

Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: MONDAY 1 AUGUST 2011
TIME: 5:30PM
PLACE: OAK ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, TOWN HALL.

Members of the Committee

Councillor Willmott (Chair)
Councillor Clayton (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Connelly, Cooke, Glover, Grant, Kitterick, Osman Porter,
R.Patel, Waddington and Westley.

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

for Director, Corporate Governance

Officer contact :Francis Connolly
Democratic Support,
Leicester City Council
Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester LE1 9BG
(Tel. 0116 229 8811 Fax. 0116 229 8819)

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Dates of meetings are available at the Customer Service Centre, King Street, Town Hall Reception and on the Website.

There are certain occasions when the Council's meetings may need to discuss issues in private session. The reasons for dealing with matters in private session are set down in law.

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Meetings are held at the Town Hall. The Meeting rooms are all accessible to wheelchair users. Wheelchair access to the Town Hall is from Horsefair Street (Take the lift to the ground floor and go straight ahead to main reception).

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If there are any particular reports that you would like translating or providing on audio tape, the Democratic Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

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There are induction loop facilities in meeting rooms. Please speak to the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting if you wish to use this facility or contact them as detailed below.

General Enquiries - if you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Francis Connolly, Democratic Support on (0116) 229 8812 or email francis.connolly@leicester.gov.uk or call in at the Town Hall.

Press Enquiries - please phone the Communications Unit on 252 6081

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

4. CONSULTATION - ELDERLY PERSON'S HOMES

The Select Committee is asked to consider a draft scoping document for a scrutiny review, and to refer this to the relevant Scrutiny Commission.

5. CONSULTATION - 21ST CENTURY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Select Committee is asked to consider a draft scoping document for a scrutiny review, and to refer this to the relevant Scrutiny Commission.

6. ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) [Appendix A](#)

The Select Committee is asked to consider a draft scoping document for a scrutiny review, and to refer this to the relevant Scrutiny Commission.

Chris Minter, will be in attendance to provide a verbal briefing on the current position of the ESOL service in Leicester.

7. THE CITY MAYOR'S 100 DAYS PROGRAMME [Appendix B](#)

In light of the City Mayor's programme of pledges for his first 100 days of office, the Select Committee are asked to consider how the delivery of the pledges will be monitored.

8. SCRUTINY OF THE BUDGET 2011/12

Colin Sharpe, Chief Finance Officer, will be in attendance to discuss with the Select Committee the arrangements for the Committee to monitor the significant savings decisions included in the 2011/12 General Fund Revenue Budget.

9. HANDBOOK FOR SCRUTINY

The Select Committee is asked to consider a handbook for scrutiny.

10. PROCESS FOR MONITORING PETITIONS [Appendix C](#)

The Select Committee will be asked to consider the process for dealing with petitions submitted to the Council.

11. SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee will initially discuss their work programme for the 2011/12 municipal year.

12. DATES OF MEETINGS - 2011/12

The Select Committee are asked to confirm dates of future meetings during 2011/12.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

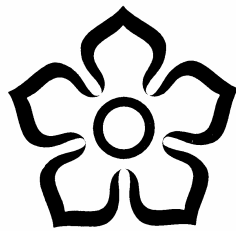
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Appendix A

Leicester City Council Scrutiny Review

Scoping Document for completion by Members

Draft for consideration by Overview Select Committee



Leicester
City Council

Background to scrutiny reviews

Getting the right topics for scrutiny reviews is the first step in making sure scrutiny provides benefits to the Council and the community.

The scoping template has been designed to assist in thinking through the purpose of a review. This scoping document needs to be completed by the member proposing the review.

In order to be effective, every scrutiny review must be properly project managed. This is to make sure that the review achieves its aims and has measurable outcomes. One of the most important ways to make sure that a review goes well is to ensure that it is well defined at the outset. This way the review is less likely to get sidetracked or be overambitious in what it hopes to tackle. The task group's objectives should, therefore, be as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Time-bound) as possible.

This template includes a section for the Department to complete to allow OSC to consider any additional factors that may influence the proposed review.

Scrutiny reviews will be facilitated by a Members Support Officer.

Evaluation

Reviewing changes that have been made as a result of a scrutiny review is the most common way of assessing effectiveness. This will, in part, be done through the Scrutiny Annual Report which is produced yearly and which will include departmental feedback on which, if any, recommendations from task group reports have been taken forward as well as providing an explanation where they have not been implemented. However, any scrutiny review should consider whether an on-going monitoring role for the task group is appropriate to the topic under review.

