

Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

DATE: THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

TIME: 5:30 pm

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

Members of the Committee

Councillor Zaman (Chair)

Councillor Bajaj (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Dr Barton, Cassidy, Dave, Haq, Joshi and Pickering

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

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Ed Brown (Governance Services), Oliver Harrison (Governance Services),

E-mail: governance@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

Ed Brown (Edmund.brown@leicester.gov.uk) and **Oliver Harrison** (Oliver.harrison@leicester.gov.uk), **Governance Services.** Alternatively, email governance@leicester.gov.uk, or call in at City Hall.

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To issue a welcome to those present, and to confirm if there are any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

[Appendix A](#)

The minutes of the meeting of the Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission held on 18th June 2026 have been circulated, and Members will be asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair is invited to make any announcements as they see fit.

5. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

Any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures will be reported.

6. PETITIONS

Any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures will be reported.

7. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER ZONE 1 AND ZONE 2 [Appendix B](#)

The Director of Neighbourhood & Environmental Services submit a report to the Commission which provides an overview on the work of the Public Space Protection Order Zone 1. The report also provides an overview of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for Zone 2 and plans to implement.

8. BUSK LEICESTER – OVERVIEW [Appendix C](#)

The Director of Tourism; Culture & Inward Investment submits a report which provides an overview on the new BUSK Leicester pilot initiative, covering March – May 2026 and proposed next steps

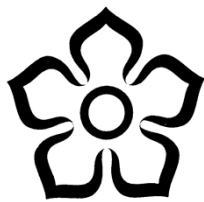
9. FESTIVAL & EVENTS GRANTS PROGRAMME 2026/27 – OVERVIEW [Appendix D](#)

The Director of Tourism; Culture & Inward Investment submits a report to the Commission on the 2026/27 Festivals and Events Grants Programme including background, new commissioning process and criteria, successful applications and awards. The report also outlines how the grants programme has evolved and its strategic relevance to the city.

10. WORK PROGRAMME [Appendix E](#)

Members of the Commission will be asked to consider the work programme and make suggestions for additional items as it considers necessary.

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

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

* * * * *

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



Public Spaces Protection Order Zone 1 and Zone 2

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 3rd September 2026

Lead director/officer: Sean Atterbury / Nicola Odom

Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: Westcotes, Belgrave, Fosse, Abbey, Castle, Rushey Mead, Stoneygate, Wycliffe, Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Spinney Hills, Western, North Evington and Saffron

■ Report author: Nicola Odom

■ Author contact details: Nicola.odom@leicester.gov.uk

■ Report version number: V.1

1. Summary

- To provide the Scrutiny Commission with updates and an overview on the work of the Public Space Protection Order Zone 1
- To provide the Scrutiny Commission with a detailed overview of proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for Zone 2 and plans to implement.

2. Recommendation(s):

- Scrutiny Commission are invited to:

Comment, on the work that is being carried out within the City Centre in relation to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO Zone 1) and the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for (PSPO Zone 2).

3. Detailed report

- 3.1 A Public Space Protection Order as defined in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is an Order which can be made by a Local Authority (Council), to set restrictive prohibitions or specified conditions to manage out behaviours that are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and that those behaviours are unreasonable. PSPOs provide a flexible tool to address persistent anti-social behaviour and support safer, cleaner public spaces.
- 3.2 Since its implementation, Zone 1 has provided the Council and its enforcement partners with additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and support wider community safety objectives. The Order forms part of a broader partnership approach to creating a safer and more welcoming city centre and is subject to ongoing monitoring and review to assess its effectiveness and identify emerging issues
- 3.3 A dedicated team Public Spaces Officers patrol the PSPO Zone 1 area to support the delivery of the Order and provide a visible reassurance presence in the city centre. Public Spaces Officers are easily identifiable by their blue vests and undertake regular patrols, engaging with residents, businesses and visitors, responding to concerns and using the powers available under the PSPO where appropriate. Their high visibility presence contributes to improved perceptions of

safety and supports wider efforts to address anti-social behaviour within the city centre.

- 3.4 During Quarter 1, officers managed 180 incidents across the area, demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns. Of these incidents, 51 resulted in a breach of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), while 129 (72%) were resolved through early intervention and lower-level enforcement measures, preventing escalation and reducing the impact on residents, visitors and businesses. The team also undertook significant engagement activity, with 166 businesses visited and engaged, of which 56% reported being satisfied following the initial contact and required no additional support. Supporting vulnerable individuals remained a key priority, with 24 vulnerable people receiving assistance and signposting to appropriate services. In addition, officers provided immediate support to individuals in crisis on seven occasions, including the life-saving administration of naloxone, highlighting the team's important role in safeguarding vulnerable people and responding to wider community safety concerns.
- 3.5 PSPO Zone One activity has continued to focus on transport hubs, key routes into the city, and areas with the highest levels of footfall. A problem-solving approach has been embedded throughout all activity, with the aim of delivering sustainable, long-term improvements to identified locations. Ongoing partnership working with Leicestershire Police has helped identify areas where there may be duplication of resources, creating opportunities to improve efficiency and better target interventions. During Quarter two, the focus will be on expanding this work further within the collaborative partnership space to maximise impact and strengthen joint problem-solving approaches.

Data Led Projects

- 3.6 The team are carrying out data-led project work to identify and address locations experiencing persistent anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns.
- 3.7 **Cank Street** - Engagement has taken place with all businesses in the area, helping to build strong support for the initiative and identify key concerns. A CCTV camera has been installed to enhance surveillance and deter anti-social behaviour, while work with the arcades has focused on securing vulnerable areas to reduce opportunities for crime and disorder. Plans are also progressing to gate doorways that have been frequently used for drug-related activity and rough sleeping. Regular patrols have continued throughout the project, with support offered to vulnerable individuals and appropriate action taken to move people on where necessary. The project has received positive feedback from both local businesses and the wider community, reflecting the improvements made to safety, confidence and the local environment.
- 3.8 **New Walk / Upper Nelson Street** - involved extensive engagement with local businesses, ensuring that all premises within the affected area have been visited and supported. Reporting mechanisms have been promoted to businesses and the wider community to improve intelligence gathering and encourage the reporting of incidents. Officers have also provided proactive crime prevention advice and worked closely with building owners to improve site security and reduce opportunities for

crime and disorder. Regular engagement and enforcement activity has resulted in support being provided to vulnerable individuals and appropriate action being taken to move people on from locations where issues have arisen, including the management of an encampment on The Oval. The project has generated positive feedback from both businesses and local communities, demonstrating increased confidence in the partnership response and improvements to the local environment.

