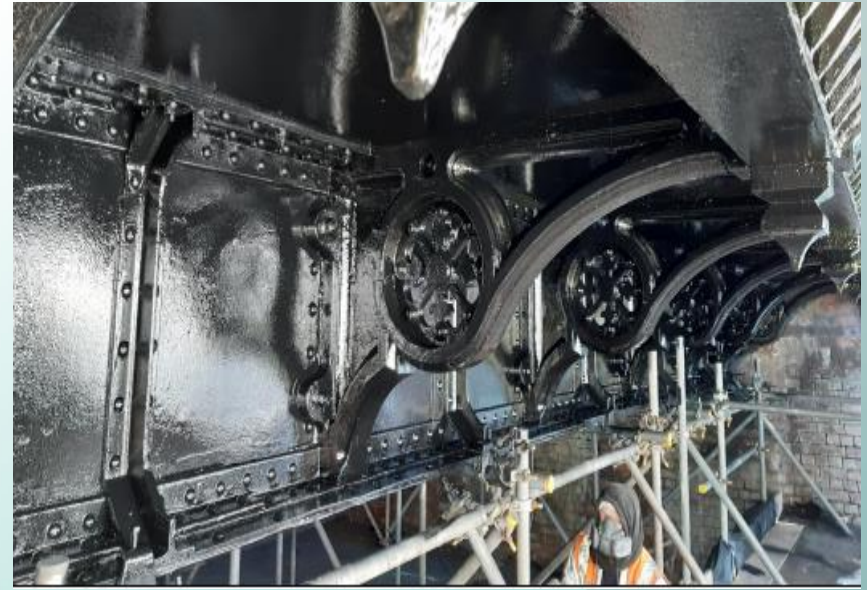
39

Progress

- New cycle and pedestrian bridge installed
- Highway and road bridge works nearing completion
- Utility works coordinated



Abbey Park Road Heritage Bridge Maintenance and Restoration



Melton Road

41

- Bus priority scheme
- Extension of bus lanes
- Utility diversions complete
- Bus lane and central island works complete
- Resurfacing of inbound lane from Troon Way to Lanesborough Rd - Summer 23



Braunstone Gate

Before

After



- Walking, cycling and bus priority scheme
- Supports local centre
- Completes by April 2023



Saffron Lane

43



- Walking and cycling scheme
- Section through Aylestone Rec complete
- Phase from Aylestone Road to Knighton Lane East complete Summer 23

A50 works – Great Central Street to Fiveways

- Walking, cycling and bus priority corridor improvement scheme
- Links with Waterside Regeneration
- Works on site 16th Jan 2023 – early 2024
- On programme
- Traffic management working well
- Local Business supportive



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A6 Corridor- Phase 1 Work Completed

- Ravensbridge Drive junction – bus lane extended
- Abbey Park Road/Blackbird Road junction – signal improvements
- Pioneer Close/Byford Way junction – signal improvements
- First Bus/Aldi junction – signals/extended right turn lane
- Exploration Drive/Byford Road junction – extended right turn lane

Before
16



After – additional capacity at Aldi jct



A6 Corridor

Before



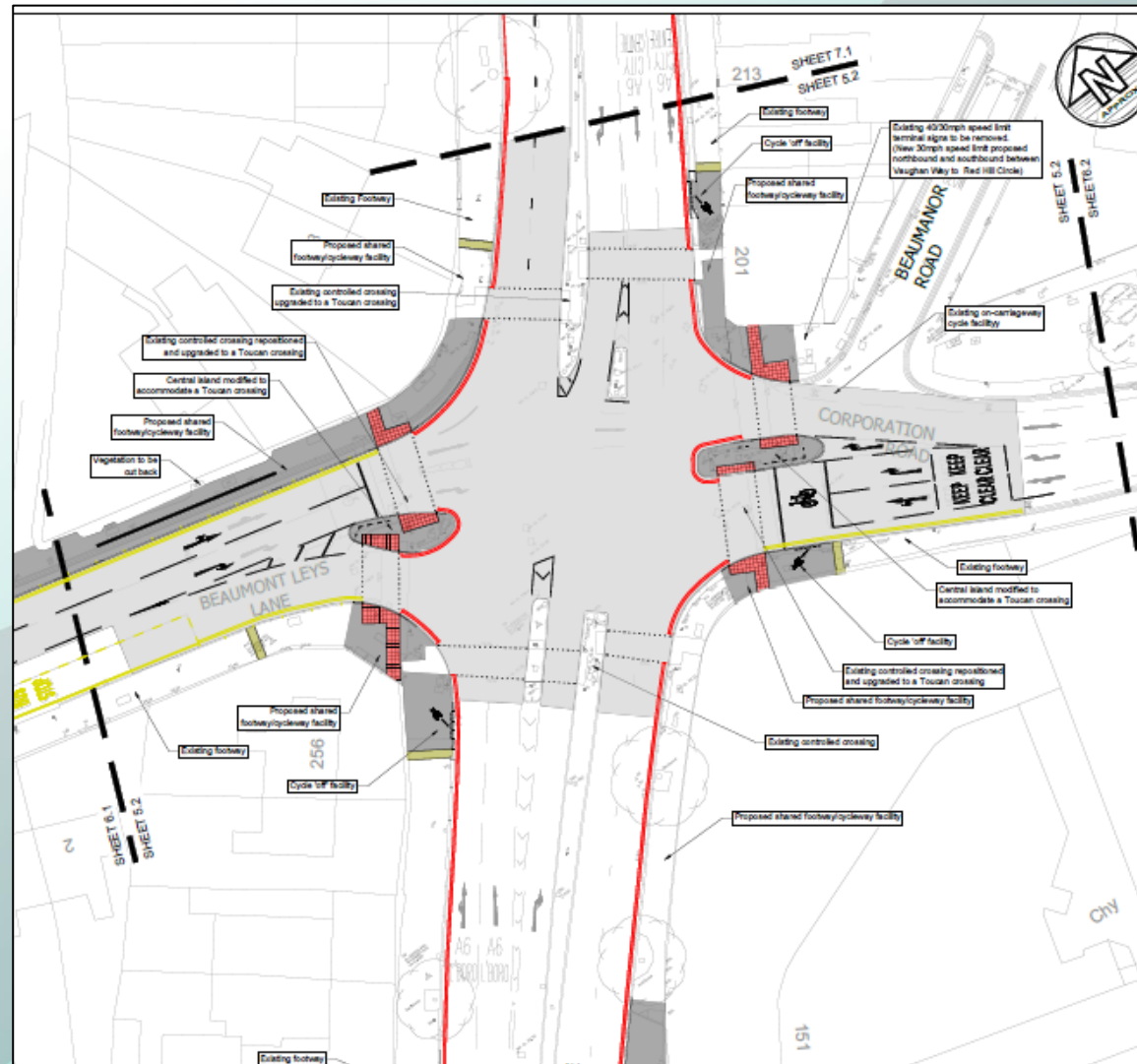
After - Extended right turn lane into Asda



A6 Corridor | Next Phase

48

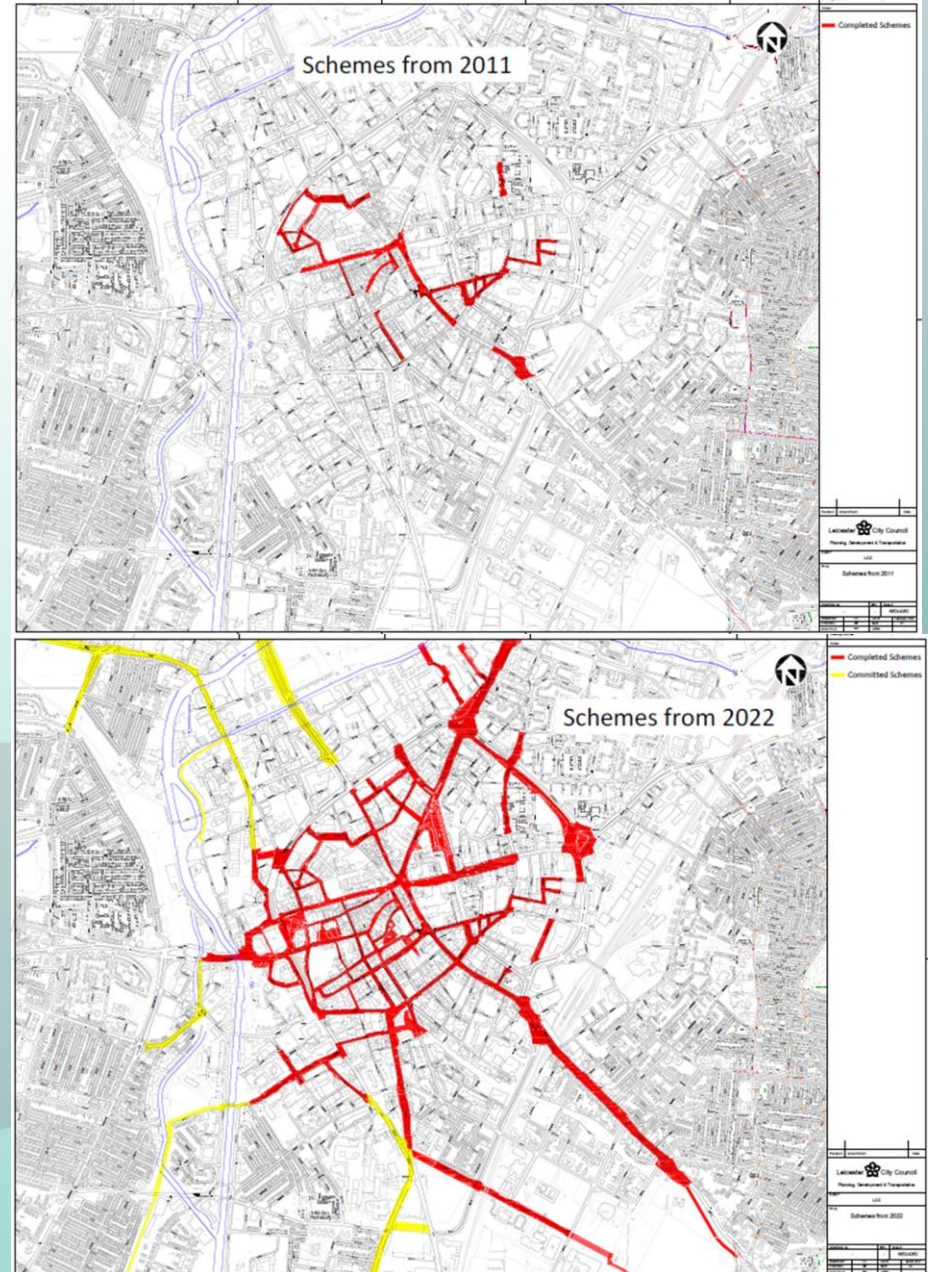
- The next phases of work programmed to start late Summer 2023:
 - Beaumont Leys Lane/Corporation Road junction
 - Segregated cycle lane on Beaumont Leys Lane linking to Parker Drive and Beaumont Leys
- Bus Lanes and red routes due Winter 2023
- 30 mph speed limit due by Winter 2023
- Additional cycleway links for A6 to riverside paths via Corporation Road and Pioneer Close by Winter 2023



