

MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2023

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street,

Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Members of the Committee

Councillor Dawood (Chair) Councillor Mohammed (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Agath, Aldred, Chauhan, Halford, Karavadra and Singh Johal

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



For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission held on 28 February 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

The minutes of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 12 January 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

The Membership of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission is as follows:

Councillor Dawood (Chair)

Councillor Mohammed (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Agath

Councillor Aldred

Councillor Chauhan

Councillor Halford

Councillor Karavadra

Councillor Singh Johal

Members of the Commission are asked to note the Membership of the Commission.

5. DATES OF THE COMMISSION 2023/24

The dates of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are as follows:

Wednesday 16th August 2023 Thursday 7th September 2023 Tuesday 24th October 2023 Tuesday 5th December 2023 Monday 29th January 2024 Monday 25th March 2024

Members of the Commission are asked to note the dates of the Commission.

6. 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.

7. PETITIONS

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

8. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES UNDER CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO - SEAN ATTERBURY

Appendix B

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a presentation, providing the Commission with an overview of the portfolio.

Members of the Commission are asked to note the presentation and forward any questions and queries to the Directors.

9. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES UNDER CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO - MIKE DALZELL

Appendix C

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submits a presentation, providing the Commission with an overview of the portfolios.

Members of the Commission are asked to note the presentation and forward any questions and queries to the Directors.

10. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES UNDER CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO - MIRANDA CANNON

Appendix D

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submits a presentation, providing the Commission with an overview of the portfolios.

Members of the Commission are asked to note the presentation and forward any questions and queries to the Directors.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider items for the future work programme.

Appendix A



Minutes of the Meeting of the HERITAGE CULTURE LEISURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2023 at 5:30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Halford (Chair)

Councillor Dr Barton

Councillor March

In Attendance:

Councillor Piara Singh Clair - Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Regulatory Services

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62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those present and led introductions.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Master and Councillor Shelton.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they had in the business to be discussed.

There were no declarations of interest.

64. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th January 2023 were an accurate record.

65. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported there were no petitions.

66. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported there were no questions, representations or statements of case.

67. TASK GROUP SCRUTINY REVIEW - ENCOURAGING WOMEN INTO SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission submitted a report on the findings of the Task Group Review: Encouraging Women Into Sport and Physical Activity.

The Chair and lead of the Task Group introduced the report, summarised the findings and thanked partners, officers and colleagues for their help in the development of the task group review.

Members of the Commission welcomed the report and thanked those involved for their input on the development of the task group review. A Member referred to a similar report of findings in the past 10 years and noted that it may be of interest to compare findings and changes over the years.

Officers Victoria Ball (Sport and Active Recreation Development Manager), Sally Slade (Active Travel Team Leader) and Fiona Dick (Head of Sport, De Montfort University), who were invited by the Chair for their contribution to the task group, welcomed the report and its findings. Fiona Dick highlighted the new campaign launched by Sport England "This Girl Can" and raised concerns about the lack research into women's safety in open spaces in the review.

Councillor Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Regulatory Services, thanked those involved in the development of the report and raised hopes that the review would assist and encourage other organisations to support women in sport and physical activity, as well as encourage women to become more active in the community.

AGREED:

- That officers take and provide assurance that the evidence and recommendations captured by the task group review will be taken forward and explored further for the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy under development.
- 2. That while the review did not cover 'girls' participation' in sports and physical activities, research had raised awareness that national data shows: school-age girls were more interested and tended to participate in sports and activities, but then drop out as they get older for various reasons. This topic was to be added to future work programmes for a possible joint Scrutiny meeting alongside Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission.
- 3. That further investigation be made in the future into women's safety in open spaces when researching women's participation in

sport and physical activity.

- 4. That the report be submitted to Overview Select Committee for endorsement, following which, be presented to the City Mayor and Executive Board.
- 5. That the item remain on the work programme for a future meeting for a report back on the actions in the report.

68. SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submitted a report on the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.

Councillor Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory Services, introduced the item. It was noted that a large amount of work had been done engaging with community groups, in partnership with the Health Department. He highlighted the decline in physical and corresponding mental health and noted the importance of encouraging involvement in sports and physical activity in the city.

Andrew Beddow, Head of Sports and Victoria Ball, Sport and Active Recreation Development Manager presented the report and noted the following points:

- The Sports and Physical Activity Strategy presented was its third iteration and the tone of the strategy had shifted to reflect its change in target demographic to Leicester's inactive population.
- A steep increase in inactivity and decrease in physical and mental health had been noted since the Covid-19 pandemic, which came with a corresponding increase in challenges faced when encouraging inactive residents into sports and physical activity.
- It was acknowledged that focus needed to be placed on the inactive population which would see the most benefit, being the most susceptible to long-term health conditions.
- Future targets included meeting with stakeholders to collaborate and work on an action plan, and a launch of the strategy was expected in late May / June 2023.

Members questioned whether the strategy was at risk of losing anything in the re-direction toward priority groups. It was noted that there were no foreseeable changes to current communities or groups when adapting and prioritising resources to those most in need.

Members asked how the strategy planned to reach inactive priority groups where there was an acknowledged struggle in engagement. It was noted that improvements to communication and marketing were required, which would be reviewed when collaborating with partners and undertaking consultations. It was noted that review outcomes in the Women in Sports Task Group Review highlighted lack of awareness of opportunities in communities across the city and tackling that lack of awareness was crucial in delivering the strategy effectively.

The Chair enquired about which body would lead the strategy. It was noted that Leicester City Council would lead in a collaborative governance style alongside partners, which could evolve into a steering group.

The Chair questioned how the performance of the strategy would be measured. It was noted that the Sports England Active Lives Survey and Public Health data for children would be used to keep track of statistics for inactivity in Leicester.

Councillors recommended that the strategy work with local ward Councillors, who had a better overview of their respective wards. Officers agreed to communicate with ward councillors to further the strategy.

The Chair enquired about what funding the strategy received and highlighted the importance of joining forces with partners of the scheme. It was noted that the aim was for the scheme to use the market sector to apply for funding, alongside asking organisations of Leicester to assist in meeting the needs of the city.