- 3.9 **Encampments and Rough Sleeping-** Targeted engagement with landowners, businesses and property managers has supported the implementation of measures to secure identified areas of vulnerability, including doorways, car parks and other secluded locations. This proactive approach has helped reduce opportunities for rough sleeping in problematic locations, while supporting longer-term environmental solutions and improving the safety and accessibility of public spaces.
- 3.10 **Town Hall Square** - has been the focus of targeted activity following reports from local businesses and visitors of significant drug-related activity. The location was also identified as a priority hotspot by Leicestershire Police. Through dedicated patrols, high-visibility reassurance activity, intelligence gathering and information sharing with partner agencies, a reduction in visible offending and anti-social behaviour has been achieved.

Next Steps

- 3.11 During Quarter 2, the team will further develop its collaborative approach with partner agencies to ensure resources are targeted effectively and to reduce any duplication of activity. Data-led problem-solving projects will continue to be expanded, with a focus on locations identified through intelligence, community feedback and demand analysis. Work will progress on implementing longer-term environmental improvements, including securing vulnerable locations, supporting the Design Out Crime agenda and preventing opportunities for anti-social behaviour and rough sleeping. Ongoing engagement with businesses, residents and partner organisations will remain a key priority to sustain improvements and support safer, cleaner and a more welcoming city centre.

4. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Zone 2

- 4.1 The PSPO covering Zone 1 has provided valuable learning regarding the effective use of PSPO powers, partnership working, intelligence-led deployment and engagement with communities and businesses. The experience gained through Zone 1 has informed the development of the proposed Zone 2 PSPO, ensuring that implementation is evidence-based, proportionate and responsive to local needs.
- 4.2 The proposed Zone 2 area (Appendix A) was identified through analysis of intelligence, reported incidents and community concerns, which demonstrate the need for targeted measures to address anti-social behaviour and prevent the displacement of issues into neighbouring locations.
- 4.3 Leicester City Council undertook a public consultation on the proposed implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Zone 2, commencing on 1 May 2026. The consultation was initially scheduled to run for six weeks but was extended by a further two weeks at the request of ward members to

maximise opportunities for public engagement. The feedback received through this process will help inform the final scope and implementation of the Order.

4.4 The implementation of a PSPO in Zone 2 will complement the existing city centre arrangements and support a consistent approach to managing anti-social behaviour across affected areas of the city. The Order will continue to be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders, with legal oversight maintained throughout the process to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and to support effective implementation, monitoring and review.

4.5 The delivery of PSPO Zone 2 will adopt a project-based and data-led approach, ensuring that activity is targeted where it is needed most and resources are deployed effectively. Decisions relating to enforcement, engagement and preventative interventions will be informed by analysis of reported incidents, community intelligence, partner agency information and emerging trends. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken to assess impact, identify areas of concern and enable activity to be adapted in response to changing patterns of anti-social behaviour. This approach will support evidence-based decision making, maximise the effectiveness of interventions and ensure that the PSPO continues to respond to the needs of local communities.

Next steps

4.6 Present PSPO Zone 2 proposal for an Executive decision

If approved:

- Finalise the draft Order (Appendix B), seal the Order and publish on the council's website and agree implementation date.
- Design the signage and install it on / in the Zone 2 boundary
- Develop an enforcement and communications plan

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial Implications

This report references a proposal to expand the current PSPO zone with an associated growth in staffing numbers. Additional budget will need to be identified to fund the growth in the team, which will require an Executive Decision to add the necessary budget.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.2 Legal Implications

No legal implications identified

Signed: Jenis Taylor - Lawyer

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.3 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 by paying due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between individuals who share a protected characteristic age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation and those who do not.

Decision-makers must be clear regarding the likely impacts on these groups when considering the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for a three-year period. While PSPOs are designed to maintain public order, they must be executed fairly to ensure they do not disproportionately impact specific communities.

Anti-social behaviour, open drug use, and street drinking disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including women, young children, elderly residents, and disabled individuals. By tackling intimidating loitering, nuisance, spitting, and firework misuse, the PSPO delivers substantial benefits for local communities and visitors by creating safer, cleaner, and more welcoming public spaces.

This enhances both actual and perceived safety, empowering residents and visitors to freely enjoy local parks, high streets, and transport hubs without fear of distress, thereby fostering community cohesion and supporting the local economy.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has identified several mitigating actions that can be put in place, such as providing additional support and signposting for individuals who may need it, to support them through the process.

Additionally, to deliver the recommended workforce growth from six to ten FTE positions, any recruitment for additional Public Space Officers must be carried out in line with the Council's recruitment and selection policies to guarantee fair, transparent, and equal opportunity practices. Operational enforcement and complaint data across protected groups should be monitored to identify and address any emerging concerns, ensuring the PSPO operates equitably throughout its three-year term.

Signed: Surinder Singh - Equalities Officer

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.4 Climate Emergency Implications

The proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Zone 2 has limited direct climate emergency implications. The measure is primarily focused on reducing anti-social behaviour and improving the quality, safety and accessibility of public spaces. By creating cleaner, safer and more welcoming neighbourhoods, parks and public areas, the PSPO may indirectly support climate objectives by encouraging greater use of local outdoor spaces and active travel routes. The installation of signage and any increase in enforcement staffing will have a minor associated carbon impact; however, these are unlikely to have a significant impact on the Council's Climate Emergency objectives.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency).