For further information please contact the Members Support Team on (0116) 229 8824

1. Title of Proposed Scrutiny Review

English for speakers of foreign languages (ESOL) funding within Leicester

Proposed by - Councillor Ross Willmott: Chair of Overview Select Committee

2. Rationale

Changes to the funding of ESOL programmes – at City Council, Government and European level – have been introduced in the last two years.

Changes have also taken place to the way in which funding can be accessed.

The service has an important profile in a city where there are many incoming and existing communities where language can be a social barrier and an economic barrier to education and employment.

Currently the City Council is not reducing its ESOL offer despite national changes to fee remission eligibility planned for September. The issue is whether 3,000 current ESOL learners (with us or Leicester College) who will no longer be eligible for national fee remission will be able to afford to pay the fees of approx £450 per year.

Clarify existing programmes
Access to ESOL programme
Make recommendations based on current programmes and policies
Comment on programme funding

4. Outcome

The relevant Overview Scrutiny Commission shall:

Gain a clear understanding of the current position on ESOL

Shall propose options for continued future ESOL provision within the city.

Produce a short report

5. Methodology/Approach

Review of current legislation

Discussions with relevant Assistant Mayor and Officers and with other providers of ESOL programmes

How the issue is being handled in other parts of the country - and what might learnt from this.

6. Time Management

This should be considered by a Scrutiny Commission during August because of the September start date for the next year's ESOL course programme.

7. Resource Requirements

Member Support Officers will provide necessary support within existing resources

8. Risks

Limited time available to make impact on the provision for September course programmes.

9. Publicity

Publicity will be through media release email and direct contact with interested groups and individuals

10. Further Supporting Evidence

You may feel you would like to add further information to support your case for an inquiry. Please feel free to do so in the space below.

Support documentation includes a review of the legislation in the form of an attached Parliamentary briefing setting out some of the national framework.

11. Departmental Comments

Scrutiny's role is to influence others to take action. It is, therefore, important for OSC to understand the department's view of the proposed review. Please ensure that the following box is filled in by a relevant officer in the department.

we need to recognise that this is a crisis arising from a national change that our local MPs have contested and lobbied against. Since this will impact on services and budgets in September we need to find solutions at city level to minimise the risks of loss of service to potentially 3,000 people in Leicester and not create other budget pressures within the City Council.

Therefore during July, through the leadership of the Assistant Mayor, we have been exploring potential solutions with members and with Leicester College, who are the other main ESOL provider in the city. I welcome the chance to further this debate at the Overview Select Committee.

Departmental Comments Completed by ___ Chris Minter ___

Job Title ___ Head of Adult Skills and Learning ___

DRAFT

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BIS media

Skills Minister John Hayes today pledged to provide more effective, targeted help for people who face barriers to learning the English language skills communities need.

Following the publication today of an equality impact assessment of provision for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training, which he ordered, Minister Hayes announced that BIS will work in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on developing new forms of support for those who need informal, community-based learning of English.

From August this year, national provision of full funding for ESOL courses will be focussed on those actively seeking work on Jobseekers Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group). As part of a broader move towards rebalancing the investment in skills between Government, the employer and the learner, other eligible learners or their employers will be expected to make a contribution towards the costs of their ESOL course.

Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, John Hayes said:

“By targeting public funding on those in greatest need, and setting higher standards for providers, our reforms will make ESOL provision work better for learners, employers, and taxpayers.

“We are fully funding ESOL provision for jobseekers to help them to access work, but we will not use the public purse to support free English language training for individuals who have come here to take up work – companies that recruit abroad should take responsibility for that.

“We recognise there is a broader purpose to learning English; it can be crucial for integration and community cohesion. We believe that through this collaboration with the Department for Communities and Local Government we can reach those individuals who need language skills to get on.”

Minister Hayes has asked the Association of Colleges to advise on developing with providers an effective methodology for targeting funds at settled communities in which language barriers inhibit individual opportunity and community cohesion. Given the respective work that Lord Boswell and Baroness Sharp are leading on

Adult Literacy and Colleges in Communities, the Minister has requested that they are involved in this work.

Ministers will also devise means to measure the quality of ESOL provision more effectively, with a new emphasis on progression to further learning and employment. Minister Hayes is committed to discussing measurements of quality with OFSTED.