Mike Dalzell, Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment suggested the strategy work together with Leicester walking and cycling trails to encourage physical activity and community involvement with historic Leicester. Sally Slade, Active Travel Team Leader, suggested connecting and collaborating with the Walk Leicester Festival.

AGREED:

- 1. That the report be noted.
- 2. That Ward Councillors be kept informed and involved in the strategy to help local residents to increase participation in sports and physical activities.
- 3. That the final strategy come back to the Scrutiny Commission, and the actions plans in the strategy be monitored by the scrutiny.
- 4. That Members comments and views raised in be taken into account by officers managing sports services.
- 5. That the 1% reduction target be monitored at future scrutiny meetings.

69. JEWRY WALL: ROMAN LEICESTER UPDATE

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submitted a report on the development progress of the Jewry Wall Museum.

Councillor Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory Services, introduced the item, highlighting the Roman history of Leicester city and the Jewry Wall building.

Philip Hackett, General Manager (KRIII Visitor Centre), led the presentation.

Members were excited for the progression of the development of the Jewry Wall Museum and enquired whether the development was running to budget and time constraints. It was noted that the project was within the expected timeframe and budget limits.

Members appreciated the digital visual storytelling being developed for the museum, to which it was noted that the digital stories will relate to the objects on display throughout the museum.

The Chair asked how the project was designed to encourage visitors from outside the city to visit. It was noted that the specialist website design and brand development were designed with engagement in mind. Work was ongoing with partners, Leicester Cathedral and Heritage Visitor Centre with the aim to make the whole of Leicester a visitor attraction.

Mike Dalzell, Director for Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment, noted that the museum was to be the biggest roman heritage site within 90 miles with no major competitor within the area.

AGREED:

- 1. That the report be noted.
- 2. That the item be kept on the work programme for an update at a future meeting of the Commission.

70. UPDATE ON NPO'S ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING REPORT

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submitted a report on the Arts Council support for organisations within Leicester city involving the National Portfolio (NPO).

Councillor Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory Services, introduced the item. It was noted that the Arts Council reviewed their National Portfolio every four to five years. In the last two rounds in 2017 and in the recent 2022 portfolio, six new Leicester based organisations had been successful.

Mike Dalzell, Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment, and Joanna Jones, Head of Arts and Museums, presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- The value of Arts Council England support to organisations in the city had grown to be £6.6 million per year for the following three years.
- Some organisation budgets were standstill in cash terms and so they have had to absorb additional costs due to inflation.
- Leicester City Council had also successfully joined the programme in 2017 with the city museum service now part of the NPO.
- More organisations in the latest version of the NPO were led by people from Leicester's diverse community. All of the latest six successful applicants from Leicester were noted to be representative of diverse

groups.

- The £407k a year to be received by the Museums service for the next three years was to be used for inclusive engagement work, focusing on working with children and young people in the community. Work involving the Council's Holiday and Activity Fund assisted in organising museum trips for children, where there had been provided with free hot meals.
- Officers had engaged with ward communities to build up good relationships with residents, to encourage involvement and visits to Leicester museums.
- Leicester's award-winning volunteer programme, which boasted 250 volunteers, aimed to open avenues for volunteers to enter employment in the sector. The project was noted to start on 1st April 2023.

Members of the Commission voiced appreciation for the national portfolio progress and work.

The Chair questioned how the groups in receipt of funding from Arts Council were chosen, and if the activities and information would be communicated by the organisations to the local communities for benefit and involvement. It was noted that Arts Council England chose the successful groups, who had planned and submitted a detailed business application for consideration.

A Member raised concern that the application process may put organisations in unnecessary head-to-head competition with one another, and the time required to bid for funding. Further concern was raised about the fixed term nature of the funding, which may lead to large amounts of time focused on organising bids rather than their work in the community.

AGREED:

- 1. That the item be kept on the work programme for an update further into the next scrutiny year.
- 2. That Members comments and views raised in the meeting be taken into account by officers managing the National Portfolio and Arts Council England work.
- 3. That information on Council involvement on holiday hunger be brought back to the Commission in the next scrutiny year.

71. CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES FEEDBACK

The Director of Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment submitted a presentation outlining the outcome of the Council's Christmas activities for 2022.

Councillor Singh Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory Services, introduced the item, highlighting the overall success of the 2022 Christmas events.

Chris Hackett, Deputy Festival and Events Manager, summarised the

presentation, highlighting the key successes, challenges and potential changes for each event.

Councillor Barton left the meeting at 6:51pm and the meeting became inquorate. The Chair was informed that the meeting may continue as an informal discussion and that while further recommendations could not be made, suggestions may be taken and verified at the next meeting.

Members thanked officers for the report.

72. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair noted that the meeting was the last for the scrutiny year cycle and thanked those involved for their support. It was noted that any remaining items on the work programme would be carried over for consideration by the Commission in the next scrutiny year 2023/24.

The Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Tourism and Inward Investment thanked the scrutiny Chair and Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission for all their work over the 2022/23 scrutiny year.

73. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other urgent business, the meeting closed at 6:59pm.



Minutes of the Meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2023 at 5:30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Thalukdar(Chair) Councillor Solanki (Vice Chair)

In Attendance:

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke, Councillor O'Donnell, Councillor Pickering, Councillor Rahman and Caroline Tote.

The Chair noted that Councillor Byrne, Councillor Kitterick, and Councillor Modhwadia, were also absent, and the meeting was therefore inquorate.

As there was not a quorum present the meeting stood adjourned for fifteen minutes to allow for any late attendees.

As the meeting remained inquorate it could not proceed as a formal meeting, however the Chair decided to proceed with an informal meeting.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations of interest.

53. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

54. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDED TO AGREE:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held 15th November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

55. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

56. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

57. DEPARTMENTAL DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed budget for 2023/24. The Commission was recommended to consider and comment on the Neighbourhood Services element of the report. The Commission's comments would be forwarded to the Overview Select Committee as part of its consideration of the report before presentation to the meeting of Council on 22nd February 2023.

