



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: Thursday, 18 June 2026 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Zaman (Chair)
Councillor Bajaj (Vice Chair)

Councillor Dr Barton
Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Joshi

Councillor Dave
Councillor Haq
Councillor Pickering

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207 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Executive Members Cllr Cutkelvin and Cllr Dempster.

208 Declarations of Interest

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

There were no declarations of interest.

209 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission held on 16 April 2026 be confirmed as a correct record.

210 Membership of the Commission 2026-27

The Membership of the Commission was confirmed as follows:

Councillor Syed Zaman – Chair
Councillor Deepak Bajaj – Vice-Chair
Councillor Susan Barton
Councillor Ted Cassidy
Councillor Karen Pickering
Councillor Dilip Joshi
Councillor Bhupen Dave
Councillor Zuffar Haq

211 Dates of Meetings of the Commission 2026-27

The dates of the meetings for the Commission were confirmed as follows:

18 June 2026
3 September 2026
2 November 2026
28 January 2027
4 March 2027

212 Terms of Reference

The Commission noted the Scrutiny Terms of Reference.

213 Chair's Announcements

- The Chair notified members that the task group on Community Asset Transfer would continue with the original members, but the report from it would be brought to the current Commission to consider.
- The Chair noted that since papers had been circulated in advance, presentations could be kept to a minimum to allow more time for questions and comments.
- The Chair thanked staff at Braunstone Leisure Centre as their early intervention and quick response had helped to save a life.

214 Questions, Representations and Statements of Case

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

215 Petitions

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

216 Introduction to Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

A presentation was given on Tourism, Culture and Economy using the slides attached with the agenda pack. Additional points included:

- The Records Office held both Museum records as well as statutory records such as Coroner records.
- Jewry Wall Museum had opened the previous year.
- Capital redevelopment of the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG) was being delivered in phases until 2030.
- Extensive outreach had been undertaken through the National Lottery Heritage Fund to take museum collections out into communities.
- Work on Festivals and Events had included commissioning external organisations to deliver a range of festivals and events throughout the year.
- Users of Haymarket Theatre included Addict Dance Academy and Leicestershire Music.
- Place Marketing had included a range of activities to promote the area for visitors and residents.

A presentation was given on Neighbourhood and Environmental Services using the slides attached with the agenda pack. Additional points included:

- The division was one of the largest in the Council and included a range of services from waste management, to libraries to bereavement.
- Around 1180 people were employed in the division. It was a diverse and local workforce.
- Areas highlighted on the slide could come to the Commission this year.
- There was a focus on the private sector housing scheme and the selective licensing review.
- The future of allotments would be looked at.
- Innovations and modernisation in street cleansing would be looked at.
- A presentation would be brought on agreed objectives in transformation work in neighbourhood services.
- Ward funding would be considered by the Commission.
- Feedback was welcomed on the second Public Space Protection Order (PSPO2).
- The Council were market leaders on leisure centres and place-based work had been done in sports.
- Central government grant funding had been received, the bulk of which concerned waste management.

A presentation was given on Corporate Services using the slides attached with the agenda pack. Additional points included:

- The division supported and assisted other teams. It was an enabling service that included services such as IT and HR.
- The division facilitated public reporting, for example, through the use of the Love Clean Streets app.
- Intelligence from customer services was used to make changes in services and add value.
- Risk Emergency Management and Business Continuity ensured that the right arrangements were in place when situations arose, such as flooding.

- The corporate wellbeing and support offer for the workforce was entirely arranged and put in place by People Services, which focused on physical and mental wellbeing.
- The Digital Data and Technology (DDaT) provided the digital, data and technology foundations that allowed the organisation to operate effectively, securely and efficiently. It was a strategic enabler of better services, stronger organisational resilience, and decision-making.
- There was a Public Sector Equality Duty to tackle the inequality of service access.
- More focussed work had been done on knowing communities and helping to bring them together.

The Committee were invited to ask questions and make comments. Key points included:

- The service was commended for listening to the public and implementing changes. Staff were also praised for being responsive to Councillors, particularly at a grassroots level.
- Concerns were raised about fly tipping, and it was suggested that there needed to be a partnership approach by officers, councillors and the public. It was noted that fly tipping incidents had decreased from 12,000 to 9,000 over the last 10 years. Cameras were in place to catch perpetrators and AI speeded up the process to get results. The issue could be considered by scrutiny.
- In understanding the relationship between Corporate Services and Neighbourhood and Environmental Services, the example was given that Community Cohesion sat with Corporate Services, but they worked closely with the Safer Communities Service which sat under Neighbourhood and Environmental Services.
- The side to Corporate Services that was relevant to the Commission was largely around accessibility to neighbourhoods and communities.
- In response to points made about housing, it was noted that Neighbourhood and Environmental Services worked closely with the Housing department and the service were aware of the housing crisis, however, these issues generally sat with Housing Scrutiny.
- With regard to health outcomes, it was noted that the Place Expansion Programme worked with community groups to get people active. Neighbourhood and Environmental Services worked with the NHS and ICB as well as the voluntary sector who helped on the Place Leadership Programme, engaging with the big sports clubs in the city.
- More programmes would be brought forward around helping communities.
- A question was asked around the sustainability of Jewry Wall Museum. It was noted that there had been positive reviews and lots of schools visits and there was a need to keep a focus on the awareness of what museums offered.
- It was noted that partner organisations were worked with to promote tourism in the city. The idea of a City Pass to access multiple attractions could be considered; however, it was noted that not all organisations wanted this.
- A tourist tax could be considered when legislation allowed, the Government had consulted on providing visitor levy powers to mayoral strategic authorities through new legislation, and hence this is not currently available in this area.