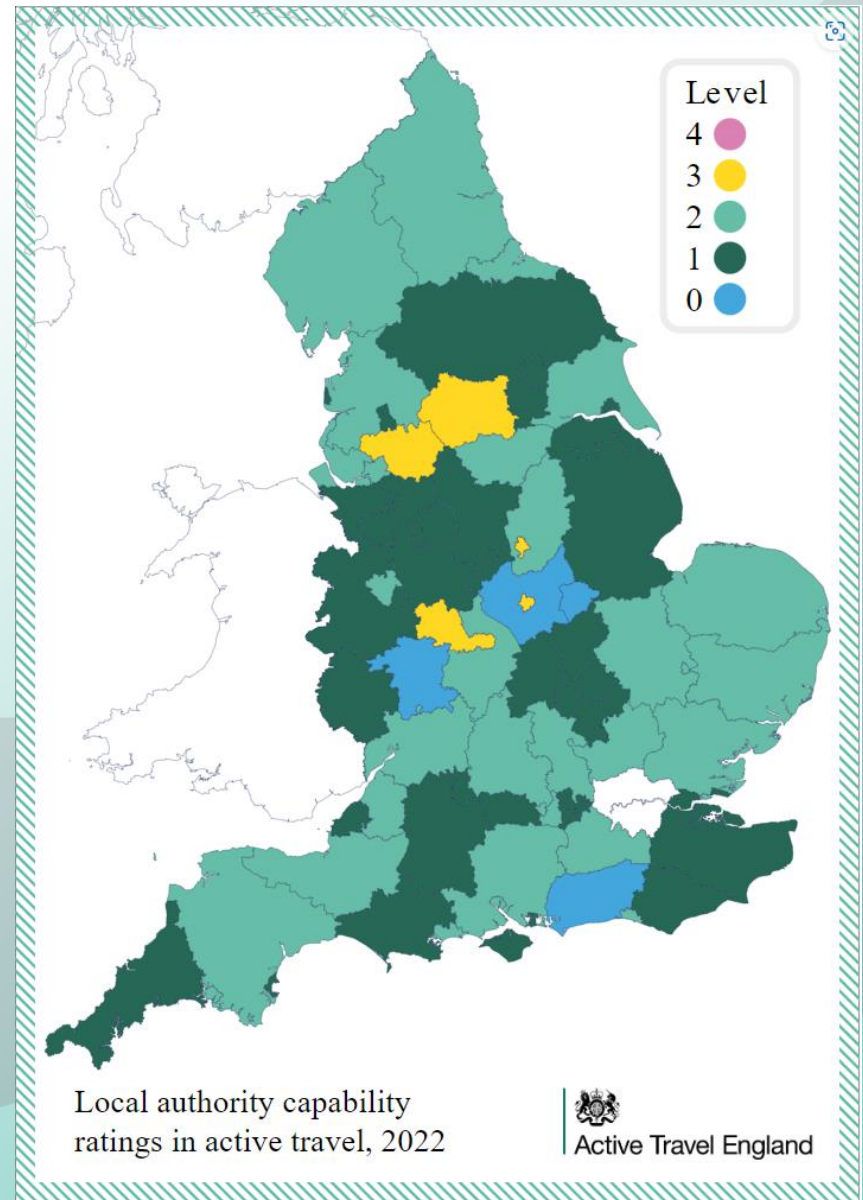
Summary

- 12 of 18 schemes delivered by March 2023, with the remaining 6 completed by March 2024
- 10km of cycle lane delivered to date with a further 6km planned
- On programme to deliver of 4km of bus priority measures
- 18 new electric buses in service on P and R, Hospital Hopper and City Centre Hop by April 2023
- Bus user satisfaction levels are above 85%

49



- Active Travel England Capability Ratings for delivering walking and cycling schemes - Top 5 out of 79
- Transport Ticketing (Global) Awards - Best Smart Ticketing programme for Project Coral - LCC + bus operators
- EVIES – Public Transport Authority of the Year - EV adoption for buses
- Future Cities Forum Winter Awards 2022 - St Margaret's Bus Station winner, Infrastructure category





UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Lead director: Mike Dalzell

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

When completing any report for consideration by an Executive Lead or for submission to Executive Briefing, please ensure that this table is completed. Delete from the final report.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION HAS IT APPEARED ON THE PUBLISHED FORWARD PLAN	No
ANTICIPATED DATE FOR DECISION (if required)	
DATE OF RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMISSION – please detail name of commission(s)	EDTCE 22 nd March 2023
DATE OF PAPERWORK ENTERING PUBLIC DOMAIN (note: if considered by scrutiny, this will be the scrutiny agenda publication date)	
MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS: Is a press release required? Will this be proactive or reactive?	No
PLEASE INCLUDE DETAILS OF OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS AS PART OF DECISION/CONSULTATION PROCESS: This should include details of discussions with relevant stakeholders and/or ward councillors.	Various LMBs with Cllr Myers Discussions with steering group referred to in report

Useful information

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

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is

- to update Members on the current position with Leicester's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme
- to note the work required and the timetable to generate allocations for the final two years of the programme 2023/24 and 2024/25

2. Background to UKSPF

- 2.1 The UKSPF is intended by government to replace the previous regime of European Union Structural Funds (ESIF) that have operated for many years. ESIF programmes typically supported individuals to improve skills and gain jobs using European Social Fund resource (ESF) and drive business growth using European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).
- 2.2 ESIF programmes concentrated resource to tackle areas of economic disadvantage and have historically supported and prioritised activity in Leicester. Many ESF and ERDF projects continue to operate in the city now but all are scheduled to end at various point in 2023.
- 2.3 Government guidance in spring 2022 was issued inviting all local authority areas to prepare and submit UKSPF programme Investment Plans. This amounts to a major reallocation of resource with each District council across the county area now having a guaranteed level of UKSPF such that the majority of funds will now be allocated outside the city. District councils will allocate circa £12m of UKSPF resource over the period compared to circa £9m for the city.
- 2.4 Analysis suggests that the comparative loss of resource for the city as a result of the new UKSPF approach is circa 50% so our starting point is there will be much less resource overall to allocate.
- 2.5 UKSPF guidance now allows for interventions that offer much greater emphasis on 'community and place' such that resource can be used for projects to improve town centres etc rather than focus on individual support or business growth as per the previous ESF and ERDF programmes. Analysis of the various Investment Plans of Leicestershire District Councils shows that the great majority of spend (£8m of the total £12m) is intended to support 'community and place' interventions and only £1m will be targeted at 'people and skills' support.

3. Leicester UKSPF programme and current position

- 3.1 As per government guidance the city council submitted a UKSPF Investment Plan in summer 2022 for a UK SPF programme over three financial years for a total value of £9.193m. This plan is attached as an **appendix**. This was approved by government in December 2022, a couple of months later than planned. The predetermined financial profile is shown below and demonstrates that the programme is heavily backloaded.