Communities Minister Andrew Stunell said:

"We want to see a more integrated Britain and English language skills are crucial, allowing us all to get on and play an active part in the economic and social life of our communities.

"A good command of English broadens economic opportunities and helps to promote integration. Without this skill, there is a risk of social exclusion and people being denied the opportunity to realise their full potential."

Key measures announced today include:

- BIS will work in partnership with DCLG on developing new forms of support for those who need informal, community-based learning of English
- Reiterating the offer of fully funded ESOL training for jobseekers to help them gain the language skills they need to get into work.
- For further education colleges and training organisations, a clearer remit to provide good quality English Language provision that employers are willing to pay for.

Over the summer, BIS and the Department for Communities and Local Government will work together to establish criteria for targeted local projects that meet community needs.

The full report, published today, is at:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/equality-impact-assessments>

Notes to editors:

1. As part of the Spending Review process the Government assessed priorities for funding to ensure that public investment is focused where its impact can be maximised i.e. those who would not otherwise have access to training, and where the market failures are strongest. This was identified as adults

with poor levels of literacy and numeracy, young adults without full level 2 or full level 3 qualifications and adults actively seeking or preparing for work.

2. *Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth*, published on 16 November 2010 set out the significant investment of £3.9 billion in 2011-12 in post-19 FE and Skills in England. Over the Spending Review period we will support the expansion of Adult Apprenticeships; full subsidy for basic literacy and numeracy qualifications for adults and first full level 2 and first full level 3 qualifications for young adults (19 up to 24). As part of the Government agenda to support unemployed people into work full Government subsidy will be payable for accredited units and full qualifications for people in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (in the Work Related Activity Group) depending on what they need to help them enter and stay in work. The Government will continue to invest in training outside of areas where full subsidy is available, but the costs will be shared between the Government and the learner or employer. An Equality Impact Assessment was published alongside *Skills for Sustainable Growth* and *Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth*.
3. Adults in receipt of benefits not conditional on seeking or preparing for work who may have had automatic full fee remission under the previous funding eligibility rules, will now be co-funded (with costs shared between Government and the individual) unless they qualify under other skills entitlements.
4. For ESOL this means:
 - ESOL provision in the workplace will no longer receive public funding on the basis that employers should meet the costs.
 - Unless in receipt of JSA or ESA (WRAG) ESOL learners will be co-funded. 24% of ESOL enrolments in 2009/10 paid the expected fee contribution in full.
5. In January 2011 Minister Hayes announced that he had insisted an equality impact assessment of the impact of changes on ESOL would be carried out and published before summer recess. This commitment was given in Parliament.
6. The assessment followed the Department's equality impact assessment process and has been tailored to reflect the nature of further education and skills policy and its operating procedures. We have drawn on two sources of published analytical information – the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) and Labour Force Survey. The ILR is the nationally-recognised source of data on learners in further education in England. The assessment also took account of the information and views offered by a wide range of organisations with an interest, including the views expressed further education representative bodies, learners, providers, and other advocates such as MPs, with whom Minister Hayes has held a number of meetings. In addition, an adjournment debate on 3 May provided further information from Members.
7. BIS's online newsroom contains the latest press notices, speeches, as well as video and images for download. It also features an up to date list of BIS press office contacts. See <http://www.bis.gov.uk/newsroom> for more information.

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Changes to funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses

Standard Note: SN/SP/5946

Last updated: 28 April 2011

Author: Sue Hubble and Steven Kennedy

Section: Social Policy Section

The purpose of this note is to outline the current debate on funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses and to summarise changes in policy in this area.

ESOL funding has been subject to a series of changes since 2007 when automatic fee remission was removed. This note provides background on these changes, comments on the relevance of proposed changes with regard to the ongoing debate on social cohesion and integration and highlights Parliamentary debate on this issue.

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. It should not be relied upon as being up to date; the law or policies may have changed since it was last updated; and it should not be relied upon as legal or professional advice or as a substitute for it. A suitably qualified professional should be consulted if specific advice or information is required.

This information is provided subject to [our general terms and conditions](#) which are available online or may be provided on request in hard copy. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing with Members and their staff, but not with the general public.

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1 Background

This note follows on from an earlier standard note in 2008, [Provision of English languages courses for speakers of other languages](#) SN/SP/4271.