Amy Oliver, Director of Finance, presented the item, 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.
- There were expectations of further grant cuts in 2025/26, as the government hinted at a new period of austerity.
- Experiencing above inflationary cost pressures in adult social care as a consequence of growth of those in need and increases in the national living wage paid to the staff employed as care providers. The overall impact had been 50% increase on cost of providing care packages since 2016/17 which reached £142 million in 2021/22 with the trend expected to continue.
- The impact of austerity had seen the grant fall from £289 million to £179 million on a like for like basis between 2010 and 2020.
- 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 £7.4 million above what had been budgeted.
- The managed reserve strategy noted in the report showed that there was an estimated £55 million in reserve. This meant that the £33 million budget gap would be managed through that reserve.
- A 5% increase was proposed for Council Tax.
- The Capital Budget was a limited programme on a one year budget.

- A £2.6 million provision was set out for parks and play areas, of which £2.5 million was proposed for investment into multiuse games areas (MUGA) program across the city.
- £1 million had been proposed for investment into a policy provision for the library service.

In response to Member's questions, it was noted that:

- The City Mayor would continue to make cost saving decisions throughout the financial year as they were identified and any savings made would go into reserve.
- Approximately £6 million in revenue would be generated from the rise in Council Tax.
- A local council tax support scheme would be available for people receiving benefits. The 5% increase was based on an average for band D properties and most Leicester residents would pay less.
- Work was being done to help support residents that identified as vulnerable,
- The district heating scheme was still a work in progress and had been revised since previously discussed and would be kept under review until Full Council meeting.
- The £4 million provided to support the capital maintenance program would be used for general works on council properties and maintaining them to keep to the standard required. It was a priority area of work that looked at asset condition and risk survey.
- The multiuse games program phase one was expected to be on site in the spring 2023, reports were being finalised. The Library program would be later on in the financial year.

AGREED:

- 1. That the reports be noted.
- 2. That the comments made during discussion be taken into account by officers.

58. SELECTIVE PRS LICENSING SCHEME

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a presentation about the Selective Licensing Scheme and provided an update on the data recorded up to 31 December 2022.

The Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory Services introduced the presentation, noting that the aim of the scheme was to improve the standard of housing in the private sector.

The Head of Regulatory, Neighbourhood and Environmental Services presented information about the Selective Licensing Scheme which included a summary of the scheme headlines; application and inspection processes; hazards and images of hazards identified; and plans around future communications.

It was noted that:

- The scheme went live on the 10th October 2022.
- A team had been recruited to resource the scheme, which consisted of a Team Manager, an Admin Manager, two Senior Regulatory officers, 17 Housing Inspectors and three Admin Support Officers.
- There were three cluster areas in the scheme, Fosse, Stoneygate and Westcotes Wards, and across the area there were around 8500 properties that fall into the private rent sector.
- In terms of data, at this point 413 applications had been received; 213 inspections had been carried out. 35 draft licenses and 42 full licenses had been issued.
- A new computer system had been introduced, which helped to streamline the process and capture more data, this enabled the team to action applications in a more efficient way.
- The Selective Licensing Team were currently working to develop a digital inspection process, that would enable officers to complete inspections digitally using tablets, and to upload the data when they returned to the office.
- The Scheme was within budget, with the original aim of the scheme, to self-fund the department using resources generated from the scheme, successfully being adhered to and avoiding the possibility of the scheme being operated at a loss.
- All information regarding the scheme was available on the Councils website. A post code checker was available for landlords to check if their property was included in the scheme area before making an application. There was also a telephone line for support.
- Once an inspection had been carried out, if only minor issues were found a draft license could be issued until the works were carried out.
 Major issues would need to be resolved before a draft license could be issued.
- The current turn around for applications was 7 weeks, with an average of 32 days to issue a license. Which was within target.
- The scheme was due to run for 5 years.
- The aim was to undertake 3 inspections of a property over the 5 years of the scheme.
- The scheme was being operated alongside the Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, which was a national scheme and provided consistency across all Local Authorities for assessing hazards within private rented properties. It covered 29 hazards in total which were split across two categories. Category 1 – Serious and immediate risk. Category 2 – Less serious hazards.
- Hazards were found in 46% of inspections, split approximately as 40% in Category 1 and 60% in Category 2.
- Work was in progress in conjunction with City Wardens to identify properties of concern and refer those to the scheme.
- A quarterly newsletter would be sent to landlords from January 2023.
- An early bird discount was currently available to landlords until April 2023, which would reduce the fee from £1090 to £750. Additional press

- releases were due to be advertised to encourage landlords to come forward.
- Support sessions for landlords were being planned in libraries across the district.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that:

- The scheme costs had been based on how many applications were expected to be received and the number of private rented accommodations in the area. This was compared against the resources needed to inspect that property over the 5-year period, plus any follow up work.
- The overall cost of the scheme for 5 years was £8.65M, with £5.9M being staffing costs. The remaining balance were overheads plus the cost of the discounted fees.
- The expected number of applications was 7,900, which worked out at an average cost per license of £1090.
- Once a property had been inspected, they would receive a full license if no action was required. If actions was required, a draft license would be drawn up, in which the landlord would have 14 days to appeal or challenge the decision. After 14 days, if nothing were to be raised, a full license would be issued.
- If the actions requested were not completed, the Council would have the right to rescind the license. If the issues were minor, existing housing enforcement powers could be used to issue an improvement notice.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Commission receive a report providing an overview of the Selective Licensing team's work in six months' time

59. TAXI STRATEGY

The Strategic Director for City Development and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the Taxi Strategy which included an update on progress towards implementation of the strategy.

Councillor Clair, Deputy City Mayor (Culture, Leisure, Sport, and Regulatory Services) introduced the item and explained the aim of the strategy was to support the taxi trade, whilst working with other authorities to monitor taxis in the city.

The Chief Licensing Officer presented the item.

It was reported that an additional action had been added to the action plan to reflect the commitment to annually review the hackney fares structure to ensure that charges reflect the cost of operation.