Financial year spend profile	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	TOTAL
Leicester	£1,115,665	£2,231,331	£5,846,087	£9,193,083

- 3.2 The submitted Investment Plan included detailed allocations for spend in yr 1 2022/23, mostly via city council interventions. It also earmarked some allocations for priority activities in yrs 2 and 3 i.e. 2023/24 and 2024/25 such as supporting Levelling Up workspace projects, work with the Textiles sector, Inward Investment etc.
- 3.3 However, the Plan also flagged that decisions for the bulk of spend in years 2 and 3 would be based on evaluation and consideration of existing EU funded projects, the 5 Community Renewal Fund schemes that were still operational in summer 2022 and other considerations. As the appointed Lead Body the city council has the option to directly deliver UKSPF activities itself if it feels this is appropriate for certain activities and interventions. However, typically delivery by third parties is procured by way of open calls that allow different organisations to bid for resource.
- 3.4 The city council has procured FOCUS consultants to assist in the evaluation of existing EU and CRF projects. That work has progressed and is nearing completion but at the time of writing has not been finalised so is not yet available. A steering group including representatives from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, Small Business Federation, DWP and internal council officers including the Race Equality Officer, the Head of Economic Regeneration and the Head of Adult Education have been helping to guide and comment on that evaluation.

4 Next Steps and Timing

- 4.1 The final version of the evaluation report will be received shortly. The final evaluation report will be released in April with an opportunity for all to comment.
- 4.2 Throughout April and the first part of May the city council team will be drafting options for the commissioning plans
- 4.3 Once local elections conclude in early May the council will confirm activities to be delivered in house and issue the detailed timetable and process for allocating remaining Yr 2 and 3 resources by way of open calls etc. This process needs to be signed off by the leadership of the council. If there were to

be a change of political leadership at the council following the May elections this could impact subsequent timing.

5. Financial, legal, and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

This report provides an update on progress in allocating and distributing the UK Shared Prosperity Funding. The funding totals just under £9.2m covering both revenue and capital schemes.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

This report is to provide an update on the current position of the UKSPF programme and associated work required and timetable up to 2024/25.

The report notes that delivery by third parties may be procured and therefore the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules will need to be considered. Procurement and Legal to be consulted as early as possible to provide advice and ensure compliance.

If any funds are to be provided as a grant the subsidy controls set out in the Subsidy Control Act 2022 will also need to be considered.

Ongoing legal assistance should be sought as and when required.

Alex Powers, Solicitor (Commercial) 37 2489

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency and ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions for itself and the city, the council has a key role to play in addressing carbon emissions in the city. It is recommended that the council's climate emergency aims are embedded within the commissioning process and considered as part of the development of internal projects, to identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through the delivery of the programme.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

5.4 Equalities Implications

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

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1: Leicester UKSPF Investment Plan

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

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision, please explain reason

In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:

- to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City*.

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

- (a) In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.;
- (b) In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved;
- (c) In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

- Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic, or environmental risk.
- The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the City.
- The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest
- The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

Name: Joanne Ives

Email address: Joanne.Ives@leicester.gov.uk

Phone number: 0116 4542934

Organisation name: Leicester City Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Compared to national averages, measures linked to the Economy, Skills and Health & Wellbeing represent Leicester's most significant Levelling Up gaps.

Leicester continues to see high levels of inequality and deprivation across a number of indicators important for quality of life (e.g. Pay, Employment, Healthy Life Expectancy, Anxiety), though the City has seen a positive bounce back in visitor numbers following COVID closure and reduced levels of unemployment.

Leicester was ranked 32nd out of 317 local authorities in the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (an improvement on the 2015 ranking of 23rd). 39 out of the 192 Leicester LSOA's, representing 20% of Leicester residents, live in the 10% most deprived areas nationally. (nomis, IMD 2019). Many of these more deprived neighbourhoods have been consistently in the most deprived area statistics for many years with large numbers of people who are out of work, economically inactive, socially stressed and / or low skilled and in precarious positions in the labour market. In some areas the reluctance or inability to travel means local access to services is particularly important.

COVID had a significant negative impact, especially as Leicester was the first city to be locked down as a result of the pandemic, and so was longer in lock down than all other cities.

The health of people in Leicester is generally worse than the England average. Around 56% of people in poverty are in a working family, compared with 39% 20 years ago, because although employment and earnings overall have grown, often people's pay and/or hours are simply not enough.

One of the key areas of concern is that Leicester's average household disposable income in 2019 was the second lowest in the UK (Nottingham being the lowest). Household disposable income is £7.5k lower than the UK average, and £4.8k lower than the regional average. This is a key challenge which we wish to see supported through the various activities delivered within the UKSPF programme.

Reducing health inequalities forms a central part of the stated ambitions to 'Level Up' the country, and the value of a healthy population to a thriving community is important to realising those ambitions.

Leicester city centre has a need to re-define itself post pandemic. Online sales have reduced demand for retail in the City Centre, with retail vacancy rates standing at 17.8%, compared to the national average of 16% and retail parks at 11.3%. There is a need to re-invent the purpose and function of the City Centre. Office occupancy has not returned to pre pandemic levels and footfall, though it has recovered well, remains below pre pandemic levels.

There has been a rapid growth in the city centre population which is positive though some of this has been at the expense of lost employment space as offices have been refurbished as residential accommodation. The city centre has comparatively few large quality offices. This is part of the reason why graduate retention levels are relatively low and why the city is keen to grow knowledge intensive sectors such as new technology, space and the creative industries.

Leicester's crime rate in 2021 was 112 crimes per 1,000 people which is considerably higher compared to Leicestershire, which has a crime rate of 78 crimes per 1,000 people. Hence activities are needed to look at counteracting this through making places that people are proud of. This can be achieved through enabling physical improvements to the landscape and public realm.

Leicester has seen some considerable investment but still has much to do to create a high profile for investors and to drive more visitors.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The commissioning of interventions for both people and skills and business support will emphasise the need for locally accessible services in our neighbourhoods.

In order to be a great city Leicester must look the part, be a place that residents are proud of, visitors are impressed by and skilled workers are attracted to. It must be a place that is easy to get to and move around.

The city has a rich built, social and cultural heritage. Promoting this can help people that live, work in and visit the city be proud and advocates of the place.

Recent years have seen a rapid growth in Leicester supported accommodation for visitors, and a challenge for the city and this SPF programme is to help ensure new bedspaces are occupied.

Investment in new workspaces via Levelling Up Funds creates an opportunity to secure more better paid jobs and improve graduate retention. This SPF programme need to assist the spaces to be filled as rapidly as possible to drive growth.

Investment and improvement to the public realm of the city centre in recent years has stimulated growth in culture, leisure, the night-time economy and the visitor economy. The City Centre is the

economic hub of Leicester, with large numbers of people travelling into the City for work and leisure.

The City's two higher educational institutions (De Montfort University and University of Leicester) have a significant presence, providing important economic and societal benefits. Their large and diverse student population adds to a population already rich in diversity and generates a significant flow of skilled talent annually that it is important to retain living and working locally.

Leicester has a compact city centre and has invested to improve walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure and to better connect neighbourhoods to the city centre.

Through the challenges highlighted in the previous section the UKSPF programme will target activities that:

- Increase footfall and visitors through new / improved facilities, additional events, promoting investment opportunities and the visitor economy
- Increase use of community facilities in the most deprived areas of the city – to support connectivity and increase skills
- Lead to an increase in Leicester's household disposable income
- Deliver improvements to local places/ areas that are more environmentally sustainable, safer, easy to access and that encourage take up and visitor engagements.

These opportunities will also be linked to, and support, a number of Leicester's local strategies:

- City Mayor Vision [Vision for the city \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/vision-for-the-city/)
- Economic Recovery Plan [Economic Recovery First Steps \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/economic-recovery-first-steps/)
- Tourism Action Plan [tourism-action-plan-2020-2025.pdf \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/tourism-action-plan-2020-2025.pdf)
- Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy [The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/the-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2019-2024/)
- Anti-Poverty Strategy - [Anti-poverty strategy \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/anti-poverty-strategy/)
- Climate Emergency Strategy [Leicester Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2023](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leicester-climate-emergency-strategy-2020-2023/)
- Local Transport Plan <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/177828/local-transport-plan.pdf>

All of these strategies are available to view on the City Council website at the links provided.

The programme will also address the following Levelling Up Missions:

- Mission 1: Raise pay, employment, and productivity in every area
- Mission 7: Narrow the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy between local areas
- Mission 9: Increase pride in place, including satisfaction with town centres and engagement with local culture and community

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Productivity (GVA per hour worked) in Leicester at £31.90 per hour is still significantly below the national average of £35.10 per hour though the gap has been narrowing since 2015. Local earnings however are also significantly below the national average and the narrowing productivity gap hasn't yet fed through into a narrowing of the pay gap. Leicester is a relatively low wage economy, averaging £515 per week compared to £613 per week nationally (nomis,2021)

Solving the local productivity problem is not as simple as just growing the private sector. Productivity is driven by the interplay of five key factors – investment (business investment and

infrastructure), skills, innovation, competition, and enterprise (business leadership and management).

Increasing inward investment would encourage more businesses to move to or expand in the City. That can boost productivity, employment and pay if it increases the number of high growth businesses in sectors such as Life Sciences, digital technology, high value added/ advanced manufacturing and Low Carbon.