In 2008 under the Labour Government, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) launched a consultation on ESOL. The results of the consultation were published in a report [A New Approach to English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\)](#) which was published in May 2009, the introduction to the report gave an outline of ESOL policy under the previous Government:

1. The Wider Policy Environment

ESOL and Skills for Life

Since 2001, ESOL has been, and will continue to be, delivered as part of the Skills for Life Strategy. This strategy has been a great success, with over 2 million people engaging in ESOL provision and improving their skills. Demand for ESOL has increased significantly and we have responded to this by supporting a three-fold increase in funding since 2001, to around £300m in 2008/09.

The quality of ESOL provision has also improved significantly over the last few years. OFSTED's thematic review of ESOL was published in October 2008 and recognised the steady improvement in the quality of ESOL provision as well as making positive comments around progression, citizenship learning and planning of teaching and learning. The success rate for ESOL qualifications has improved and was reported as satisfactory for 2006–07 at 64%. There is further to go to continue to raise quality and we are looking carefully at OFSTED's recommendations. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will continue to apply its Minimum Levels of Performance (MLP) policy in respect of ESOL provision.

We continue to be committed to a fully qualified teaching workforce by 2010 for those in a Full Teacher role. Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status was introduced as a requirement from September 2007. Those who are experienced but presently unqualified should apply for this through the Professional Recognition Scheme; more details can be found at www.standardsverificationuk.org/gprls-skills-for-life.htm. Wider information about lifelong learning standards and qualifications can be found on Lifelong Learning UK's website at www.lluk.org.

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) will continue to deliver the Skills for Life Improvement Programme and we will ensure it reflects the focus we want to see on supporting learners committed to building a life in this country. This includes Continuous Professional Development for practitioners to support partnership teaching between vocational and Skills for Life teachers. Further help is available online e.g. the

ESOL curriculum is now available through the Excellence Gateway via an interactive tool at www.excellencegateway.org.uk/sflcurriculum.

From August 2007, Ministers introduced a series of measures to refocus use of ESOL funding on priority learners. This included the removal of automatic fee remission to focus public funds on those least able to pay and to ensure that those who benefit from migration (employers and/or better paid workers) meet their share of the costs. New ESOL for Work qualifications were intended to meet ESOL need in the workplace and £4.6 million of support for vulnerable learners, including spouses and low-paid workers, was made available in 2007/08 through the LSC's discretionary Support Fund, and resulted in 36,168 awards. We have continued this support in 2008/09 and have recently confirmed further funding until at least March 2010.¹

As the above extract outlines, under the Labour Government ESOL arguably became a victim of its own success and expenditure on ESOL increased significantly. As a result in 2007 the further education minister Bill Rammell announced that the Government would withdraw automatic fee remission and introduce fees for these courses. New eligibility requirements were introduced so that only certain categories of students were entitled to free ESOL classes.

From 2007 until now only people in receipt of various means-tested benefits have been entitled to fee remission for ESOL courses. The categories of learners who are currently entitled to fee remission include people getting various means-tested benefits (and their unwaged dependants). The benefits are:

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA);
- Council Tax Benefit;
- Housing Benefit;
- Income Support;
- Working Tax Credit (if annual household income is less than £15,276);
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit only); and income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

People in receipt of contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, and their unwaged dependants, are also eligible for fee remission.

Further information on fee remission can be found in pp35-36 of the Skills Funding Agency publication, [Agency Funding Guidance 2010/11: Learner Eligibility Guidance](#) (March 2010).

2 Proposed changes to funding

In November 2010 the Government announced in a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) document [Further Education New Horizons – Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth](#), that funding for ESOL would be cut from September 2011:

5. There will be some fundamental policy changes. SR 2010 sets out the abolition of Train to Gain. Henceforth, funding for workplace training on SMEs. will be prioritised. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) will also be refocused

¹ Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) [A New Approach to English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\)](#) May 2009.

10. Government funds are limited and we will prioritise funding support for learners with very low levels of skills or the disadvantaged, while there will be an expectation that learners and employers will co-invest alongside Government in meeting the costs of intermediate and higher level training courses from which they will derive private benefits. This reform journey will begin in the 2011/12 academic year.