It was noted that:

- The Taxi strategy was in place, but not yet published on the council's website. There was opportunity to further review the new work undertaken between April and October 2022 focussed on both the hackney and private hire industries.
- The report set out a series of actions at para 5.4 and progress against those. Target dates had been reviewed to ensure the deadlines were realistic.
- Some aspects of taxi licensing required further consultation before that could be taken forward, such as the possible introduction of CCTV in licensed vehicles.
- Vehicle licensing impacted on air quality and therefore policies on vehicle age and emissions would be tied to Climate Change proposals.
- The vision in the Taxi Strategy was: "for the hackney and private hire sectors to provide a safe and superb customer service within an integrated sustainable transport system, whilst contributing to the economy with minimal environmental impact."
- Work was being completed on arrangements for the sharing of statutory powers to regulate out of town drivers.
- Closer relationships had been developed with the City of Wolverhampton Council at both strategic and officer levels. Joint compliance operations were ongoing.
- Colleagues in Leicestershire were interested in being involved and an officer meeting was pending.

In response to a question about responsibility for paying for the monitoring of Wolverhampton licensed drivers, it was noted that it was a joint enterprise. DVLA inspectors had the legal power to check vehicles licensed outside Leicester. When collaborative spot checks were organised, the neighbouring authority would send their own officers to deal with any licensing issues at the time. Where officers from other authorities were not present, any concerns identified relating to 'out of town' vehicles would be referred to the relevant authority after the spot check.

RECOMMENDED TO AGREE:

- 1. That the commission note the new action added to the plan.
- 2. That the contents of the report be noted.
- 3. That an update report be brought to the commission in 6 months' time.

60. EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS (IN LIBRARIES) UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a presentation update on the Library Services Provision – Support for employment and careers update. The update focused on the information and digital goal of the four Universal Offers developed by libraries. The goal was "To ensure local communities have access to quality information and digital services, to learn new skills and to feel safe online"

The Head of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services presented the item which included a brief overview of neighbourhood services; information around library employment support; key outcomes of the Arts Council England Report (June 2022); advice and support sessions in local libraries as well as a number of case studies and workforce development.

It was noted that:

- The Council's Neighbourhood Services section delivered community and library services to people who lived and worked in Leicester City.
- Neighbourhood Services were committed to the four Universal Offers developed by Libraries Connected and supported by Arts Council England.
- Since the previous update a report had been produced by Arts Council England in June 2022. The report was titled 'Helping job seekers help themselves' and focused specifically on the future for library provision.
- The report's findings noted that 39% of library users were job seekers, nation-wide.
- The following three recommendations were made in the report:
 - Actively coordinate the support provided to jobseekers by library services with other forms of jobseeker support through a formal partnership between jobcentres and library services as critical social infrastructure.
 - 2. Invest in quality and consistency. Individual library services should consider how they can increase the benefit to jobseekers by making the resources and activities identified by the research more widely available and actively promote this support.
 - Reinstate human help for jobseekers which been paused due to the pandemic. Individual services should use the evidence in this report to inform decisions about how to reinstate provision, in particular CV writing, careers advice and training courses.
- Leicester was already compliant in all 3 recommendations.
- The pilot commenced in autumn 2020, which trialled in three libraries. Following success, the service was rolled out to three further libraries in autumn 2021. A final two libraries were included in spring 2022.
- A customer survey was undertaken in February 2022, with 1,500 responses. The survey showed that purpose of the visits were as follows:
 - 6% were job related.
 - 19% were to get online
 - 21% were answering a query
 - 35% were studying or learning
- Neighbourhood Services provided government funded Kickstarter roles in libraries and community centres in 2022. The scheme was open to 18 – 25 year olds. Two customer facing roles in different areas of the city were available and both Kickstarters had now successfully applied for positions within the service.
- Neighbourhood services were working directly with colleges to offer three T-level placement opportunities for admin and business students

- to introduce them to the benefits of working for the council and to support young people in their career development.
- Apprenticeships were being offered to members of staff within the service, to support career development.
- Neighbourhoods Services were offering up to four apprenticeships in Library and Information Skills for front line staff.

In response to members questions, it was noted:

- Neighbourhoods Services had looked into extending further, following a
 recommendation at a previous meeting. Contact had been made with
 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as it was a DWP
 resource and the council were currently fully utilizing that resource. The
 eight locations were picked because of the need requirements and easy
 accessibility.
- Regular monthly service meetings were held to ensure frontline staff within the Neighbourhoods and Customer Service Centres had access to the same source of information.
- Page 129 of the report showed the figures for those who had attended adult learning courses during the autumn term. Data for enrollments in the spring term were not currently available.
- The adult learning courses could be accessed via the adult learning brochure online. At the start of each term would be an enrolment day, where the doors are open and the adult learning staff would be available to discuss the courses at most locations.

RECOMMENDED TO AGREE:

That an update report on the adult learning courses be provided to the commission in six months.

61. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

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

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

62. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 7:05pm.

Neighbourhood and Environmental Services August 2023

Scrutiny Report

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

Divisional Structure



Director of Neighbourhood and **Environmental Services** (Sean Atterbury) Head of Parks and Head of Waste **Head of Regulatory** Head of Neighbourhood Head of Standards and **Open Spaces** Services Services Development Services (Stewart Doughty and (Brian Stafford) (Mark Loran) (Dave Howard) (Lee Warner) Michael Walker)