Leicester has a large manufacturing sector but with a relatively high proportion of businesses in lower value-added sectors. The city remains at the heart of the UK Textiles economy, employing a fifth of the UK workforce, but has suffered from negative publicity in recent years though research shows many of the issues are broadly similar to what is found elsewhere in the country and across other industrial sectors. Low pay and insecure employment is not unique to Leicester. Leicester's textiles sector has a unique opportunity to re-position towards higher value-added products and markets, exploiting the opportunities arising from re-shoring and proximity sourcing by global retail brands.

Leicester has a high business start-up rate, but business survival rates are significantly lower at 47.3% compared to East Midlands at 54.9%. Low business 'churn' can lead to stagnation, with a below average rate of new, disruptive businesses entering the market to drive up competition and innovation.

Employment in Leicester has grown from 158,000 in 2011 to 174,000 in 2019, a rise of 10.1%. Over the same period employment grew in England by 12.8%, across Leicester and Leicestershire by 13.7% and in Leicestershire by 15.7%. This represents a marked difference in terms of growth for the city.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Business growth, increased wages, GVA and productivity are key to growing and levelling up Leicester's economy. From a Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership business survey this identified that businesses have seen a 45% fall in turnover since the pandemic.

Leicester will focus on increasing productivity by investing in innovation and high growth sectors. By June 2023 Leicester will lose vital ESIF funding currently supporting a range of business support interventions such as regional business support (including targeted support for underrepresented businesses), inward investment, sector innovation and knowledge exchange, and projects that support carbon reduction measures for businesses.

Leicester's business base is primarily made up of small/medium businesses, with 98% of local businesses having between 0-50 employees. Any support interventions need to deliver targeted interventions that reflect the diversity of the business base. Leicester has a strong track record of business start-ups, and in 2020 was ranked the 2nd most entrepreneurial city in the UK, but we need to focus on improving business survival rates.

Textiles, Construction, Food & Drink, Manufacturing, Care, Retail and Hospitality are core sectors which provide opportunities, but also face challenges including:

- Poor overall image and perception (for example the textiles sector)
- May be less attractive to certain genders such as the construction sector for women, or the care sector for men

- Are low wage and / or insecure

Leicester's SPF programme will aim to address these barriers / challenges head on. Considerable work has already been undertaken to support the construction and textile sectors to initiate change, for example with the delivery of a new Construction Training Hub and a Fashion Technology Academy for the textiles sector.

Key areas that the SPF programme will support include:

- Business advice / guidance
- Targeted business support for sectors
- Targeted business advice for recruitment / retention / investment: a recent business survey showed that 44% of businesses are looking to recruit within the next 6 months but have indicated that they need support with recruitment
- Targeted business support for specific or under-represented groups (e.g. ethnic minorities/women/social enterprises etc)

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The levelling up baseline data demonstrates some of the biggest challenges facing people within our communities today are economic, driven by high levels of unemployment, access to in demand skills, low pay, low levels of disposable household income and in some cases a lack of opportunity.

These inequalities have been exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic and recent cost of living crises with rising energy bills, inflation, and food poverty, deepening inequalities and increasing financial pressure on individuals and families, including those in and out of employment.

Across the city wages continue to be lower than average. Improving wage levels, educational outcomes and security of employment are key challenges alongside tackling areas of long standing multi-generational poverty, improving economic sectors where productivity is disproportionately low, improving skills and tackling racial inequality and discrimination.

Access to well-paid sustainable employment is vital to improving living standards and narrowing our Levelling Up Gaps across the city.

Leicester lags behind the England average on a number of employment and skills related indicators, as follows:

- The local employment rate has historically lagged behind the national rate and continues to do so with employment rates in Leicester standing at 68.3%, compared to a national average of 78.4% (Jan-Dec 21, nomis).
- Consequently, Leicester's economically inactive population is 31.7%, considerably higher than the 21.6% national average. This will be a key area of focus for Leicester's UKSPF programme.
- Leicester's NEET population stands at 7.4% compared to Leicestershire at 4.7%. The greatest proportion of NEET individuals are those with SEND; ex-offenders, caring responsibilities; troubled families; teenage parents; people with mental health needs or a combination of these factors.

Unemployment differs across neighbouring estates. Some areas have higher concentrations of unemployed young white men, while other estates show higher concentrations amongst the bangladeshi and pakistani, polish, and black communities. Notably, unemployment for over 50's is also growing.

Due to the various needs of different target groups, some individuals require intensive longer-term assistance to help overcome multiple and complex needs (e.g. homelessness, disabilities, financial vulnerability, addiction, mental health challenges etc), that not only prevent people gaining employment but also accessing employment support provision in general.

Leicester's skills levels are relatively low with 11.7% of individuals having no qualifications, compared to the national average of 6.6%. Those with NVQ level 1 qualifications and above are only 78.9% compared to 87.6% nationally.

The city has several Community Renewal Fund projects that are offering vital support services to those who are unemployed and economically inactive. This provision will cease at the end of summer 2022 with the end of CRF funding.

A significant number of ESIF projects have also been providing support across Leicester and Leicestershire. Between June 2023 and October 2023, the City will begin to see gaps emerge as ESIF projects begin to wind down. ESIF funded support for those with multiple and complex needs (e.g. health, homelessness, debt management) will end in June 2023, with universal employment support for job seekers and businesses ceasing in December 2023.

A key part of our SPF programme therefore will be to undertake a proper assessment at a local level of the key benefits / achievements of these projects. That will then be used to inform the commissioning of future activities. As the objectives and criteria of the previous ESF programme and UKSPF differ, we also need this time and analysis to determine what is needed to make the greatest difference to our communities and address the SPF's new focus on the economically inactive.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The opportunities within the programme will help to deliver economic inclusion through job creation, reskilling and upskilling, ensuring all of Leicester's residents are able to take advantage of new employment opportunities and improved health outcomes associated with being in employment.

Leicester has a number of great opportunities due to its diverse nature and culture. We have a high proportion of young people and key to the success of our young people will be enabling the linking / successful transition from school into post 16 employment and training, from college to university or employment, and from university to employment.

Leicester's population is very diverse and therefore targeted approaches will be required. Leicestershire current employment rate for BME groups is 59.5% compared to 64% nationally. For the White population it is 71.6% compared to 76.10% nationally. The lowest employment rate is Other Asian at 37.4% compared to the national average of 59.7%.

The DWP State of Group report (May 2022) identifies Leicester East as a particular hotspot having a 93% increase in claimants aged 50+, which is likely to reflect the high South Asian population. This report also shows that Leicester East, South and West are the highest hotspots for youth unemployment, within the top 20 of all DWP Youth Hotspots within the North and East Midlands Region. For over 50's whilst the numbers are lower compared to those under 25, Leicester East, West and South are within the top 10 highest hotspots for those aged 50+.

Through the challenges highlighted in the previous section Leicester's UKSP programme will target activities around:

- Supporting people into employment, including self-employment
- Sustaining employment
- People moving into education / training
- Increasing the number of people with basic skills (English, maths, ESOL)

The programme will also address the following Levelling Up Missions:

- Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	✓
Jobs safeguarded	✓
Increased footfall	✓
Increased visitor numbers	✓
Reduced vacancy rates	✓
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	✓
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	✓
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	✓
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	✓
Increased use of cycleways or paths	✓
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	
Improved perception of safety	✓
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	✓
Improved engagement numbers	✓
Improved perception of events	✓
Increased number of web searches for a place	✓

Volunteering numbers as a result of support	
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	✓
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	✓
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets

E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects

E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces

E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'

E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

E7: Support for active travel enhancements

E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

E15: Investment and support for digital connectivity for local community facilities

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No – only using those included in the Communities and Place intervention list

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

All schemes within this theme will be undertaken by Leicester City Council. Some expenditure may be required to be procured but if this is required this will be undertaken within the City Council's procurement processes.