- In response to a query on food waste, it was noted that around half of councils collected food waste, and this would form part of the new waste contract in 2028. Transitional work would need to be undertaken to communicate, educate and enforce on food waste.
- The issue of PSPO2 was raised, particularly the lack of responses to the consultation. The deadline to the consultation would be increased and communications would be conducted on the details around this.

AGREED:

- 1) That the presentation be noted.
- 2) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.
- 3) The deadline to the consultation on PSPO2 to be increased and communications to be conducted on the details around this.

217 **Pride in Place Programme Update**

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report providing an outline of the Pride in Place Programme to the Commission, indicating where current action is underway and the expected milestone actions and deadlines for later in the year:

The Community Engagement and Pride in Place Delivery Lead joined the meeting to help present.

Key points included:

- It was explained that the Pride in Place Programme was a Central Government initiative enacted through MHCLG. It would last 10 years and invested £20 Million each into 3 separate areas. It was split between 63% Capital and 37% Revenue. The aims of the programme were to create stronger communities, thriving places and promote local empowerment.
- The areas selected were Eyres Monsell, Braunstone Park West and Thurnby Lodge. It was commented that these areas were not the same areas covered by the City Council's wards. It was noted that Braunstone Park West sat within the Braunstone Park and Rowley fields ward and Thurnby Lodge covered parts of Thurncourt ward and the Humberstone and Hamilton ward. The Eyres Monsell area was selected as an MSOA rather than as a ward.
- These areas were to have an appointed independent Chair and Neighbourhood Board, that reviewed and decided what the money was spent on. It was emphasised that the Chair was not a paid role. The boards were to consist mainly of local residents and community organisations. Each board also had the involvement of the local MP, who signed off on the appointment of the Chair and a single appointed Councillor. While there was some political involvement, Central Government wished to reduce the influence of party politics in the programme and maintain a grass roots nature.
- The Council's involvement in the programme was also limited. Its main role was to assist in the initial set up of the independent chair and neighbourhood board and following this, to act as an accountable body. As the Accountable Body, the

Council was legally responsible for all funds and for ensuring compliance and providing support to the programme.

- The recruitment process for the Chair was detailed. It was confirmed that the Chairs were appointed but they had not yet been announced as the goal was to have a wraparound support network in place for them first.
- The Chair and Neighbourhood Boards were to be in place and set up by 17th July 2026 to meet the deadline set by MHCLG. To meet this deadline, an initial small membership was to be set up to ensure that the spine was in place for this date. The membership was to be subsequently reassessed and expanded as needed.
- It was stated that an engagement process with the local communities needed to be conducted by the Chairs and Neighbourhood Boards by 28th November 2026. The aim of the engagement was to develop ideas of what projects to spend the money on. These project ideas were then to be submitted back to Central Government in the form of a neighbourhood plan.

The Committee were invited to ask questions and make comments. Key points included:

- Several members praised the prospect of the new programme and welcomed the extra funding that was coming into the city.
- Members enquired about the level of interest in the role of Chair. It was detailed that there had been 37 applicants for the role, 9 for Eyres Monsell, 11 for Thurnby Lodge and 6 for Braunstone Park West. Several applicants did not state a preference of area in their applications.
- Concern was raised about the lack of Councillor involvement in the programme. While it was noted that each of the three areas would have a Councillor on the board, certain members of the Commission felt that this was too restrictive and that elected representatives of the people were being excluded. The Director for Corporate Services explained that this was a requirement of the programme as outlined by the Ministry for Homes, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG). Central Government had stated that they wished the programme to be a grass roots and community democracy initiative, led by local people and with party politics playing a limited role.
- Further discussion was had around the role of the Councillors on the neighbourhood boards and if there was any flexibility regarding potential job sharing of the role. The Director for Corporate Services explained that there was the potential for this as it would improve the flexibility and resilience of the board. However, further clarification was needed from Central Government regarding this. It was noted that the Thurnby Lodge area had a case for there being more than one Councillor on the board. This was due to it covering more than one ward and the party-political split of the wards.
- Building from the previous point, Members asked about the Chairs and if there were any substitutes in place. An Officer explained that two of the Boards had a

Chair and Vice Chair system, while the other had 2 Co-Chairs. Therefore, contingencies were already in place.

AGREED:

- 1) The Commission noted the report.
- 2) The forward plan to be examined regarding future updates on the programme.

218 Work Programme

The work programme was noted.

219 Any Other Urgent Business

There being no items of urgent business, the meeting ended at 19:23