- Staff 710 headcount, (595 FTE)
- Budget £33.5m

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

19

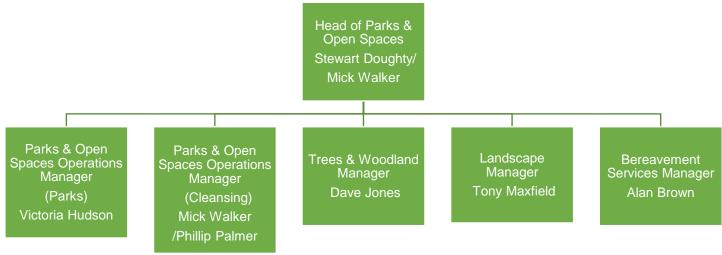
Parks and Open Spaces



Parks and Open Spaces

353 FTE staff

£14m running costs, £10m income £4m net budget





Parks Services

- 145 local parks and open spaces
- Over 5 million visitors to parks in 2022/23
- Management of green and blue spaces 22% of city
- Sports provision, golf course, 100 football, 37 cricket, 13 bowls
- Sites maintained for biodiversity, grassland strategy
- Cut 106m m2 grass each year, meadows to bowling greens
- Litter pick 6.5m m2 each week
- Green Flag Award Abbey Park
- Leicester Environmental Volunteers (LEV)
 - 10781 volunteers
 - 937 volunteer sessions
 - 76176 volunteer hours (£0.6m added value)
- Supported 21 Its Your Neighbourhood groups (RHS)
- Parks enhancement and development projects



Bereavement Services

- Provision of dignified burial and cremation services
- 1,864 cremations & 1,045 burials
- Memorial safety (24,333 inspected per annum0)
- Preservation of social & cultural history
- Maintenance of cemetery grounds & buildings
- Gilroes Crematorium
- Four Cemeteries
 - Belgrave, Gilroes, Saffron Hill & Welford Road Cemetery
- Twelve closed churchyards
- Scattering ashes site on River Soar



Trees & Woodlands

- Management of tree stock of 168k individual registered trees and 111 hectares of woodland.
- Management of Tree Strategy
 - Sustain & enhance tree stock
 - Increase tree stock (canopy 16%)
- 613 trees felled
- 11,734 trees planted (over 19 per tree felled)
- 24x7 on call: 347 emergency call outs in 2021/22
- 100% of waste by-product recycled (607 tonnes)
- Management of Ash Die Back
- Management of Japanese Knotweed
- 14 Tree Wardens



Landscape Services

- Play, Schools & Landscape teams
- 184 Play areas, 26 ball courts
- 4 skate parks, 5 BMX, cycle track, 2 Parkour
- 37 Outdoor gyms
- 4,702 combined assets, inspected weekly
- 70 Schools and facilities grounds maintenance contracts
- Hard & soft landscaping services
- Trading service internal & external clients, inc S106



Cleansing Services

- Over 600 miles of city streets receive street cleaning services.
- Service delivery maintained above national standards for litter, detritus, graffiti & flyposting.
- Street washing & stain removal
- Graffiti removal (7,109 tags removed over 1,673 locations)
- Public toilets cleaning
- Corporate waste collection from council buildings & schools
- Fly tipping (8,321 incidents 2021/22)
- Over 9,000 Tonnes waste managed each year
- 1,426 abandoned vehicle inspections (2021/22)
- 2,415 needles collected (2021/22)
- Out of hours RTC, needles, spillages (331 Incidents 2021)



2023/25 Key Priorities

- Continue to promote volunteering opportunities in the City Leicester Environmental Volunteers
- New ways of working to reduce our climate footprint
 - Carbon benchmarking of services
 - Exploring electric equipment, new technology
 - Introduction of grassland strategy
 - Reduction of chemical usage
- POS will continue to invest in new technology and work towards digitally transforming the service
- Sustainably manage our tree stock (ADB)
- Apprenticeship opportunities and succession planning
- Development of a new cemetery
- Depot rationalisation and transformation

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

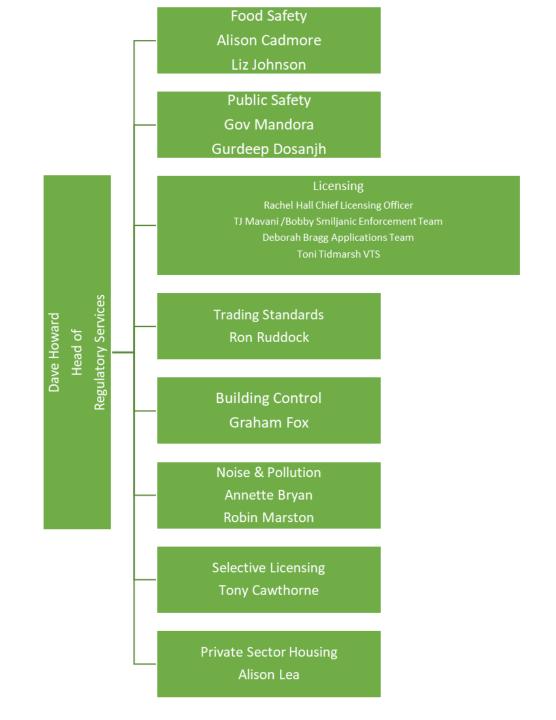
Regulatory Services

Regulatory Services

117 FTE £4m running costs £2m income Net budget £2m

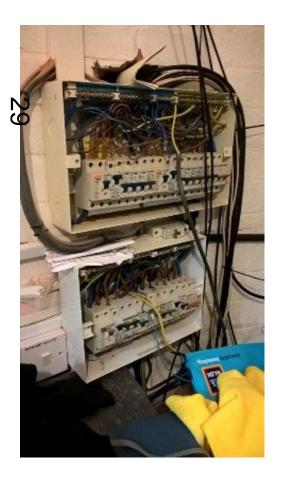
Aims

- to protect legitimate businesses as well as the health, safety, wellbeing and economic interest of the people who visit and live in Leicester.
- provide advice and support to encourage business growth and sustainability through regulatory compliance.