This is determined by assessing the following areas:

- WTO Assessment: (only applicable for goods); area for review:
 - gives a direct transfer of funds (e.g. grants, loans, and equity infusion), potential direct transfers of funds or liabilities (e.g. loan guarantees);
 - forgoes revenue that is otherwise due is foregone or not collected (e.g. fiscal incentives such as tax credits)

- provides goods or services to an economic other than general infrastructure, or purchases goods;
- a government makes payments to a funding mechanism, or entrusts or directs a private body to carry out one or more of the type of functions illustrated in (i) to (iii) above which would normally be vested in the government and the practice, in no real sense, differs from practices normally followed by governments;
- provides any form of income or price support in the sense of Article XVI of GATT 1994;
- For subsidies in scope of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement principles:
 - The subsidy pursues a specific public policy objective to remedy an identified market failure or to address an equity rationale such as social difficulties or distributional concerns (“the objective”)
 - The subsidy is proportionate and limited to what is necessary to achieve the objective.
 - The subsidy is designed to bring about a change of economic behaviour of the beneficiary that is conducive to achieving the objective and that would not be achieved in the absence of the subsidy being provided.
 - The subsidy should not normally compensate for the costs the beneficiary would have funded in the absence of any subsidy.
 - The subsidy is an appropriate policy instrument to achieve a public policy objective and that objective cannot be achieved through other less distortive means.
 - The subsidies’ positive contributions to achieving the objective outweigh any negative effects, in particular the material effect on trade or investment between the Parties.
 - Where relevant, record consideration against Article 3.5 [Prohibited subsidies and subsidies subject to conditions], including consideration of whether that subsidy has or could have a material effect on trade or investment between the Parties.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

For the first year we have identified a number of activities to be undertaken within the Communities and Place theme linking to the above interventions. These are outlined below:

- **Neighbourhood Retail Area Improvements:** Activities will be undertaken by Leicester City Council to help to transform the look and feel of neighbourhood areas in some of the most deprived wards of Leicester. This will aim to increase business investment, improve the atmosphere of the area and encourage more visitors / traders to the area and increase local pride
- **Animating City Streets:** Within Leicester we will be delivering a number of events, festivals, arts and creative activities to encourage visitors and residents to re-engage, particularly with the City Centre. Leicester is still seeing the impact from the pandemic and our high streets and city centre in particular have lost considerable footfall.
- **Inward Investment / Visitor Economy:** We will have a targeted approach to encourage more visitors from outside the city (including international), and internal visitors, which will be linked to encouraging more visits and trips for families who are visiting their relatives. Business support will also be delivered to encourage more businesses to move into the city centre, especially those that have a large number of employees. This will help to grow Leicester's economy and increase our employment rate.

All projects will be within the Leicester City Boundary	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
<p>The project currently being reviewed/ confirmed will not constitute subsidy control as these will be delivered in house and will be a direct allocation of the funding to Leicester City Council. There are no end recipients of subsidy for these projects.</p> <p>All other future projects in year 2 & 3 will be considered in relation to subsidy control by our legal team.</p>	

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.	
Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	✓
Jobs safeguarded	✓
Increased footfall	✓
Increased visitor numbers	✓
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Number of new businesses created	✓
Improved perception of markets	✓
Increased business sustainability	✓
Increased number of businesses supported	✓
Increased amount of investment	
Improved perception of attractions	
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	✓
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	✓
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	✓
Number of new to market products	
Number of R&D active businesses	
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	
Increased number of innovation plans developed	
Number of early-stage firms which increase their revenue following support	✓
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	✓
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	
Number of businesses with improved productivity	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators

E26: Growing the local social economy

E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No – only using those included in the Supporting Local Business intervention list

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Projects to be delivered in Year 1 have been identified, and we intend to undertake a full assessment of existing EU and CRF funded business support projects by December 2022, with commissioning then taking place in readiness for next financial year to confirm the programme of activity for Years 2 and 3. The projects currently included in the plan are as follows:

- Supporting Market Traders: the UKSPF will support businesses trading at Leicester market as part of a substantial regeneration project designed to reinvent the market, attract new customers and grow trader businesses. This project will also provide a package of business support for market traders – both existing and start-up companies, together with events, activities, and marketing activities to promote the market and to support traders during the interim period while the market is being refurbished.
- Levelling Up Workspaces business support: We will deliver a programme of business support for managed workspaces, with a particular focus on those being delivered with funding from Round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund (Pilot House, Pioneer Park, Leicester Railway Station). The project will deliver business support, network development, marketing and events to drive workspace occupancy and footfall.

- Textiles Sector Support: building on the Community Renewal Fund project supporting the sector, this project will deliver a coordinated programme of support for businesses across the textiles sector, supporting business innovation, compliance, market development and sector profile.

A generic business support programme will also be delivered but full details have yet to be finalised. The current sub regional Growth Hub business support project runs until June 2023 with funding from the European Regional Development Fund. The SPF programme will be designed to enable the continuation of this type of support from then onwards, whilst also taking into account and aligning with complementary BEIS funded provision. We are also discussing with all seven neighbouring district councils, Leicestershire County Council, and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership the potential to coordinate business support provision across the Functional Economic Area of Leicester and Leicestershire. This can only be finalised once all SPF Investment Plans across the sub region have been confirmed and approved.

As stated the remaining programme of activity will be developed and commissioned in line with UKSPF guidance.

All of these projects will be delivered within the boundary of Leicester City.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

As with similar ERDF funded programmes these will constitute subsidy support as funding whether through advice or financially will be provided to end beneficiary which will be a business organisation thereby resulting in subsidy provision.

These schemes will fall within the De Minimis Regulation and will have undergone a subsidy control assessment by the City Council legal team which will be done in line with subsidy control guidance and the information detailed in the Communities and Place section.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	✓
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	✓
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	✓
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	✓
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	✓
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	✓
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	✓
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	✓

Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training	✓
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	✓
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	✓
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	✓
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	✓
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	✓
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	✓
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	✓
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills

E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills

E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses

E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs

E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors

E41: Funding to support local digital skills

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No – only using those included in the People and Skills intervention list

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
n/a	

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.	
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Yes	
Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.	
<p>The programme will not be delivering any activity within 2022/23 under the People & Skills theme. This will commence from 2023/24 onwards. We will be undertaking an assessment of the existing CRF and ESF projects running within Leicester to determine what activities we may wish to continue and to develop a new approach that will address the new UKSPF focus on the economically inactive. It has not been possible to conduct this assessment now as many projects are still delivering substantial activities. The CRF funded programme is not scheduled to complete until September 2022. The other ESF projects will not cease until March/May 2022 at the earliest so there is time to undertake this work.</p> <p>Our intention is to commission an assessment/ evaluation of voluntary and community sector provision, as well as projects being delivered by the local authority, the universities and private sector providers, whilst also taking into account the existing mainstream provision. Through this we will be able to determine which projects have or are able to support the target client groups that we are looking to support through the SPF programme. We won't rush into committing funding to this theme until this exercise has been completed.</p> <p>Based on the existing evidence base, we anticipate that the programme in years 2 and 3 will focus on the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upskilling individuals in employment within core sectors within Leicester such as textiles and construction • Upskilling individuals who are unemployed, linked to the Multiply programme (especially around basic skills, ESOL, English) – we will be maximising the budget and aligning UKSPF work with the Multiply project • Targeted support for our most vulnerable individuals (such as ex-offenders, people with disabilities, mental health needs, people with caring responsibilities etc) • Targeted support for different client groups such as over 50's, young people, gender, ethnicity etc • Targeted support around the most deprived areas as identified in the previous section of this plan • Targeted support for those economically inactive <p>All of these projects will be delivered in Leicester.</p>	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?	
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

The projects which will provide direct support to individuals will not constitute subsidy control, however the projects to be determined which will provide support to individuals within businesses will be reviewed in relation to subsidy control measures by our legal team.

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Yes No

(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.

As mentioned in the previous section we have identified a number of existing VCS organisations at risk (see next question). Following guidance received from DWP, we have been advised that CRF, ESF and sub-contractors within ESF or CRF projects are eligible for consideration for activities in years 2022/23 and 2023/24. Therefore, we have reviewed all the ESF/CRF projects within the Leicester area and have identified a number of these projects that will finish by March 2023.

ESF has funded a significant proportion of activity within Leicester, and when this funding ends it will leave a considerable gap in support provision. There are a number of projects tackling youth unemployment, upskilling, support for basic skills and for sector skills. With the loss of ESF, the UKSPF can help to fill part of the gap but there will still be a considerable shortfall between current and new provision. We have calculated that if we were to support all of the current ESIF and CRF 'people and skills' projects with the same level of funding this would cost nearly £10m, which is more than the entire SPF allocation and does not take into account our other priorities within the programme.

Furthermore, through the evaluation / assessment we will be able to determine who / where we can link activities together as you will note in the next sections we have a number of youth employment projects so we would be looking to see how we can streamline delivery where possible.

Lastly, as part of our commissioning approach we will be linking the activities and the priorities of the Mutiply programme with our proposed calls / tenders for years 2 and 3. This will help to ensure that the activities are joined up and are not duplicating but adding value between the two funding regimes.

Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.

- Community Renewal Fund (CRF): Lead organisation: BYCS, Project Name: Positive Communities
- CRF: Lead Organisation: Zinithya Trust, Project Name: She Inspired Business Playbox
- ESF: Lead Organisation: Voluntary Action Leicester, Project Name: YES (Youth Employability Support)
- ESF: Lead Organisation: Voluntary Action Leicester: Project Name: GREAT
- ESF Lead Organisation: Reaching People: Project Name: Moneywise Plus
- ESF: Get Inspired – Has 2 subcontractors are VCS organisations at risk (Trans4m and Youth Education)

What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.

2022-2023 2023-2024 2024-2025

Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

We will not be undertaking activity in 2022/23 but have incorporated expenditure from 2023/24 to enable delivery following our evaluation / assessment of the ESF / CRF projects. This is to design in the flexibility to support one or more of these projects in year 2 as the projects will then be completing.