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.5 Other Implications

Signed:

Dated:

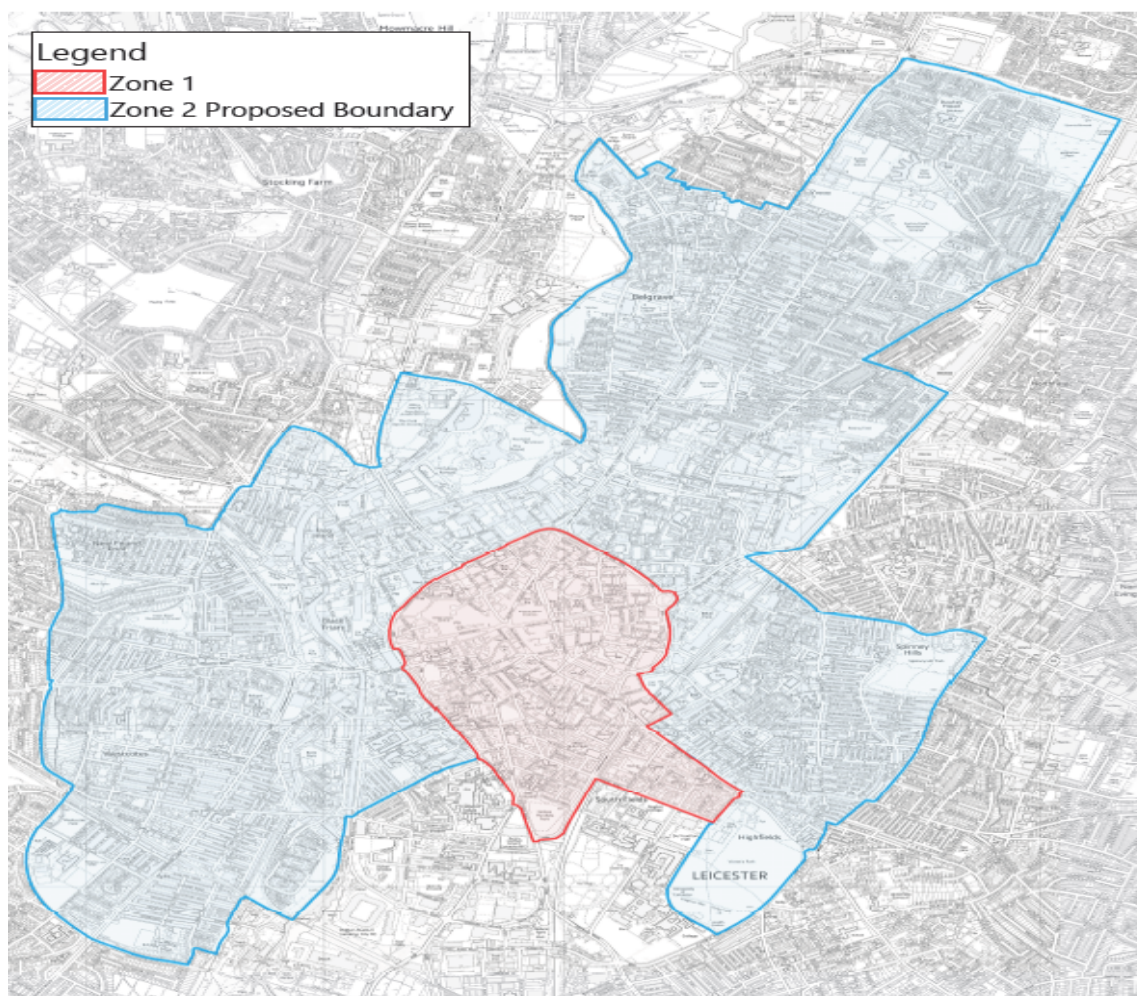
6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

APPENDIX A - Zone 2 Proposed Boundary

APPENDIX B – PSPO Draft Order

Appendix A – Zone 2 Proposed Boundary



Appendix B – DRAFT Order

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER LEICESTER CITY CENTRE ZONE 2 (LEICS-Z2)

Notice is hereby given that Leicester City Council ('the Council') has made the following Order under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act') as follows.

This Order may be cited as the Public Spaces Protection Order (Leicester City Centre Zone 2) and comes into force on **XXXX**. This Order will have effect for a period of 3 years, until **xxxx**. The order relates to all public places within Leicester City Centre, the boundaries of which are edged **blue** on the plan attached to this order at Schedule 1 ("the Restricted Area").

The Council is satisfied that the two conditions below have been met, in that:-

- a. activities carried on in the restricted area as described below have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that these activities will be carried on in the public place and they will have such an effect;
- b. the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.

These activities include:

- individuals or groups causing anti-social behaviour
- being under the influence of psychoactive substances and/or alcohol whilst being in a public place
- disposal of drug paraphernalia
- spitting substances onto public land
- loitering
- inappropriate use of fireworks in public places

The effect of the Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in the Restricted Area at all times, unless specifically stated:-

DEFINITIONS

"Council" – is Leicester City Council

“Authorised Officer” – means a Police Officer, Police Community Support office, or an officer duly authorised by the Council.

“Restricted Area” – is the area edged in blue which is attached to this order

“Psychoactive Substances” has the same meaning as defined in s59 Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (FH to check) [Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#)

“Paan or Pan”, is used to describe the use of the Betel plant leaves for chewing.

Prohibitions

1) Drugs and Psychoactive Substances:

- a) A person is prohibited from possessing, using or consuming in any manner an illegal drug or psychoactive substance
- b) A person is prohibited from disposing of hypodermic needles within the restricted area anywhere other than in a medical sharp’s container
- c) A person is prohibited from disposing of all other drug paraphernalia within the restricted area anywhere other than a bin

2) Alcohol:

- a) If an authorised person reasonably suspects that a person who is or has been drinking alcohol in the open air within the restricted area is causing or likely to cause a nuisance or disorder, they may request the person to:
 - I. Stop drinking within the restricted area; and/or
 - II. Hand to the authorised person any container of alcohol in their possession, whether or not it has been opened, and even if it is empty
- b) A person who has been requested to do either or both of the things referred to at paragraph 4(a) above is required to comply with such a request immediately

Exemptions:

The Restricted Area does not include frontages covered by a current authority to sell or supply alcohol under the Licensing Act 2003, or an area covered by a pavement licence.

Or where there is an authorised and licensed event, and a clear, defined area has been given as part of the permission.

3) Spitting Substances:

A person is prohibited from spitting any substance including but not limited to:

- i. Chewing gum
- ii. Chewed betel leaf or Paan
- iii. Chewing tobacco

4) Fireworks:

A person shall not discharge, let off or throw any firework in any public place within the Restricted Area to which the public have access

Exemption

Any event organised, licenced or permitted by Leicester City Council

5) Loitering:

You shall not, within the designated area, remain in a location and behave in a manner that persistently causes harassment, alarm, or distress to others, this includes but is not limited to,

- a) on any structure, such as benches, steps, or street furniture including in any publicly accessible building ie: Bus stations, shopping centres, car parks or stairwells
- b) in, near or adjacent to doorways/fire exits where you are not the tenant or owner of the premises
- c) near cash machines, pay stations or bank entrances

RIGHT OF APPEAL

There is a right of appeal against the making of this order to the High Court by an interested person with 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the order was made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in or visits the Restricted area. This means only those who are directly affected by the restrictions can appeal. The grounds for appeal are set out in section 66(2) of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES AND OFFENCES

1. It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to engage in any activity that is prohibited by this Order.

2. In accordance with Section 63 of the Act, a person found to be in breach of this Order by consuming alcohol or by refusing to surrender alcohol to an Authorised Person is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500) or to a Fixed Penalty Notice up to £100.