Food Safety

- 3000+ food businesses in the City
- 500+ new registrations
- Provide advice and support to new businesses
- Investigate food complaints and incidents
- Imported foods





Public Safety

- large sports stadia and arenas.
- Projects on specific workplace hazards
- Investigate fatal/serious workplace accidents
- Issue explosives storage licences
- Inspection of Shisha premises
- Infectious disease investigations





Trading Standards

- Investigate complaints of illegal and unfair trading and scams
- Intelligence led project work on business sectors 2nd hand cars, builders etc
- Investigation of large scale fraud Fischer Case
- Lead on Animal heath incidents Bird flu





Noise and Pollution Control

- 4000+ noise complaints per year investigated
- Odour, smike and dust complaints
- Inspection of Permitted processes and Petroleum Licenced businesses
- Consultee for planning applications –
 potential contaminated land, noise, odour
 issues associated with development
- Support events in the city



Building Control

 Process applications for works requiring Building Control Approval

Inspect works on site at key stages

 Support LCC building projects – St Margarets Bus Station

 Dangerous structures – Church Gate Building Collapse, Church Gate Fire



Licensing

 Vehicle Testing Station 3500+ Taxi tests per year (1500+ retests)

8000+ Licence applications processed a year

Carry out formal hearings for appeals against licence decisions

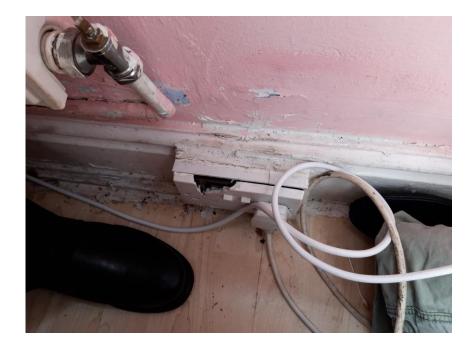
Enforcement team have a program of inspection for

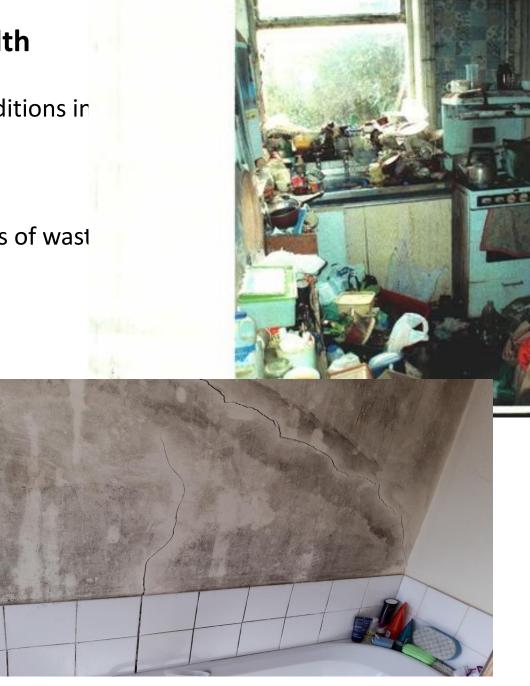
licenced establishments

Support events in the city



- Licensing and inspection of HMO's
- Response to complaints or poor housing conditions in Private rented sector
- Tackling rogue landlord
- Inspection of asylum accommodation
- Investigation of pest, drainage, accumulations of wast complaints
- Welfare funerals





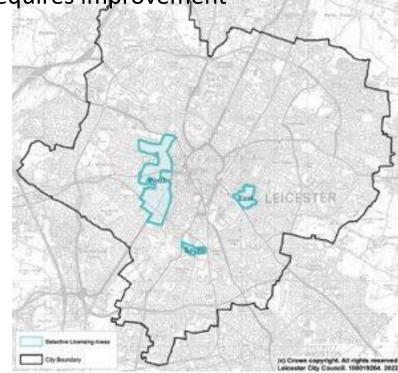


Selective Licensing

- Introduced Selective licensing in 3 designated areas of the city.
- Scheme to improve standards of accommodation
- 8500 rented properties in the scheme
- Process applications, inspect properties and issue licence for landlords to let

Enforcement where required

46% accommodation requires improvement





2023/24 Key Priorities

Regulatory Services

- Continuing to ensure the safety and welfare of our city and visitors to it
- Supporting good businesses regulating poor
- Promotion of the work and impact of Reg Services
- Promoting improved Private Rental Sector (PRS)
 housing standards Mandatory HMO and selective
 licensing
- Ensuring a supported workforce with development opportunities, retention and recruitment plans

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood Services



- **27 neighbourhood facilities** including 9 "multi-service centres"
- 16 statutory library service points
- HMP Leicester Prison Library
- 15 community centres
- Children and Young Peoples Service
- Children's Book Bus
- Ward and Community Engagement Team
- Extensive reader development programme for children and adults
- Events and activities including the recent Jubilee Celebrations
- "Libraries from Home" online library services
- Community Asset Transfer leases

Location of buildings 27 Rushey Mead 25 15 18 7197 Thurncourt 26 13 Western Fosse 910 8 Spinney Hills 28 Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields 111 Saffron Eyres Monsell **Geographic Information Team** (c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved Planning, November 2021 x 35 2997 Leicester City Council. 100019264. 2021

Heat map showing NS facilities and Leicester city indices of multitple deprivation





Service Priorities: Neighbourhood Services are committed to 4 Universal Offers

- Health & Wellbeing
- Information & Digital
- Culture & Creativity
- Reading

Neighbourhood Services also commit to:

The Children's Promise

Health & Wellbeing Offer



- Community Groups 20,000+ sessions per year
- Warm Welcome 16 registered warm spaces with resources, 3 Food banks
- Let's Get Together programme overcoming social isolation
- Let's Get Growing community gardening project at 12 centres
- Better Mental Health Fund 150+ volunteers per year
- Reading Friends project
- **Light exercise** walking groups



Information & Digital offer

- Information, enquiries & signposting supporting channel shift 90,000 enquiries per year
- Library Job Shop DWP work coaches extended to 8 libraries
- Computers, WiFi & printing 166 public computers & libraries
- Beginners IT courses with library staff support
- Device loaning scheme
- **Digital resources** 25,000 eBooks, eAudio; 3,000+ eMagazines
- **Study Support** at 12 libraries 3,500 school children attending per year



Culture & Creativity offer

- Ward funding projects £378k per year over 400 local projects
- Festivals, events & celebrations Over 100 local events From Jubilee to Navratri!
- Black Lives Matter programme
- Artists in residence Small Wonders, Imaginative Neighbourhoods
- Touring theatre 20 shows in local libraries with Spark Arts
- Knitter Natter, local history and storytelling groups



Reading offer

- 500,000 Book stock city wide
- Summer Reading Challenge 8,000 children participating 2022
- Book Start Book gifting programme to all new-born babies
- Our Best Book award over 50 primary schools
- Libraries Week city wide reading programme over 40 events
- Reading Groups 50+ city wide
- Home Library Service Books delivered by bicycle!