The projects we will be considering are as follows:

- CRF funded – Lead organisation: Bangladesh Youth & Cultural Shomiti (VCS) – provides employment, life skills support targeted at ethnic minority groups in Leicestershire. Large concentration currently on economically inactive individuals
- CRF funded – Lead organisation: Zinithya Trust – provides support to individuals who are looking to move into self-employment and into employment. Targeted in particular at women.
- ESF: Lead Organisation: Voluntary Action Leicester, Project Name: YES (Youth Employability Support) – This project aims to provide support for the most disengaged young people (15-24 Yrs) who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), including 'hidden' NEETs
- ESF: Lead Organisation: Voluntary Action Leicester: Project Name: GREAT – project provides family approved and assists families into education, employment and training
- ESF Lead Organisation: Reaching People: Project Name: Moneywise Plus – This project is working with those furthest from the labour market to improve their digital and financial skills to enable them to better manage their finances and assist them in securing employment
- ESF Get Inspired: lead organisation: Leicester City Council but has two VCS organisations (Youth Education Project; Trans4m) who provide sector skills support for unemployed to those furthest from the labour market and are NEET.

We are not stating that all of these projects will be supported but elements of these will be considered following our evaluation. Updates on this can be provided in future monitoring / reporting.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

These projects provide direct support to individuals and therefore do not constitute subsidy control.

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Yes

No

Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

n/a

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.

Public sector organisations

Private sector organisations

Civil society organisations

Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.

We have undertaken extensive stakeholder engagement which has been welcomed. This has included DWP colleagues, and in particular our link partnership manager. A series of online workshops have been delivered, with one or more being attended by over 100 separate organisations. The overview and theme workshops took place in late June and the Investment Plan update session happened in July once we had a draft of this Plan to present. These sessions were well received with many positive comments made by participants.

- Overview briefing: this provided an overview of the UKSPF programme and started to outline the approach Leicester City Council was undertaking. We also undertook a poll to get feedback on the potential split stakeholders would like to see across the themes.
- 3 theme workshops (Community & Place; Supporting Local Business and People & Skills). Each online Workshop discussed what participants felt should be priority activities within the theme for the city with breakout discussion sessions and polls around the types of intervention stakeholders felt were of priority.
- Investment Plan Update session: Update on the investment plan and proposed interventions being incorporated into the plan including the year one plan and the city council identified strategic priorities

Updates and an overview of our approach have also been published on the City Council website. A generic email address was also established for any organisations with queries.

A good representation of organisations from across Leicester have participated and engaged with the process including representatives from public, private and VCS sectors including, Colleges, Universities, ESF and ERDF providers. We have also received positive feedback from key partner organisations such as DWP and FSB to our approach.

The theme workshops in particular have helped to shortlist and refine the interventions and key areas of focus being prioritised in the Leicester SPF plan.

Sub-regional stakeholder engagement with neighbouring district councils has also been undertaken to share experience, update on their programmes as they have been developing.

Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up

We have the following reporting structures:

Internal Governance: Working Group established made up of officers, including colleagues from finance and legal to help inform the development of the investment plan. There has been very regular reporting to the lead Executive member for Jobs & Skills who has been much involved with the programme design. Regular reports have also then been taken to the City Mayor's full Executive team for discussion. Our Economic Development Scrutiny Committee also has the power to call in updates on progress. All finances within the projects will be in accordance with the monitoring requirements set out by the UKSPF.

A dedicated monitoring team within the council has been established which will monitor, check and ensure compliance across the programme. This will report into the Working Group and in future the themed programme delivery groups.

To guide our evaluation / assessment process and shape the future commissioning strategy we will include at least the following organisations to form an advisory panel alongside council officers and elected members (DWP, LLEP, FSB, Academic Researchers). We will also engage with the much broader group of organisations who have participated in the workshop discussions to get their feedback on drafts of the briefs that will be used to appoint independent consultants to carry out this evaluation work.

Once projects start the programme will establish themed delivery groups. These will be made of the projects undertaking activities within the themes. We have established the same process within the CRF programme and this has worked very well to (a) share knowledge / experience; b) to look at changes / updates in guidance; c) discuss issues / generate ideas; d) look at joint evaluation methodologies; e) discuss joint communication/marketing approaches

We have also been actively liaising with our local district colleagues to determine any joint working where possible which is outlined below and we will continue to discuss and update on this at a sub-regional level as the UKSPF programme develops.

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.

Yes	No – they have not been invited to join the partnership as did not feel this was applicable / appropriate
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Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?

Yes	No
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(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.

N/A – all three local MPs have been contacted, briefed and are supportive of the plan

All MPs have expressed a preference to be updated periodically on progress with delivery, but do not wish to join any formal partnership governance arrangements.

PROJECT SELECTION

Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?

Yes	No
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(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.

The selection process for projects will be considered in a number of ways such as direct delivery by the Local Authority or a mix of competitions for grants funding set out in the [Cabinet Office Grants Standards](#), procurement, commissioning documentation.

Some projects to be delivered across the 3 years will be delivered in house but there will also be scope to undertake open and commissioning processes such as open calls, direct awards or tenders. The mix will be determined after the evaluation process work concludes later in 2022.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.	
Yes	
E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.	✓
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
n/a	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
Districts within Leicestershire (Blaby, North West Leicestershire, Oadby & Wigston, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Charnwood and Hinckley & Bosworth)	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.	
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	✓
E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth	✓
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
n/a	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
Districts within Leicestershire (Blaby, North West Leicestershire, Oadby & Wigston, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Charnwood and Hinckley & Bosworth)	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.	
No	
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
n/a	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	

n/a

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?

Leicester City Council has an equality duty [Our public sector equality duty \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk) which we apply to our work. The UKSPF programme will fully comply with our equality duty and has been applied during the design of our Investment Plan to ensure we.

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and people who do not share it
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The following activities have been or will be undertaken:

- All communication has been considered to ensure it is presented in a readable format
- All events have been promoted and organised to maximise inclusion
- Information placed on our website is checked to ensure all documentation is accessibility friendly
- Through our stakeholder engagement we have encouraged good representation from our local community and voluntary sector organisations with excellent links to our diverse communities and businesses. Over 70 organisations attended with good representation from different ethnic groups, women, disability organisations.
- From the stakeholder engagement this has helped to formulate the priority interventions for the city which will help to support the residents and businesses within Leicester.
- Data and statistics have also been used to help inform, prioritise activity of the investment plan for Leicester.
- The CRF evaluation/ ESIF assessment work we will be undertaking in the autumn this will also help to inform the remaining project activity in particular around the Business and People and Skills themes.

How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

In order to implement the UKSPF investment plan a number of elements will be undertaken as part of the programme:

- Statistics / Research: use of key statistical information to inform/identify key target group
- Commissioning/open calls: from research use of information to seek project delivery this will be particularly relevant in the People & Skills theme but also to the other 2 themes.
- Project Delivery: Projects developed to support key target groups such as ex-offenders, people with mental health needs; ESOL provision for ethnic minorities etc which will help support residents / businesses.
- Assessments: All projects will also be assessed in relation to equality to ensure projects have been fully considered throughout the delivery of the project and that it will also be monitored during the delivery phase.

- Monitoring and reviewing of data showing the impact the programme is having at a local level for the residents/business to help level up the support for these target groups
- Evaluation: to fully assess the change the projects and programme have brought about from the programme activity

As part of this work, we will undertake an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure all activity is in line with our equality duty.

RISKS

Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?

Yes No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

There are no key risks at present, but the following risks have been identified along with mitigation strategies to ensure effective delivery of the programme.

- Loss of staffing – this could be in part due to sickness or vacant posts in the core programme management team. Posts will be advertised, and current staffing will be allocated to the project to ensure the programme delivers to time and cost including the identification of back up and backfill arrangements
- Loss of Finance support staff – as above. We have been working with finance throughout the delivery of the programme and they will be part of our core working group going forward.
- Loss of Legal Support – we have engaged with legal during the development of the team and they will be actively involved in any procurement / legal contracts. Standard grant funding agreements will be drawn up for any projects delivering externally to the city council. We will give legal as much notice as possible so a specific officer can be appointed to aid the delivery of the programme.
- Ineffective Leadership – each theme of the programme will be managed through the delivery partnership by the city council economic regeneration group which will also facilitate coordination across all themes and produce regular programme level reports to the lead member for Jobs and Skills on a regular basis and to other partners as required, ensuring regular monitoring / reporting is being undertaken during the programme life.
- No uptake project activity: Through the stakeholder engagement we do not envisage we will not have organisations looking to deliver project activity. From the call we undertook for CRF this resulted in 29 applications of which 5 were approved so we anticipate applications will be forthcoming.
- Limited delivered of outputs/outcomes. Claims and monitoring will be put in place linked to the contract to ensure the projects deliver to time and achieve the required targets. If these are unlikely to be achieved mitigation actions will be put in place. That might lead to revised targets but that will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Repeated inability to achieve targets could result in financial support being stopped, reduced or clawed back depending on how the project is delivering.

Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?

Yes No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

There are no fraud risks currently, but the following are risks that need to be addressed within the delivery of the programme:

- External fraud by projects: there is potential for risks of financial fraud by project applicant or partners. To counteract this each project will have its own funding agreement which will clearly stipulate the funding requirements for the delivery of their project. This will detail clawback, funding eligibility, ineligible claim items etc. Monitoring of expenditure will be checked and accurate finance records will be required at each claim period showing how the project spend has been achieved and what this has been spent on. Any ineligible spend will be discounted and if there are concerns, the programme team will refer the case to the council's internal investigation team for review, check and action. That could result in potential clawback or cancellation in a worst case scenario.
- Internal fraud by project: potential for inaccurate recording of expenditure. All projects will be allocated cost centre code for their project activity which will be checked in line with normal LCC accounting practices. All expenditure will be checked by the accounting team to ensure this is accurately recorded in order for the section 151 officer to complete claim returns. All internal projects will complete claims forms, project delivery as undertaken by external projects to ensure the same standards is undertaken.