3. In accordance with Section 67 of the Act, a person found to be in breach of this Order, other than by consuming alcohol or by refusing to surrender alcohol to an authorised person, is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000) or to a Fixed Penalty Notice up to £100.

**THE COMMON SEAL OF THE
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL
WAS HEREUNTO AFFIXED
IN THE PRESENCE OF**

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

DATED



BUSK Leicester – Overview

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 3rd September 2026

Lead Officer: Graham Callister

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected:
- Report author: Graham Callister, Head of Festivals, Events & Cultural Policy
- Author contact details: graham.callister@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

To provide Members with an overview of the new BUSK Leicester pilot initiative March – May 2026 delivered by the F&E team and proposed next steps.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny:

Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are invited to:

- Note the outcomes of the BUSK Leicester pilot (March–May 2026), including levels of participation, stakeholder feedback and early operational learning.
- Comment on the proposed expansion of approved busking locations across the city centre and whether these support the ambitions of the Heart of Leicester Strategy while balancing the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.
- Comment on the proposed next phase of the initiative, including future promotion, management arrangements and opportunities to strengthen Leicester's live music and cultural offer.

3. Detailed report

A. Background

As part of the Heart of Leicester Strategy a proposal was put forward by F&E to introduce an accessible, simple process for buskers / street performers to utilise the city streets, positively impacting visitors and local businesses.

This would include:

- Implementation of a simple online process for buskers / street performers to book pitches in prime locations around the city.
- Identifying suitable pitch locations within the city that attract natural footfall without causing obstruction or nuisance.
- Marketing through a promotional campaign and online awareness.

B. Booking Process, PSPO enforcement, Monitoring

A simple online booking process running alongside the current city centre booking system managed by the Festivals & Events Team was created allowing buskers / street performers to choose a set area within the city for a maximum of 3 days per location. As part of the booking buskers / street performers would agree to and sign LCC T&Cs which identified

appropriate noise levels, consideration to local businesses, protocols and licensing conditions.

For the pilot it was decided that an audition process for buskers / street performers would not be required as music /street performance tastes are wide and varied.

LCC F&E budget would cover all performance license fees and the F&E team continue to monitor local business and stakeholder feedback.

City Wardens and PSPO Enforcement Officers are kept informed and provided access to the bookings calendar.

C. Locations, Marketing & Communications

A range of possible locations for the pilot were considered including Jubilee Square, Granby Street Train Station and future Market Square. For the pilot it was decided that the BUSK Leicester would focus on the following locations:

- High Street
- East Gates
- Belgrave Gate
- Gallowtree Gate

A bespoke BUSK Leicester brand identity and signage was created highlighting allocated spaces in the city centre with QR codes directly linking buskers to the online booking form. Launched at the Leicester Music Conference in February 2026 the pilot was supported with a social media campaign led by LCC, Visit Leicester and local partners that included Leicester Music Board partners and BBC Radio Leicester.

Promotion of BUSK Leicester continues via Leicester F&E social media channels, tagging by city partners, a monthly Visit Leicester music blog update and the artist / busker own self-promotion. The initiative was also featured at Riverside Festival which enjoyed attendances of c.60,000.

D. Stakeholder Engagement

Local creative stakeholders involved in helping to promote the initiative and local musicians / artists included 2Funky Arts, CDCA Academy (dance), HQ Recordings and Studio79 (dance).

Leicester Music Board has also been briefed of the initiative which includes PPL PRS, De Montfort University, TiME, Leicestershire Music Service and UMC Management.

E. Budget

Budget

A provisional annual budget of £15,000 was allocated to support the following costs:

- Brand design
- Signage production
- Marketing / promotional costs

- Premises Licence and PPL PRS performance fees

To date the brand, signage, marketing and PPL PRS costs have been minimal at £5,152.

Premises Licence and PPL PRS fees are estimated to cost up to £9,000 in Year 1 and reduce Year 2. Additional investment will be required to produce more robust outdoor signage.

F. Bookings to date

117 bookings have been taken during the initial pilot phase. Individual performers have been the largest booker at 80% of all bookings, with 17% groups and 3% bands. Vocalists (singer) with backing tracks have been the largest form of busker type, followed by guitar and acoustic instrument performers.

Popularity by location:

- Gallowtree Gate 37%
- High Street 32%
- East Gate 18%
- Belgrave Gate 13%

G. Evaluation

Partner feedback

PSPO Team - Feedback from neighbouring businesses to adjust location of High Street spot due to noise to residents and storefront presence e.g. Lumbers. PSPO officers now have postcards for promoting the scheme and are moving people into the official busking locations from other parts of the centre e.g. Humberstone Gate West.

Police – Police colleagues have raised no concerns with the pilot to date and have indicated that additional managed busking locations could support the wider ‘look and feel’ of the city centre and help discourage unregulated activity elsewhere.

LCC Marketing & Comms - Media interests sparked during announcements and TV filming opportunities are under discussion. Recommendation for targeted recaps and announcements of upcoming bookings e.g. school holidays to keep momentum plus paid advertisements for next phase to maintain momentum and build online brand presence.

Leicester Music Board – ‘Busking has always been a vital entry point into the industry. We are proud that Leicester Music Conference is the first event helping relaunch it and embed it within a stronger music ecosystem for Leicester and the Midlands.’

Participation Survey – Key Findings

The survey findings should be treated as early indicative feedback rather than statistically representative results. The survey remains open for a further four weeks to increase the response base, particularly from local businesses and creative audiences. Early survey findings however provide a positive overall picture of BUSK Leicester, particularly from artists and creatives.

Artists and Creatives – Strong Positive Response - Feedback from artists and creatives is the strongest aspect of the survey:

- 92.3% said BUSK Leicester has provided creatives with a space to perform in the city.
- 79% would return to busk in Leicester.
- 76.9% felt it had helped animate the city streets.
- 73% of responding artists were Leicester/Leicestershire residents, demonstrating a strong local creative dimension.
- 71.4% felt locations were clearly branded and identifiable, and the same proportion felt there were sufficient locations for their needs.