2023 Priorities



- Continue to assess services to ensure we are meeting needs of the most disadvantaged and achieving best value
- Climate action plan Electric Book Bus and information/awareness campaigns
- Invest in our facilities eg St Barnabas Performance and Digital Suite and bid for further refurbishments
- Development of Universal Offer programmes
- Development of volunteer offer
- Workforce development programme T-Levels; Apprenticeships; development opportunities

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

Standards and Development

Standards & Development

75 FTE

£3.63m running costs £2m income Net budget £1.63m **Brian Stafford** Head of Standards & Development Phil Applewhite / Jude Adrian Edge **Andy Oxspring** Applewhite **Dave Warren** Landscape Development Pests & Dog Control Team Allotments & Amenities **CCTV & Change Manager** Manager Manager Manager Bob Mullins / Geoff Mason Barbara Whitcombe Merybell Smith Dave Mee / Hannah Keys Service Support & **Technical Services** City Wardens and Enviro-Project & Development Intelligence Team Manager Manager Crime Team Manager Manager

Standards and Development

- Public realm CCTV working in partnership with Police and external agencies
- Allotments provision and management of these across the city
- City Wardens both criminal and civil offences
- Pest and Dog Control statutory duty
- Landscape Development
- Public Realm projects
- Performance and Intelligence Unit
- **Technical Services**













Prebend Gardens opening

Prebend Gardens has been refurbished and we would like to invite you to join us for the opening on Saturday 12th March at 10:00am All residents are welcome.

Refurbishments include: a new outdoor gym, play equipment, an improved wildlife pond with new dipping platform, wildflower and hedgerow planting, new trees, improved seating, new surfacing and footpaths, improved entrances, and a community performance/event

The gardens will be opened by the Stoneygate ward councillors:















Standards and Development – recent achievements

- Allotments Demand for the service is at all time high; better management of the waiting list. Commencement of Allotment & Community Growing Strategy
- City Wardens & Enviro-Crime steady and substantial reduction in flytipping; successful completion of three area-based projects
- CCTV working with and alongside internal services; collaborative working with the Police over a range of serious issues
- Landscape Development Prebend Gardens landscaping; Museum Square landscaping; constituency based meetings with ward councillors
- Service Support & Intelligence transition to use of docmail; transition to new version of MapInfo; recruitment of apprentices and GPOs
- Pest & Dog Control relocation to Leycroft Road; securing funding for two permanent posts to support Housing
- Projects completion of St Mary's open space; Idox Cloud introduction for case management work.

Directed use of Cameras, Incident Originator 1569 **Environmental Concerns** 3125 · Principal of identification of pest and appropriate treatmen 23% 9160. 50 ■ Police ■ CCTVOperator ■ ThirdParty



Standards and Development – moving forward

- Allotments continue to provide a sought after service; look for and realise opportunities, including working 'cross-service'
- City Wardens & Enviro-Crime continue to develop area-based projects; continue to provide a ward or local resource
- CCTV continue to grow the service through provision of more deployable cameras and the supporting of Council services and the Police
- Landscape Development continue to deliver the s106 programme along with other funding opportunities for landscape projects. Delivery of MUGA reinvestment programme.
- Projects continue to take up funding opportunities such as the Levelling Up Fund for Parks; continue provision of support to services within NES

Project Name: St George's Church Yard Department: Development Team

Project Officer: Claire Gooch Project Status: a) Development/Consultati ounding area, to enhance the increase footfall, and improve

Contributions from Planning Application

Application no	Amount	Address	S106 requirement	Application Ward
20040828	£71,441	99 BURLEYS WAY, THAMES TOWER	£125,833 towards the provision of open space facilities in the St George's residential and working community	Abbey

Fosse ward fly tipping campaign



the date stated at the beginning of it.

by LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL by affixing its Common Seal the day and year first before written:

EXECUTED as a DEE! for and on behalf of ANIMAL CARE SERVICES LIMITED

Edward Bradley

hunet fradle





Standards and Development Key Focus Areas 23/24

- Delivery of s106 programme
- Delivery of MUGA reinvestment programme
- Development of Allotment Strategy
- Further reduction of fly-tipping mainly through area-based projects
- Re-tendering of contracts: Dog Kennelling; CCTV infrastructure maintenance; CCTV staffing
- Reduction of our carbon footprint
- Culture and People; succession planning; apprenticeships and skills

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

Waste Services



Waste Services

- Contract with Biffa Leicester covering collection and treatment of domestic waste
- Maintenance of an effective waste and recycling collection service
- Garden waste service delivered with over 5,000 customers
 over 1,100 tonnes collected and composted
- Two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and a network of bring banks
- Reuse Shop and Trade Waste facility on Gypsum Close HWRC
- Behaviour change communications and education
- Policy Work Government Resources and Waste Strategy

14.7m collections per annum





2022/23 Achievements

- Kerbside collections
 - Maintained without interruption right through Covid
 - Missed collections remain at less that 0.03%
 - Despite significant increases in waste volumes
 - Despite significant driver shortages
- HWRCs
 - Operated with social distancing and without the need to 'book'
- Treatment facilities
 - Consistent operation despite increased waste volumes and change in composition
- Reuse Shop
 - Expansion project completed April 2022
 - An important community resource especially given the cost of living crisis



2023/24 Priorities

- Deliver a new Waste Strategy for the Council
- Commence a programme of re-procurement of the PFI Contract
- Continue to deliver an effective and efficient waste collection service for a growing city
- Engage with matters relating to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy
- Contributing to our climate emergency action plan
 - Promoting reuse and the responsible recycling
 - Exploring opportunities for innovate our waste services

Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

Scrutiny - August 2023

5/

Questions

Tourism, Culture and Investment

Director, Mike Dalzell

Key Service Leads

Arts and Museums: Jo Jones

De Montfort Hall: Tony Flint

City Centre Director: Sarah Harrison

Festivals & Events and Cultural Policy: Graham Callister

Services relevant to commission

- Museum and visitor attraction services at 6 key sites Leicester Museum, Abbey Pumping Station, Jewry Wall, Guildhall, KRiii Visitor Centre and Newarke Houses
- Support for arts initiatives e.g. Bring the Paint, UA50 sculpture Music, comedy, panto and more at De Montfort Hall
- Promoting Leicester's heritage e.g. via Story of Leicester website, digital content, heritage panels, exhibitions
- Delivering a vibrant festivals and events programme, directly through the council and via support for others









Services relevant to commission (cont'd)

- Support for the records office (statutory) in partnership with the county council
- Tourism campaigns to drive the visitor economy and to animate the city centre
- Place Marketing initiatives that position Leicester as a great place to live / work / study / visit / invest
- Cultural and Creative Industries Policy Development







Key Priorities

Policy

Develop and launch a new Cultural and Creative Industries Strategy

Arts and Museums

Strengthening engagement work with schools and communities

Developing plans for new art, climate change and social history galleries

City Council

Creating exceptional visitor experiences through capital investment at Jewry Wall
Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
KRIII

Key Priorities

De Montfort Hall

- Delivering an exciting and balanced programme for audiences
- Investing in the building and key operational systems
- Maximising cost efficiencies and driving income

Tourism

- Support destination marketing campaigns (Taste the Place, Fitcation, Uncover the Story etc)
- Promote Leicester's Old Town
- Develop an Ambassadors scheme for residents and front of house teams to better promote the city offer

















Key Priorities

Heritage

Extending the Heritage Panel scheme

Improved online offer via Story of Leicester

Digital technology in the public realm

Festivals

Animating the city centre & city parks with high quality events

Improving co-ordination & promotion of the city festivals offer

Securing external resources to support new activity

Working with communities & festival organisers to improve programming and participation

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission Sports Services Overview

16 August 2023

75



FACILITIES

- Aylestone
- Braunstone
- Cossington
- Evington
- Leicester Leys
- Spence Street
- New Parks
- Saffron lane
- HH Golf Course
- Sport on Parks











PRODUCTS & PROGRAMS

- Learn 2 Swim
- School Swimming
- Health & Fitness
- Concessionary prices
- Climbing
- Golf
- Athletics
- Outdoor Sports Pitches
- Bookings and Licences for sports club and 3G pitches

























262 Full Time Equivalent Staff

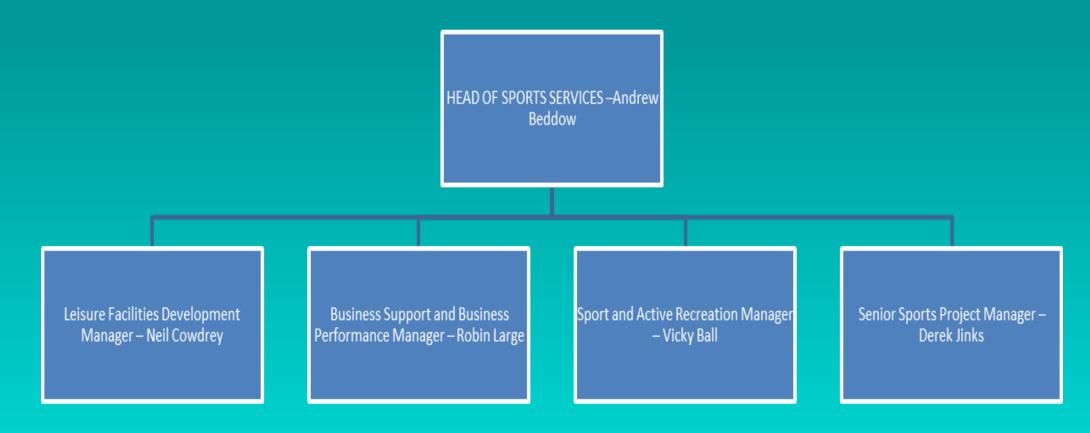
- Receptionist
- Fitness Instructor
- Swim teacher
- Outdoor Recreation
- Digital and Marketing
- Sports Development

1.2 million Visits annually

- 12,068 health and fitness members
- 7,800 children learn how to swim pr wk.
- Support 1,000 weekend sport fixtures pa.
- 26,000 Rounds of Golf pa.
- £6.5 million income pa.

SPORTS SERVICES MANAGEMENT TEAM

Miranda Cannon – Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance



City Mayor's Office & VCSE Engagement

Head of the City
Mayor's Office &
Customer Support
Transformation Lead

VCSE Engagement Team VCSE Engagement Manager

VCSE Support
Officer

- VCSE Engagement Strategy delivery
- Community Engagement
 Fund
- Crowdfund Leicester
- Volunteering
- Faith Engagement



VCSE Engagement Strategy

Dialogue Sessions

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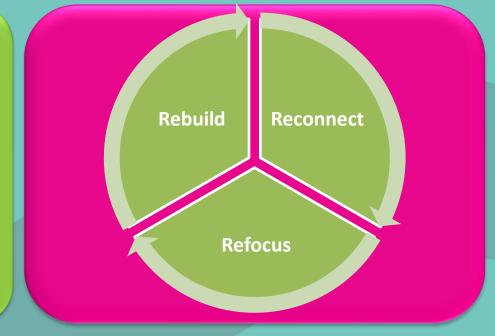
VCSE Strategies

VCSE Survey Topic Sessions 1:1 Interviews Key VCSE Support Orgs

LCC Service Leads

UNDERSTANDING OF NEEDS

VCSE Engagement Pledges



- Organisations in our Civil Society
- VCSE Insights, Importance, and Impact
 - Funding and the VCSE
 - Infrastructure Support
 - Volunteering
 - Businesses and the VCSE

Crowdfund Leicester & Community Engagement Fund

Bringing people together to shape and make positive change in their community.

Putting **local people in control** of bringing ideas forward, backing those ideas they want to make happen and then delivering the project.