From the 2011/12 academic year the following changes to funding will apply for all new and existing learners

- We will focus fully-funded provision on people who are unemployed; on people on Jobseekers Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group) to help them obtain work. Such training could include units and awards as well as full qualifications.
- We will fully-fund ESOL for individuals on the benefits listed above. Co-funding for those who are settled here. ESOL delivered in the workplace is no longer eligible for funding.
- We will co-fund Level 2 provision in small and medium enterprises of up to 250 employees only.
- We will reduce funding rates by 4.3% compared with 2010/11 levels.
- We will remove the Skills for Life uplift for literacy and ESOL.

23. We will focus public funds for ESOL on active jobseekers (JSA or ESA WRAG) by fully funding formal training where English language skills form a barrier to finding work. Public funding will not be available for ESOL in the workplace, subject to conditions it will be co-funded for those who are settled here. In line with the increased accountability to their local communities, FE colleges and training organisations will be tasked to identify particularly vulnerable learners in their communities as part of their business planning and local engagement.

A document by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) [Guidance Note 6](#) on 14 December 2010 outlined the changes and gave a rationale for the removal of funding for workplace courses;

Public funds should not be substituted for employer investment in this way.²

As a result of the changes, from 1 August 2011 only those claimants receiving ‘active’ benefits will be fully funded ie only claimants getting: Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA), or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) in the Work-Related Activity Group. JSA is for people who are not in work, but who are available for and actively seeking employment. People getting ESA have a health condition or disability which means that they have a “limited capability for work”. However, ESA claimants in the “Work-Related Activity Group” are those whose condition is not thought so severe that it would be unreasonable to expect them to engage in work-related activity (those with more serious conditions are placed in the ESA “Support Group” and are not expected to undertake any work-related activity to receive the full rate of benefit).

A House of Lords PQ on 10 February 2011³ gave information on the number of adults on ESOL courses who are on active benefits.

² Paragraph 14

³ HL Deb 10 February 2011 76-7WA

Education: ESOL

Question

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many adults studying English for Speakers of Other Languages courses are (a) women, and (b) men; and how many in each category have been on (1) active benefits, and (2) inactive benefits, in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL6372]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox): Table 1 shows the total number of adults (aged 19+ years) participating on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, and the percentage of all ESOL learners who were female and male for the academic years 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Table 1: Adult learner (aged 19+ years) participation on ESOL courses, and the percentage of all age ESOL participation by gender, 2007-08 to 2009-10.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Near Final Data)
ESOL participation (19+)	203,200	197,100	187,000
Female ESOL participation (16+)	66.2%	66.4%	66.0%
Male ESOL participation (16+)	33.8%	33.6%	34.0%

The original announcement in November 2010 was that the funding changes would apply to both new and existing learners, however, the SFA guidance note in December said that the changes to eligibility for fee remission from 1 August 2011 would apply to new learners only ([Skills Funding Agency Guidance Note 6](#), 14 December 2010, para15).

Commentators have compared the current cuts to those under the Labour Government:

It is not the first time Esol budgets have come under pressure. In 2005, after a trebling of demand driven by rising immigration brought the bill for English classes to £300 million a year, the Labour Government introduced fees for anyone not on benefits.

Dan Taubman, national official for FE at the University and College Union and chair of the meeting to launch Action for Esol last week, says: "This started when (then FE minister) Bill Rammell introduced fees. They have got a lot to answer for."

The move inspired the founding of the Save Esol movement in 2006, the forerunner of the latest campaign, which eventually secured £15 million from then London mayor Ken Livingstone to support English language teaching in the capital, where demand is greatest. With public sector finances under pressure everywhere, campaigners face a tougher battle this time around.

Chris Taylor, programme director for Esol at adult education body Niace, says: "These are different from Bill Rammell's cuts. These are across the board."

The campaign faces a further challenge because the victims of the cuts are already marginalised. Shane Chowen, vice-president for FE at the National Union of Students, says: "The proposed cuts to Esol are doubly cruel because those who will feel the effects are those who are already isolated. Without basic English skills, how can they understand the details of Government policy or find a voice against it?"