The qualitative feedback also suggests BUSK Leicester is helping artists reach new audiences and build their profile, with one artist highlighting new audience reactions, donations and social media/streaming engagement.

Key strength: BUSK Leicester is clearly providing valued performance opportunities and helping animate public space, with strong support from the creative participants.

Areas to improve: Repeat participation was relatively low (only 10% of survey respondents were repeat bookers at the time of the survey) and only 29% said they engaged with more people than expected. Further research will explore how to increase repeat participation; audience reach and progression opportunities for artists.

Local Businesses – Business feedback is currently being collated to gather insight into their individual experiences since the launch of BUSK Leicester.

Further engagement will explore the relationship between busking locations, business experience, footfall, perceptions of safety and potential anti-social behaviour concerns.

Overall Feedback

- 84.6% of survey respondents overall felt BUSK Leicester has a positive impact on the city.
- Overall experience rated by all survey respondents (including partners, local artists and creatives) was 3.23 out of 5.

Overall, the findings support the continuation and further development of BUSK Leicester, with the strongest evidence relating to its value to artists and city-centre animation. The priority for the next phase will be to build on the positive creative response while assessing locations and impact, supported by stronger audience and economic impact research.

Complaints

Only one complaint raised to date on personal safety concerns. A busker received verbal abuse from a local resident. An alternative location for the busker was found and complaint regarding abuse was passed on to the Police.

H. Next Steps

The next phase of BUSK Leicester will focus on building on the strong positive response from artists and creatives, whilst awaiting further insight on the feedback of local

businesses. This will be supported by stronger audience and economic impact research to better understand the wider value of the initiative and inform its future development.

1. Strengthen the creative offer

- Continue to provide accessible performance opportunities for local and visiting artists, with a focus on maintaining a diverse range of art forms.
- Monitor the impact of the revised two-hour performance slots, including whether this increases the number and diversity of performers able to participate.
- Continue discussions with the Leicester Music Board to explore how BUSK Leicester can become an established element of its wider programme and contribute to other festivals and events in the city.
- Explore opportunities to create progression routes for emerging and local artists, potentially through links with city-centre venues, festivals and other live performance opportunities.

2. Expand and improve performance locations

- F&E explore the feasibility of additional locations including New Walk Museum Café, Granby Street, St Peter's Square, Haymarket Bus Station and Leicester Train Station.
- Potential new locations will be assessed against suitability, audience potential, business impact, safety, accessibility and operational requirements.

3. Improve branding and on-street assets

- Review the current lamppost sleeves and other on-street assets, which have proved vulnerable to adverse weather and anti-social behaviour.
- Work with LCC Highways and Cleansing to explore more durable and prominent solutions, including weighted felt lamppost sleeves, painted/stencilled floor logos, durable floor vinyl's and digital projections, subject to budget and permissions.
- Review asset positioning to address visibility issues caused by trees, street furniture and existing signage.

4. Improve the booking and application process

- Continue to review the application process to reduce administrative pressures on F&E and improve booking turnaround times.
- Consider minimum notice periods, booking windows and other measures to better manage demand while retaining flexibility for artists.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the revised booking arrangements and use participant feedback to inform further changes.

5. Strengthen marketing and promotion

- Implement the developing BUSK Leicester marketing and communications plan.
- Improve visibility across LCC, Leicester Festivals and Visit Leicester digital platforms.
- Develop promotional collaborations with Highcross, Haymarket, BID Leicester and East Midlands Railway to increase awareness among artists, audiences and businesses.

- Explore opportunities to integrate BUSK Leicester into wider city-centre events and activity.

6. Strengthen evaluation and evidence

- Continue gathering feedback from artists, local businesses and creative audiences to build a stronger evidence base.
- Develop measures to assess audience engagement, artist participation and progression, city-centre animation, business experience and economic impact.
- Use this evidence to identify which locations and approaches deliver the greatest benefit and to inform the longer-term operating model for BUSK Leicester.

Overall, the aim is to move BUSK Leicester from a successful pilot towards a more established, evidence-led initiative that delivers clear value for creatives, audiences, businesses and the wider city centre.

I. SUMMARY

Key Headlines

- 117 bookings were made during the March–May 2026 pilot, demonstrating clear demand for managed city-centre busking opportunities.
- The strongest response has been from artists and creatives, with 84.6% of respondents overall reporting a positive impact on the city.
- The pilot has generated limited complaints, with no significant concerns raised by Police to date.
- Further evidence is required on audience engagement, business experience and economic impact.

The BUSK Leicester pilot has demonstrated clear demand for accessible, managed performance opportunities and provided positive early evidence of its contribution to city-centre animation and Leicester’s creative offer. The pilot has also provided valuable operational learning around locations, booking arrangements, promotion and stakeholder engagement.

The next phase will build on the overall positive responses to date. This will include reviewing and potentially expanding locations, strengthening business engagement and promotion, refining the booking process, and developing stronger audience and economic impact research to inform the longer-term approach.

4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications beyond those detailed in the main body of this report.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance.

Dated: 19.08.2026

4.2 Legal Implications

There are presently no legal implications from a litigation perspective.

Signed: Shazmina Ghumra (Principal Solicitor – Civil Litigation) Ext. 37 1433

Dated: 21 August 2026

4.3 Equalities Implications

In carrying out its duties under the Equality Act 2010, the Council must pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the Public Sector Equality Duty). Protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The report provides Members with an overview of the BUSK Leicester pilot initiative. The initiative aimed to increase access to city-centre performance opportunities for artists and creatives. It is important to have managed locations, clear terms and ongoing monitoring to reduce potential nuisance or anti-social behaviour that could disproportionately affect people with protected characteristics. No eligibility criteria restrict access on the basis of protected characteristics, and licence fees are covered by the Council to reduce financial barriers. Ongoing evaluation will monitor participation and impact.

To ensure that equality impacts are considered as an integral part of any future review or amendment of the initiative, it is recommended that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) be undertaken if significant changes to locations, times, scale or management arrangements are proposed, or if monitoring identifies potential disproportionate impacts on people with protected characteristics. Overall, the proposal is considered to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by supporting a more inclusive and diverse cultural offer in the city centre.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 17.08.2026

4.4 Climate Emergency Implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications arising from this project.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency). Ext. 37 2249.