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE

How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?

We will be appointing / allocating 3.5 FTE for the programme management of the UKSPF programme.

Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.

Role

Programme Manager: They will be responsible for ensuring full oversight, compliance and reporting requirements and ensure the programme is in line with the UKSPF programme. The programme manager will have responsibility of ensuring proper contracting, procurement, open calls and reporting and updates to the DHULC as required. They will also be directly responsible for management of the team working on the programme to ensure all individuals are undertaking their duties as required and the programme is being achieved to the standards of the city council and the UKSPF programme

Contract Manager: they will be responsible for contract management with the projects and also developing and designing the contract management procurements / processes which will be approved by the Programme manager. They will create management report, statistical analysis of project activity being achieved and impacts being made by the programme.

Economic Regeneration Officer: Will lead on contract managing 1 of the themes and will support the work on the Contract Manager. They will also support the commissioning and calls as they are developed

Admin Support Officer: will support the programme team as a whole with the claims, statistics, communication, meeting and general administration.

Experience

Programme Manager: The programme manager has over 20 years of external funding experience of managing, commissioning, programming external funding and meeting with various funding programme requirements. The programme manager has managed the following funding programme all of which have been delivered in line with the funding requirements with no audit risks identified:

- Single Regeneration Budget – approx. £50m – covered 4-5 years
- Working Neighbourhood fund – £10m
- Various EU programmes (2000-2006; 2017-13) – ERDF and ESF
- Various EU Projects (ESF Employment Hub (director); ERDF Growth Hub (accountable Body lead); ESF Graduate Project (Accountable body lead); ERDF High Street (accountable body lead)
- Community Renewal Fund (£3m) – Programme lead for reporting

Contract Manager: Has excellent experience over 12 years of working on Skills / ESF projects. Has previous experience of requesting information from partners, checking all evidence is in line with the funding requirements, collating and compiling claim information to the funding organisation. Addressing, resolving queries with partners/ projects as necessary; chasing and checking claims; creating and developing processes/practices as necessary; raising issues of concern to project managers to address and resolve; checking of documentation to ensure compliance and creating management level reports to help show impact and progress of projects to partners.

Economic Regeneration Officer: Has over 15 years of working on EU projects mainly ERDF around supporting business activity, contract managing grant applications from businesses; assessing applications; contracting and ensuring claims for grant applications are compliant, audit proofed and evidence is recorded accurately and efficiently; tracking and reporting of grants; reporting to grant panel. In addition, currently has experience of contract monitoring Community Renewal Fund (CRF) application to ensure project spend is accurate; eligible; outputs evidence accurate and eligible; questioning and raising queries where appropriate; highlighting areas of concern as appropriate; updating master sheets to record progress of programme as a whole.

Admin Support Officer: currently working on EU projects so has experience of ensuring compliance with external funding programmes and the need to ensure activity and evidence is recorded accurately and timely.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?

Very experienced	Some experience	No previous experience
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How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
None		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
None		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
None		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
<p>None. We feel we have sufficient knowledge, expertise or know where to go to obtain relevant information based on the following.</p> <p>We are currently running the Community Renewal Fund programme which Leicester has been allocated £3m worth of funding to deliver 5 projects within Leicester. The CRF was pilot scheme prior to the UKSPF scheme being released so the team is familiar with the approach in relation to the output/outcome evidence requirements.</p> <p>We have established systems/processes to manage and monitor these effectively and are reporting these regularly to the CRF central team as required, identifying any changes of the programme as required.</p> <p>The wider team managed by the Programme manager has also helped to deliver the ERDF High Street project worth £636k to the city for street improvement, high street and neighbourhood improvements; recording of visitor numbers; increased footfall so the team is aware of the necessary contacts to gather information and stats across the council as well as externally.</p>		

The team works actively across inward investment, culture, heritage, markets, transport, housing, procurement etc and have excellent working relationships across all of these teams which will help to ensure projects move forward in a timely and meaningful manner.

We have also excellent communication and partnership working with a vast number of community and voluntary sector organisations within the city from our experience of working with the CRF programme but also previous ESF, Working Neighbourhood Fund etc.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?

Yes - ☒ No ☐

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability ☒ Some capability ☐ Limited capability ☐

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

None

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability ☒ Some capability ☐ Limited capability ☐

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

We feel we have sufficient knowledge, expertise or know where to go to obtain relevant information based on the following.

We have for the past 10 years been delivering business support projects either at a programme level or project level. We have run business support advice project funded from ERDF with both capital and revenue grants all of which were successful and warmly received by the businesses.

In the ERDF 2000-2006 programme we commissioned ERDF support programme activity and have put in place reporting / claims / procedures / processes to ensure they meet with requirements.

As part of the wider economic regeneration team, they have experience of running separately city council business support project such as procurement around creative industries; delivered to time scale and meeting with city council finance and audit requirements. The programme manager and economic regeneration officer have helped to monitor and review these projects as they have been delivered.

We have excellent working relationships with a wide range of business support organisations such as NBV, EMB, East Midlands Chamber, FSB, IOD, Business Voice, BID, Universities and as such good knowledge of the local landscape in terms of the current provision of service.

We also actively work with the LLEP to help inform and identify gaps in provision at a sub-regional level and the economic regeneration manager sits on the business board which will help to inform any gaps / provision. We are also familiar with recent studies undertaken by the LLEP and have helped form these questions for i.e. business survey. The wider team is also part of the ERDF Business Gateway Growth Hub which is the hub to provide a central place for businesses to access local business provision across Leicester and Leicestershire. We have helped to inform, procurement, start-up, intensive, 1 to 1, networks, events, workshops etc

Through this experience and knowledge we feel we have the capability and capacity and know how in respect of this themed activity.

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?

Yes - ✓

No

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?

Strong capability ✓

Some capability

Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

None

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?

Strong capability ✓

Some capability

Limited capability

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

None

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

None. We feel we have sufficient knowledge, expertise or know where to go to obtain relevant information based on the following.

We have for the past 7 years been delivering ESF funded Employment & Skills provision either at a programme level or project level. We have been delivering two major partnership projects within the city council called ESF Employment Hub and ESF Graduate Retention project. These have been supporting both individuals and businesses within the ESF programme. We have experience of delivering to the funding programmes requirements, ensuring audit compliance, completing all necessary checks and gathering evidence as required.

We have also in the 2000-2006 programme commissioned ESF support programme activity and have put in place reporting / claims / procedures / processes to ensure they meet with

requirements. This was also matched with Working Neighbourhood Fund which concentrated on supporting our most disadvantaged individuals in the labour market to move into employment. Through this we created Leicester City Strategy which saw over 700 people move into employment from some of our most disadvantaged wards of Highfields, St Matthews and New Parks.

We recognise there are key differences and requirements for those hardest to reach and the need to actively encourage those hidden from the labour market to re-engage. We are also aware that there are significant differences between different ethnic and that there is a need to consider and tackle discrimination as part of this programme. We are also keen through any commissioned activity to assess key skills gaps with both those unemployed and those in work, as well as realising the opportunities this creates when people are upskilled.

The team actively works with the Adult Learning team who have been overseeing the development of the Multiply project and we will be working together to align activities as much as possible to maximise outputs /outcomes but whilst also achieving good value for money.

We work actively with VCS organisations, private sector organisations and other bodies that deliver employment and skills activities across Leicester. We are also part of the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership ESF provider group and the County Council's Employment & Skills group which both share knowledge and experience of Employment & Skills provision across Leicestershire which will help to inform and develop our commissioning process as we develop this.

We are aware of the various projects being undertaken now and have some details of the funding and some of the outputs/outcomes being achieved. However in order to fully understand the beneficiaries that these schemes are supporting we need further details about individuals, especially those who are or aren't "economically inactive" according to the new UKSPF definition and also how many of these projects deliver upskilling activity. Therefore, by commissioning the evaluation activity in the autumn this will help to fully understand the impacts and target groups of our existing ESF and CRF provision and determine the best use of the UKSPF funding.

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF

All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?