3 Potential impact of the changes

The [Skills for Sustainable Growth and Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth Equality Impact Assessment November 2010](#) stated that the changes would only have a small impact on protected groups:

2. In addition, whilst we expect a reduction in the numbers eligible for fully funded ESOL, continued co-funding for other categories and freedom for providers to fully remit fees for vulnerable learners should result in a very small overall impact on protected groups

4. For each of: Learners with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities - LLDD (and those without these); ethnicity (White/Black and Minority Ethnicity); and gender (Female/Male) the Spending Review cuts to the aggregate Further Education budget are not forecast to have any significant effect in terms of the percentage of learners before or after the cuts. As such it can be considered that there are no disproportionate impacts on these three sets of protected groups within the Further Education Spending Review cuts.⁴

The issue of community cohesion was raised in PMQs on 30 March 2011:

Q13. [49658] **Heidi Alexander (Lewisham East) (Lab)**: Last week, I had the privilege of meeting a group of 25 women studying English for speakers of other languages courses in Lewisham. They and I share the Prime Minister's desire that every migrant in the UK should speak the language of their new home. Given the Prime Minister's belief that the practical things can make a big difference to community cohesion, will he commit today to putting a stop to this Government's short-sighted cuts to English language courses?

The Prime Minister: We will have to take some difficult decisions over student numbers, and the priority should be to ensure that our universities can go on attracting the best and the brightest from around the world. [*Interruption.*] I will come on to the hon. Lady's point. That is why we have said that there should be a post-study work route. However, it does mean that we should be tough, particularly on those colleges that are not highly regarded. The fact is that over the last year, about 90,000 students were coming to colleges that did not have proper regard at all.⁵

These cuts have been criticised by the Institute of Race Relations – [Coalition announces cuts in ESOL funding](#):

There is concern that these changes are being introduced with no evidence of prior consultation, and without any assessment of their impact on people from migrant communities. It is widely acknowledged that English language proficiency is crucial to participation in the labour market, for accessing services, and to functioning independently in everyday life. In consequence, the effects of cutting language provision will be widely felt. Early local impact assessments indicate cuts in core provision of up to 50 percent.

NIACE has expressed concern that women, refugees and migrants on very low wages will be the most affected by the cuts,⁶ and they have also commented on the impact of these changes on integration:

⁴ P32

⁵ HC Deb 30 March 2011 c342

⁶ ["Esol cuts 'not thought through', claims Niace"](#) *Times Educational Supplement* 18 February 2011

The Government has been accused of going back on its word and failing to assess the impact of cuts to English for speakers of other languages (Esol).

Complex changes to Esol funding include the introduction of fees for many students, a change in programme weighting and the removal of a discretionary £4.5 million Learner Support Fund used to help the neediest of students.

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (Niace) has warned the cuts could have a devastating impact on students, including refugees and women who are trying to integrate into British society by improving their language skills.⁷

Further education colleges are also concerned about the effect on integration:

Cuts to English language courses threaten David Cameron's plans to abolish "state multiculturalism" and to encourage integration of the UK's immigrant communities, say further education colleges, teachers and students.

The prime minister, in a speech on improving integration this month, said: "There are practical things that we can do ... That includes making sure that immigrants speak the language of their new home."

The Association of Colleges reckons that when funding changes take effect in September, 99,000 people who now receive free English lessons will no longer do so.⁸

An [Association of Colleges news release](#) on 16 February 2011 discussed the cuts and their potentially negative effects:

Joy Mercer, AoC's Director of Education Policy, said: "Our members have told us that this would have a considerable negative impact on the ability of new citizens, or those applying for citizenship, to progress to employment or become involved in the 'big society' through volunteering.

"These courses have proved to be a lifeline for many people, including those on low incomes and their spouses, asylum seekers and refugees. There are currently 187,000 adults enrolled on ESOL courses to improve their English in order to find better jobs and increase their income, help their children with schoolwork and become fully integrated into the community."

These cuts have been discussed in several other newspaper articles including:

- "Unable to talk the talk" *Guardian* 18 January 2011
- "[Cruel cuts that could silence a generation](#)" *Times Educational Supplement* 21 January 2011
- "[ESOL cuts mean immigrants could miss out on citizenship](#)" *Times Educational Supplement* 25 February 2011

4 Parliamentary debate

Numerous PQs have been asked about the changes to ESOL, below are some examples:

⁷ ibid

⁸ "[English language cuts seen as threat to integration plan](#)" *Financial Times* 23 February 2011

Education: ESOL

Questions

Asked by **Lord Bilston**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the equality impact assessment of their proposed new approach to English for speakers of other languages.[HL8223]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to consult groups including the Association of Colleges, College principals, the Refugee Council, the University and College Union, and the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education on their proposed new approach to English for speakers of other languages.[HL8224]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox): The equality impact assessment published alongside *Skills for Sustainable Growth* (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes to skills funding may affect English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by my department, and I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course.