Dated: 19.08.2026

4.5 Other Implications

Highways

As highway authority the Council must ensure that any adopted highway is not unlawfully obstructed. Under S137 of the Highways Act 1980 busking can be considered to be an unlawful obstruction if paths or roads are obstructed or if a busker wilfully prevents free passage of pedestrians or vehicles. Festivals & Events should therefore liaise with Highways to prevent complaints or unlawful obstruction of the highway.

Consideration should also be given as to whether the buskers will require street trading licences depending on whether they are permitted to sell merchandise or CDs from the busking points. Passive collection (such as asking for donations within an open instrument case) may not require licence, but the selling of CDs or merchandise is classified as street trading and requires a separate licence.

Signed: Zoe Iliffe, Principal Lawyer (Property Highways & Planning)

Dated: 20.08.2026

Highways are very supportive of the BUSK Leicester scheme pilot and have not been made aware of any issues arising from a highway management perspective.

The Highway Authority has a duty to ensure the safety of the travelling public and manage obstruction of the highway, so it is appropriate for sites to be shared with Highways for review.

Locations should ensure safe access/egress to and from premises is maintained, especially emergency exits and routes, and emergency Service and Large Goods Vehicle routing should not be obstructed. Busker sites should not compromise the effective operation of the Pedestrian Preference Zone infrastructure, such as the Automatic Access Bollards and CCTV installations.

Under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, statutory undertakers (i.e. utilities) have powers, including emergency powers, to enable them to exercise their statutory obligations and undertake street works to maintain services. Proposed BUSK Leicester sites should be co-ordinated with the Council's Network Management Team to avoid clashes with utility works.

Signed: Martin Fletcher, City Highways Director. Ext 37 4965

Dated: 20.08.2026

5. Background information and other papers:

N/A

6. Summary of appendices:

N/A



Festival & Events Grants Programme 2026/27 – Overview

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 3rd September 2026

Lead Officer: Graham Callister

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected:
- Report author: Graham Callister, Head of Festivals, Events & Cultural Policy
- Author contact details: graham.callister@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

To provide Members with an overview of the 2026/27 Festivals and Events Grants Programme including background, new commissioning process and criteria, successful applications and awards. The report also outlines how the grants programme has evolved and its strategic relevance to the city.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny:

Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are invited to:

- Note the introduction of the new grants commissioning process and comment on the eligibility and assessment criteria.
- Comment on the approved 2026/27 grant recipients and the breadth and balance of festivals and events supported through the programme.

3. Detailed report

A. Background

LCC Festivals and Events team (F&E) design, curate, produce and deliver major festivals and events for the city that include Old Town Festival, Light Up Leicester, Diwali Day, Riverside Festival, Abbey Park Bonfire and Fireworks Display and annual Christmas Lights Switch On event.

In addition, the F&E team manage a festival and events grant programme that supports multiple partner organisations to deliver a wide array of additional festivals and events in the city e.g. Leicester Caribbean Carnival, Bring The Paint, Chinese / Lunar New Year, Leicester Pride, Leicester Mela, Black History Month, Eid Prayer Festival and others.

The F&E team provide additional logistical support to grant recipients and all other commercial and community festivals and events taking place in the city centre and its parks.

Following a review of the previous grants programme it was agreed that a new commissioning process for LCC F&E grants would be established for 2026/27 with a range of funding options and programme recommendations to be considered.

B. Purpose

Leicester City Council invests in quality, inclusive and environmentally responsible festivals and events as a means of delivering cultural, social and economic outcomes for

the city. The Council is committed to supporting a balanced programme of free and low-cost festivals and events, ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation and that residents, particularly hard-pressed families and communities facing disadvantage, can access quality cultural experiences. By enabling organisations to co-design and deliver accessible and engaging cultural activity, the Council supports increased participation in culture, greater social inclusion, stronger community connections, and opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together through shared experiences. This investment also contributes to the vitality of the city centre and neighbourhoods, attracts visitors, supports local businesses, and strengthens Leicester's reputation as a diverse, vibrant and culturally distinctive city.

The LCC F&E programme is reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with community needs, best practice in event management, and available funding.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

The 2026/27 F&E grant funding opportunity was announced via press release published on the council website on 5th March 2026 and promoted via associated social media and local press. The grant criteria, application process and online application form was published on the council website with application closing date 29th March 2026 with evaluation of bids completed by the 10th April 2026. Previous grant recipients were notified of the opportunity in addition to local arts, cultural, community and commercial event providers. In total this resulted in 68 detailed applications being received from a wide array of organisations. Separate discussions have taken place with the organisers of the Eid Prayers and Festival (EPF) which takes place on Victoria Park.

D. Eligibility Criteria, Assessment and Selection Process

Eligibility

Organisations applying for support must:

- Be based within Leicester.
- Be a legally constituted organisation (e.g., charity, community group, business, or nonprofit).
- Demonstrate the capacity to safely plan and deliver the proposed event.
- Hold appropriate insurance, licences, and permissions.
- Provide a clear budget and evidence of financial need.
- Deliver the event within the specified funding period.
- Engage fully with LCC's Festivals and Events team, multi-agency event planning and safety advisory groups where appropriate.

Funding applications will not normally be considered whereby:-

- Activities where the key purpose is to promote a religious or political doctrine
- Activities which are unlawful for the Council to fund
- For events that have already taken place, or any expenditure commitments of the Recipient entered into before the Commencement Date
- For capital expenditure e.g. land, equipment, vehicles or building works
- For core funding e.g. staffing or premises costs except those directly associated with and specified in the Project
- Recoverable VAT

- For any payment to members of its Governing Body
- Individuals
- Research trips or similar

Applicants were required to submit:

- Completed grant application form.
- Project plan outlining concept / description, objectives, timeline, and target audience.
- Outline marketing plan.
- Detailed budget with revenue and expenditure.
- Confirmation how artists will be fairly paid.
- Risk management and safety plan (in outline for further review).
- Summary of environmental practices.
- Evidence of community support or partnerships (if applicable).