Yes

No

(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:
--

N/A

Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency (EDTCE) Scrutiny Commission

Work Programme 2022-23

Date	Meeting Items	Actions / Recommendations
23 Jun 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TROs – standing item (Beauville Drive) 2. Construction Skills Hub update and Employment Hub Update 3. Verbal update re: Workplace Parking Levy Consultation 	<p>Items 2 deferred from the previous civic year.</p> <p>Question from ‘Climate Action Leicester’ re: <i>will the new Beaumont Leys Park and Ride site include installation of solar panels for renewable energy generation?</i></p> <p>In response by officers: <i>the department was currently at the design stage and were looking at the inclusion of solar panels as part of the scheme.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TRO re Beauville Drive– members comments to be taken into account by officers. 2. Construction Skills and Employment Hub item: Members welcomed the report, requested further updates on outcomes in the future and any information on obstacles for ethnic minority groups. 3. Workplace Parking Levy item verbal update: summary of progress provided, still working on processing the results of the consultation, once available will report back to the commission.
31 Aug 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TROs – standing item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A50 FiveWays 2. Leicester Enhanced Bus Partnership (from 23rd June) presentation 3. Carbon Neutral Road Map report 4. Levelling Up Fund Round 2 – Connecting St. Margaret’s submission presentation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TRO Five Ways item: Officers to take into account the points raised by Cllrs Bhatia and Waddington e.g. impacts to increased traffic and pollution on narrow side streets like Duncan and Bonchurch Streets. 2. Bus Partnership item: Members praised and welcomed the report, esp the new green line hop free service. Comm to receive report back in 6 months. 3. Carbon Neutral Road Map item: Members praised the detailed report. Comm to receive report back in 6 months. 4. Levelling Up Fund item: The report bid proposal to remove the underpass agreed by members.

Date	Meeting Items	Actions / Recommendations
22 Sept 22	<p>Additional Special meeting: Draft Local Plan item</p> <p>EDTCE comm members invited to the Housing Scrutiny Comm meeting for JOINT scrutiny of the local plan.</p>	<p>Key points raised by members on Draft Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A key factor in the Plan was the need to provide enough development land to meet the social housing needs of the community over the coming decades. b) A more general point made related to the relationship between housing and employment. It was felt those provisions should be near each other to reduce travel time and costs and to curtail air pollution impacts. c) Members were also concerned that space standards for new buildings be clearly set out in the Local Plan. d) Another concern that had been raised was the planning for high-rise buildings. Members were concerned that isolated high-rise blocks were a worse option than high-rise development near existing similar schemes. e) Finally, there was discussion about brownfield sites. It was felt some could be developed, though members were warned that the Environment Agency had stopped the development of several sites because of the risk of flooding. Members had asked for a summary report on brownfield sites across the city and their status in terms of what obstacles there were in developing them.

1. TROs – standing item (if any)
2. TCF Schemes: tbc (if any)
3. Questions, Representation etc..(a question has come in - to be added to agenda)
4. Workplace Parking Levy – verbal update
5. Leicester Labour Market Annual Report and Textiles CRF project
6. Inward Investment & Place Marketing Update

Questions from Nicola Royle submitted as a representation of Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire.

1) Does the Council have plans to ensure the electricity grid is upgraded so there is more capacity for increased electricity demand, for example to heat homes and power cars?
Answer: Leicester City Council were working with others who share the responsibility particularly the government to try and ensure that the efforts were made to support the City Council to meet the ambitions set out. The responsibility of the forecasting and the development of the infrastructure was with Western Power and National grid and engagement with both companies were ongoing over the local plan process. The Deputy City mayor further noted that although the local authority did not have full control of the organisations, whenever the authority came into contact with the organisations, the Carbon Neutral Road Map was part of the conversation and that the organisations worked with the authority to meet its ambitions. In the response to the follow up question on capacity, it was noted that the capacity was available to support the on-going projects and data was available to indicate this.

2) Is the Council developing an action plan, with the County, to reduce and/or consolidate use of HGVs and shift freight onto trains? If so, what is the plan?

Answer: It was noted that there was a joint rail strategy with the County Council which includes a number of actions to reduce and consolidate the use of HGVs. The strategy can be found on the City Council website and that most of the developments outlined in the strategy require both authorities to facilitate and lobby rather than any direct relationship in terms of the authority funding or promoting particular schemes. Freight movements moved through many council areas. The Local Authority worked with the regional body Midlands Connect to have an over-arching strategy for the region, and they were developing a freight study working with all the other authorities within the Midlands Connect area and that this study should be published next year. Additionally, a further study was being commissioned as part of the Air Quality Action Plan to reduce nitrogen dioxide through various initiatives as part of the local plan and the adoption of the Eco-Stars Scheme. In response to the follow up question with moving freight onto trains, the Deputy City Mayor for Transport, Clean Air and Climate Emergency noted that the governments approach was building more roads which he did not agree with.

Workplace Parking Levy – verbal update

Members noted that as a result of the team working on a government initiative the consultation report had been delayed. however, the report was set to be published in the first week in November 2022

Leicester Labour Market AR item

The Chair thanked those involved in the extensive work carried out and report be noted, and a follow up report to come to the Commission for a future update.

Date	Meeting Items	Actions / Recommendations
		<p>Inward Investment & Place Marketing item Members noted the report, and thanked the team for the comprehensive report, and they be congratulated on the recognition and major award.</p>
7 Dec 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TROs – one item: Lutterworth bus lane extension 2. TCF Schemes: tbc (if any) 3. LLEP Annual Report 4. Levelling Up 1/2 Update 5. Findings and Analysis of Workplace Parking Levy Consultation 	<p>TRO - Lutterworth bus lane extension report Members raised concerns re: that if the scheme would not add value to the existing scheme, then the proposal should be reconsidered or an alternative option be considered. Conversations with local Ward Councillors and the objectors should also be carried out as permanent fixtures would be difficult to reverse.</p> <p>LLEP Annual Report item Members thanked the Interim Director for the report. The chair queried what information was available on the demographic breakdown of who was benefiting. It was noted that although it was difficult to get the breakdown of demographic data, this had now been commissioned through DMU. Furthermore, as a growth hub, work was ongoing to increase the reach into a diverse background.</p> <p>Levelling Up 1/2 update report Members requested that when infilling the underpass at St Margaret's Bus Station as part of the reconstruction of that junction, provision for emergency services be considered. In recent events the fire service used the underpass to feed the hose to allow for traffic to flow on the road above. Additionally, it was suggested that the removal of the traffic lights at the junction on Grafton Street with Burleys Way would allow for a better flow of traffic.</p> <p>Workplace Parking Levy consultation report Members noted the report.</p>

Date	Meeting Items	Actions / Recommendations
26 Jan 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft General Fund Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2023-24 2. Update on the Waterside Project 3. Report on the Community Renewal Fund Programme 4. Learning and Skills for Economic Recovery, Social Cohesion and a more equal Britain (Council of Skills Advisors Report) 	<p>Budget reports – revenue and capital That the comments raised by the Commission be considered, and that the Commission await the decision at Budget Council in February 2023.</p> <p>Waterside report That the service director considers the potential development of derelict sites and take steps to deliver more affordable housing to meet the pressing needs of the city. That the Officers be congratulated for the impressive development of once a derelict area and that the report be noted.</p> <p>Community Renewal Fund report That the report and presentations be noted, and that the request for the data on what businesses were supported be circulated to Members plus Members of the Commission look forward to the invite to the celebration event.</p> <p>Learning and Skills report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the City Mayor be requested to write to the Leader of the Opposition and the author of the paper (Lord Blunkett) to pledge support to all of the recommendations and to suggest that work in response to them starts sooner than anticipated. • That the Assistant City Mayor for Policy, Delivery, Communications and Levelling Up look at how the council can respond to the recommendation relating to procurement practice. • That the Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment be requested to provide detail of devolution pilot programmes from elsewhere with a view to bringing something to the commission at a later point in time.
22 Mar 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unemployment data 2. Adult Education and Multiply Service – Update 3. Connecting Leicester/TCF Programme Update 4. UK Shared Prosperity fund project report 	

Draft Forward Plan / Suggested Items for 2022-23

Topic	Details	Proposed Date
ONGOING City Mayor & Executive Plan of Key Decisions	Commission to keep a watching brief and receive regular reports / updates on executive key decisions planned to relate to this portfolio.	Ongoing
Leicester Smart City Strategy – Richard Sword	Adoption of a strategy that combines Leicester's digital, physical, and social environment to deliver an inclusive, thriving, and sustainable city for all.	tbc
ONGOING Spending Review Programmes linked to: a) Revenue Budget Report b) Capital Programme Projects	Commission to keep a watching brief and receive regular updates on issues related to budgets with this portfolio. Decisions consequential to the monitoring of expenditure in 2023-24 (if any) – General Fund Budget Report, prior to OSC in Feb 2023	Ongoing January 2023
CONSULTATIONS	Members to consider relevant items to this commission from planned or live consultations to provide scrutiny comments and views	Ongoing
Connecting Leicester Projects	Commission agreed to be involved at the early stages of development of plans	Ongoing updates
Smart Cities	Information on proposed strategy	2023/24
Healthier Air for Leicester – Air Quality Action Plan 2015 – 2026	Progress update on actions (joint with health & wellbeing scrutiny)	Tbc
Cultural Quarter	Update	Tbc
Major Transport Projects (including NPIF projects)	Report on progress	Ongoing
N/hood Highway Safety schemes	Report on progress	Tbc
Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) Overview	Report on government scheme to encourage walking or cycling. Informal sessions would be planned before this.	TBC where updates are available.
Devolution Pilot Programmes	As suggested at the meeting on 26 January 2023 when looking at the implications of the 'Learning and Skills for Economic Recovery, Social Cohesion and a more Equal Britain' report.	2024
Cycle Action Plan		2023/24