Since the publication of *Skills for Sustainable Growth*, a large number of organisations and individuals have made representations to my department about the impact of our proposals for ESOL. They have included correspondence from learners and their representatives and principals of further education colleges. I also hold regular meetings with the Association of Colleges, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education and trades unions representing the further education sector, including University and College Union. The topics that we have discussed include ESOL. I have also recently met the Refugee Council.

All of the views and supporting information offered by these groups have been collated and are being taken into consideration as part of the ESOL impact assessment.⁹

Training: English Language

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much his Department allocated for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in 2010-11; and how much it plans to allocate in 2011-12; [49519]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of changes in funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses on adult and community learning; [49521]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of financial barriers on participation in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; [49522]

(4) whether his Department has undertaken an equality impact assessment on proposed changes to funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. [49523]

Mr Hayes: In the 2010-11 academic year we introduced increased freedoms for Further Education colleges and training organisations giving them increased flexibilities to determine the balance and mix of the provision they offer and the route through which this is delivered.

⁹ HL Deb 6 April 2011 WA387

Building on this, Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) confirmed that from the 2011/12 academic year there will be a single adult skills budget. This allocation can be used to support the delivery of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision, but there is no separate allocation of funding for ESOL.

As part of the spending review tough decisions about departmental budgets have been taken and, like all other areas, FE has made its contribution. This has included reviewing the extent to which automatic fee remission for adult skills is provided, and in this context we have prioritised ESOL funding to unemployed people in receipt of jobseekers allowance or in the employment and support allowance (work-related activity) group, where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. We will continue to pay 50% of ESOL course fees for other people who are settled here. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace. Increased freedoms and flexibilities for providers will allow them to respond to the needs to their communities and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

The equality impact assessment published alongside Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) found that, at the aggregate level, there are unlikely to be disproportionate impacts on protected groups. A separate assessment of how the changes may affect ESOL learners is currently being carried out by my Department, and I expect to be able to publish the assessment in due course. A review of informal, mainly unaccredited, adult and community learning (IACL) is also currently underway, with implementation of any changes beginning in the 12/13 academic year.¹⁰

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in receipt of (a) housing benefit, (b) working tax credit, (c) income support, (d) council tax credit and (e) pension credit are enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses with (i) full and (ii) partial fee remission provided by his Department. [49520]

Mr Hayes: We collect information on learners who receive full fee remission for any Government funded learning they undertake. We do not collect information on learners who have received partial fee remission. From this data, we can identify learners who have received full fee remission due to being in receipt of working tax credit, income-based state benefits and pension guarantee credit. Information for those in receipt of housing benefit, income support and council tax credit is not directly recorded in the system.

From this data we can provide some information on learners in receipt of a range of benefits but this should be used with caution given it neither provides an accurate picture about the level of learners who are also benefit claimants nor what other learning and or benefit entitlements that person might also have.

Table 1 as follows shows the number of adults participating on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course who received full fee remission due to being in receipt of working tax credit, income-based state benefit and pension guarantee credit. Data are shown for 2009/10, the latest year for which full-year data are available.¹¹

¹⁰ HC Deb 30 March 2011 c350

¹¹ *ibid*

Table 1: Number of adults participating on ESOL courses who were in receipt of full fee-remission due to being in receipt of working tax credit, income-based state benefit and pension guarantee credit 2009/10 (near-final data)

	<i>Total</i>
In receipt of working tax credit	27,490
In receipt of an income-based state benefit	36,290
In receipt of pension guarantee credit	1,330

A short debate [English Language Learning](#)¹² was held in the House of Lords on 24 March 2011, the debate focused on the importance of language in integration.

EDM 1706 *Funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages Courses* expresses concern about the changes and has received 35 signatures:

That this House believes the ability to read, write and speak English is essential for all people living in the UK; recognises that courses of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) play an important role in enabling UK citizens, refugees and others to contribute to public and economic life and to build inclusive and cohesive communities; is concerned by the funding changes to such courses proposed in the Government's Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth document; notes that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has yet to publish an equality impact assessment on the funding changes; is particularly concerned about the disproportionate impact on women, who comprise two-thirds of ESOL learners; and calls on the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to modify the proposals to ensure that women currently outside the labour market and on a variety of benefits are not excluded

¹² HL Deb 24 March 2011 c839

100 Days Programme



City Mayor



Foreword

by Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor

I am proud and honoured to be Leicester's first directly elected City Mayor.