Assessment Criteria

Applications were assessed on:

Alignment with LCC Programme Objectives & Outcomes

- Quality Cultural Programming & Creative Expression
- Community Cohesion, Engagement & Co-design
- Place-making, Animation & City Identity / Reputation
- Economic Impact & Tourism Development
- Wellbeing, Pride & Environmental Sustainability
- Participation, Reach & Access
- Cultural, Social & Place-based Impact
- Organisational, Partnership & Sustainability Outcomes

And demonstration of:

- Key Partners & Stakeholders
- Experience & Track Record
- Budget and Funding
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Inclusion & Accessibility
- Environmental Sustainability
- Marketing & Promotion

Scoring scale (for each criterion):

0 = Not addressed / does not meet requirements

1 = Very weak alignment, limited evidence

2 = Some alignment, but underdeveloped or unclear

3 = Good alignment, clear and relevant evidence

4 = Strong alignment, well evidenced and convincing

5 = Excellent alignment, highly compelling and exemplary

Selection Decision

Following an open grant funding call undertaken in March 2026, LCC F&E received 68 detailed applications for F&E grant funding, with a total funding request of £926,950.

Following a long-listing process which saw the de-selection of 33 applications that did not meet the published criteria, the remaining applications were evaluated and scored by the F&E team against the published eligibility and scoring criteria.

A shortlist of high-quality applications and funding recommendations proposed by officers based on scoring, applicant funding ask, available programme budget and fit with LCC strategic priorities was presented to the Lead Member and Director of TCI for further review.

E. Budget, Strategic Relevance and Grants

Budget

A provisional budget of £165,000 was allocated for 2025/26. Due to the demand for funding and number of high-quality bids received additional funding of £65,000 was sought and approved by the City Mayor, bringing the total F&E Grants Programme budget to £230,000. The additional funding sits within an approved increase of £105,000 to the Arts & Museum budget ceiling, to support festivals across the City. This will be funded from the budget strategy reserve in 2026/27 and permanently added to the budget ceiling for Arts & Museums within future budget strategies.

Strategic Relevance

The proposed increase in the festivals budget reflects Leicester City Council's commitment to delivering a more balanced, inclusive and strategically aligned programme of cultural activity that delivers social, cultural and economic benefits for the city. The additional investment enables support for a broader range of established, large-scale, culturally significant and community-led festivals and events, while also strengthening the Council's ability to provide accessible, free and low-cost cultural experiences for residents.

Recognising the financial pressures facing many households, the Council is committed to ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation in cultural life. Increased investment therefore supports a diverse programme of affordable and accessible festivals and events that enable hard-pressed families, young people and communities across Leicester to engage with quality cultural experiences, celebrate shared identities and traditions, and participate in civic life.

The enhanced programme supports community cohesion, wellbeing and civic pride by creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds, generations and neighbourhoods to come together through shared cultural experiences. It also enables the festivals portfolio to better reflect Leicester's diverse population by supporting both established cultural celebrations and events that showcase the traditions, identities and contributions of underrepresented and emerging communities, including African and East Asian communities.

In addition, the programme contributes to the city's economic vitality by increasing visitor numbers, supporting city centre and neighbourhood footfall, and generating wider benefits

for local businesses and the visitor economy. The increased budget therefore provides the flexibility to consider broader strategic priorities—including inclusion, affordability, accessibility, wellbeing, cultural visibility, community impact and long-term sustainability—alongside assessment scores, ensuring a stronger, more representative and more equitable festivals programme that reflects the diversity, ambitions and needs of Leicester's communities.

Grants

LCC offered grants between a minimum of £2,500 and provisional maximum of £25,000 to support up to 50% of the costs of the festivals and event that are accessible to the general public.

It was expected that the majority of funded activity would take place within or in close proximity to the city centre.

LCC reserved the right not to allocate the full F&E grants programme budget should insufficient bids of quality be received. Equally LCC reserved the right to make the final decision as to grant allocation to successful applicants.

F. F&E Grants Programme 2026/27

Of the remaining eligible applications 20 organisations / events have been identified to deliver high-quality activity in 2026/27, subject to grant terms and conditions, that delivers against the council's key strategic objectives and demonstrates the depth and breadth of the city's festivals and events offer.

The successful applicants and grant awards are as follows:

Event Name	Organisation	Event Dates (TBC)	2026/27 Award
Let's Dance International Frontiers	Serendipity Institute for Black Arts & Heritage	29th April – 9th May 2026	£5,000
UK Asian Film Festival Leicester	Phizzical CIO	1st – 10th May 2026	£5,000
The Spark Festival	The Spark Arts for Children	16th – 24th May 2026	£10,000
Windrush Tea Party	Opal22 Arts & Edutainment	20th June 2026	£5,000
An Indian Summer	Inspirate	1st – 5th July 2026	£10,000
Cosmopolitan Arts Festival	Cosmopolitan Arts	11th July 2026	£5,000
Leicester Mela Festival	Circle 101	15th & 16th August 2026	£20,000
Leicester Caribbean Carnival	Leicester Caribbean Community Caribbean Carnival	1st August 2026	£45,000*
Brew Beat	BID Leicester	4th – 6th September 2026	£5,000
Leicester Pride	Leicester Pride	5th September 2026	£10,000

Leicester International Music Festival	Leicester International Music Festival	16th – 19th September 2026	£5,000
Black History Month	Serendipity Institute for Black Arts & Heritage	1st – 31st October 2026	£15,000
Journeys Festival International	Art Reach	16th – 25th October 2026	£10,000
The Return of Leicester Monsters	BID Leicester	20th – 30th October 2026	£20,000
Nartan Festival	Nupur Arts	14th – 28th November 2026	£7,500
Leicester Comedy Festival	Big Difference Company	3rd – 21st February 2027	£25,000
Lunar/Chinese New Year	Cosmopolitan Arts	13th & 14th February 2027	£5,000
Leicester Poetry Festival	Literati Arts	Dates tbc	£5,000
Debut Festival	Phoenix	25th February – 31st March 2027	£5,000
Bring the Paint	Graffwerk Limited	24th – 30th May 2027	£12,500
TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED			£230,000

* Leicester Caribbean Carnival has historically received a grant of £60,000 from LCC based on the scale of the event and communities represented. A decision was taken to reduce its funding by the council by £15,000 to a grant of £45,000 for future review.

The funding provided is for the 2026/27 financial year only.

G. Funding Conditions, Reporting & Evaluation Procedures

Full LCC funding will remain subject to confirmation and conditional upon:

- Execution of formal funding and service agreements.
- Submission of a balanced and detailed event budget pre- and post-event.
- Evidence of sufficient match funding and/or sponsorship commitments.
- Confirmation of appropriate governance and financial controls.
- Delivery against agreed planning milestones.
- Compliance with all branding, promotional, licensing, safeguarding, and public requirements as required.
- Submission of a detailed event plan, risk assessment and proof of insurance (or planned purchase date).
- Agreement that the council will not provide additional financial underwriting beyond approved support arrangements.

Officers retain the ability to review ongoing event viability against agreed milestones and recommend withdrawal or reduction of support should critical conditions not be met.

Final Report (submitted within 8 weeks of event end)

Applicants must provide:

- A completed final evaluation form.

- Attendance and participation data.
- Summary of outcomes achieved vs. planned objectives.
- Description of community impact and participant feedback.
- Financial report including income and expenditure statement.
- Evidence of marketing and acknowledgement of the funder (e.g., posters, website screenshots).
- Lessons learned and recommendations for future events.

Monitoring & Audit

LCC reserves the right to:

- Request additional financial documentation during and up to a twelve-month period post-event delivery e.g. independent audited account.
- Conduct site visits during event delivery.
- Withhold or recover funds if conditions are breached.

Programme Review

The LCC F&E grants programme will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with community needs, best practice in event management, and available funding. It is intended that the annual grants programme will re-open in October to receive festival / event applications for delivery in 2027/28.

H. SUMMARY

Following a review of the previous grants scheme, the introduction of a new grant commissioning process and assessment framework enables the LCC F&E Grants Programme to directly support and deliver against Leicester City Council's strategic objectives of delivering inclusive, accessible and environmentally responsible festivals and events that generate cultural, social and economic benefits for the city.

Eligible organisations are now required to demonstrate organisational capacity, financial viability, event management capability, community benefit and alignment with the Council's strategic priorities in detail.

Following approval by the City Mayor, the total available funding allocated to the programme is £230,000 with additional funding permanently added to the budget ceiling for Arts & Museums within future budget strategies. The increased investment supports the Council's commitment to a more balanced, representative and affordable programme of festivals and events, helping to strengthen community cohesion, cultural participation, civic pride and economic activity across the city.

A total of 20 festivals / events has been recommended to receive funding in 2026/27, with grants ranging from £5,000 to £45,000. The funded programme reflects a broad range of cultural, community, arts and heritage events, including Leicester Caribbean Carnival, Leicester Mela, Leicester Pride, Black History Month, Lunar/Chinese New Year, Leicester Comedy Festival, Bring the Paint and Journeys Festival International.

Grant recipients will be subject to formal funding agreements, monitoring and reporting requirements, including financial accountability, event evaluation, attendance data and evidence of outcomes achieved. Leicester City Council retains the right to carry out audits, site visits and recover funding where conditions are not met. The Festivals and Events

Grants Programme will continue to be reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with community needs, best practice and available resources, and will re-open to applications in October 2026 for festival / event delivery in 2027/28.

4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance

Dated: 30th July 2026

4.2 Legal Implications

This report is for information only. In awarding grants, the Council has power under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (the general power of competence), which enables it to do anything that an individual generally may do, including providing financial assistance where it considers this will promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area.

These powers must be exercised reasonably and in accordance with public law principles. The Council must also have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when administering the programme and future funding rounds.

Any funding awarded should be subject to an appropriate grant funding agreement setting out the conditions of funding and associated monitoring, reporting, audit and recovery provisions. Prior to any award of funding, consideration should also be given to the Council's obligations under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and an assessment undertaken, where required, to ensure compliance. Legal Services can provide advice and support in this regard.

Signed: Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor, Commercial Legal Services

Dated: 29 July 2026

4.3 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council must pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the Public Sector Equality Duty). Protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Festivals and Events Grant Programme 2026–27 is designed to promote equality, diversity and inclusion. The programme encourages applications from organisations and events that engage underrepresented communities and widen participation in cultural activity across Leicester's diverse population. It prioritises free or low cost events to reduce financial barriers for residents regardless of income, age, disability, race, gender, religion or belief. It supports co designed and community led approaches so that local voices, including those from minoritised or disadvantaged groups, are represented in event planning and delivery, and enhances social cohesion by bringing people together from different backgrounds through shared cultural and creative experiences.

Assessment criteria specifically reward projects that demonstrate inclusive practice, equitable access and community benefit. This approach aligns with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty by seeking to foster good relations between communities, advance equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination.

No direct negative equality impacts are identified. Indirect impacts may arise where some communities are not funded in a given year due to budget constraints. This is mitigated through a transparent, open application process and annual review to ensure a balanced and representative programme over time.

Overall, the programme is expected to have a positive impact on equality, diversity and inclusion across the city.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 29 July 2026

4.4 Climate Emergency Implications

While festivals and events have a climate and environmental impact, they also provide an opportunity to promote care for the environment and climate-friendly ways of doing things – both in the way that they are organised, and in their content and the communications with the public.

The council seeks to address climate change in the organisation of its own festivals and events programme and, as this report says, community organisers seeking council funding are asked to show how they will do the same. Typically, travel tends to generate the biggest climate impact from events, so wherever organisers are taking positive steps to encourage active travel and public transport to their events, this is particularly welcome.

In light of recent heatwaves – expected to become more frequent and intense in coming years due to climate change – consideration of extreme heat risks in planning for summer events will become increasingly important.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency). Ext. 37 2249

Dated: 24th July 2026

4.5 Other Implications

N/A

Signed:

Dated:

5. Background information and other papers:

N/A

6. Summary of appendices:

**Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission
Work Programme 2026 – 2027**

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
18 June 2025	Introduction to Culture and Neighbourhoods Pride in Place Programme Update		
3 September 2025	PSPO Update BUSK Leicester pilot – Report F&E Grants Programme		
2 November 2025	Pride in Place Programme and Pride in Place Impact Fund Community and Libraries Needs Assessment Implementation LMAG Capital Project Ward Funding Annual Report		

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
28 January 2026	Heritage Places Funding - National Lottery Heritage Fund – Update on next stage. Growing spaces strategy Waste Services Update	To include findings of Audience Agency. If Stage 1 is successful.	
4 March 2026	Regulatory Services Update		

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Sports Needs Assessment and Consultation	Proposed Special meeting on the topic following the consultation.	TBC
Jewry Wall		

Fly Tipping		
YPC Survey Findings		
Engagement of Community Organisations	Report on how community organisations could be engaged to help the Council run services as requested at the meeting of 29 January. – To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Trees and Woodlands – Involvement with Schools and Education and Grassland Strategy	To include seed and produce exchange and to include areas for recreation and sports.	
KRIII Café/Visitor Centre	Updating on Capital Project	
Heritage panels, inviting members suggestions for new panels		