There are many big and important challenges facing Leicester. Top of my agenda are jobs, investment, public transport, health, housing, green spaces and a fair deal for the city's workforce.

I have appointed a Cabinet with the experience, skills and talent to work with me and my Deputy City Mayor as we drive forward our plans to make Leicester a cleaner and greener city and a more prosperous place to live and work.

This will not be easy against the backdrop of drastically reducing council budgets and the most severe public spending constraints in decades. We will work with partners from the across the city – from business and the private sector, to the voluntary and community sector and from the wider public sector – to deliver our positive agenda for the city. We know that so much of what we want and need to achieve for the city cannot be done just by the City Mayor or the council working alone. We need strong and dynamic partnerships and that's the basis on which we will work.

This document sets out some of our immediate priorities for action. My Cabinet team and I have been working from day one on our priorities, shaping our plans to address the big challenges facing Leicester.

Our 100 Days Programme gives you a flavour of just some of what we will be doing in this opening period of my term of office. It does not include everything we will be doing, but it does illustrate the wide and varied challenges we face and how we will deliver for each and every neighbourhood across the city.

As ever, if you have ideas or suggestions on how to make Leicester an even better place to live and work please get in touch, or come along to one of our Meet the Mayor events.



Sir Peter Soulsby
City Mayor



Introduction

by Cllr Rory Palmer, Deputy City Mayor

This 100 Days Programme provides a snapshot of the activities of the new City Mayor administration in these opening days and weeks. It does not include everything we will do during this time.

The programme provides a sense of the wide range of issues and challenges we are addressing, and the pace at which we are working. It does not aim to be a detailed blueprint of how each and every one of these pledges will be delivered and turned from an idea on a page into reality.

There is much connectivity with the individual pledges outlined in this document and some of the challenges we face will outlast one four year term of office. For example, reaching a Living Wage settlement for Leicester or tackling child poverty, will take some years but we will start work on these priorities, and many others, now in these first 100 days.

The one thing which does connect each and every pledge is our unequivocal commitment to 'One Leicester': our 100 Days Programme responds to the aspirations of every neighbourhood and to the needs of people of all backgrounds, as we continue to celebrate the city's diversity.

This document will also aid those who want to hold us to account and scrutinise our work. Detailed delivery plans will be published to set out how many of these pledges will be delivered and Assistant Mayors will be given specific responsibilities for areas of the programme.



Cllr Rory Palmer
Deputy City Mayor



Cabinet Members



Back row:

Cllr Sarah Russell (Assistant Mayor), Cllr Manjula Sood (Assistant Mayor),
Cllr Mohammed Dawood (Assistant Mayor), Cllr Vi Dempster (Assistant Mayor),
Cllr Piara Singh Clair (Assistant Mayor)

Front row:

Cllr Rory Palmer (Deputy City Mayor), Sir Peter Soulsby (City Mayor), Cllr Ted Cassidy (Assistant Mayor)

Themes

Below are the eight themes that we are working towards to take our city to a new and exciting era. The 100 pledges listed on the following pages work towards achieving at least one of the themes each. For ease of reference, we have colour coded each of the pledges with the themes.



An accountable, democratic and strong Council



Leicester: a place to do business



Leicester: a low carbon city



Our neighbourhoods and communities – people, culture and leisure



Getting about in Leicester



Leicester: a healthy and active city



Our children and young people



The built and natural environment around us in Leicester

In our first 100 days, we will...

1. Repair **1000 potholes** across the city as part of our continual programme of repairs and road maintenance. We understand this is a significant problem and following the harsh winters which have caused further damage to the city's roads we will repair over 5000 potholes over this next year. 🌸🌸
2. Establish a new **Bus Users Panel** to include people from across the city representing young people, older people, people with disabilities, families, small businesses, large employers and the public sector. The Panel will support the Council in holding to account the bus operating companies and will report directly to the City Mayor. 🌸🌸
3. Bring back **free swimming** for young people resident in the city and aged 16 and under at Council Leisure Centres for this year's school summer holidays and October half-term. 🌸🌸
4. Make clear our immediate priorities for **local economic growth** through setting out our vision for Leicester to be a Working City with plans for job creation and enterprise development – we will be playing a leading role in all the partnerships and networks with an interest in driving forward the city's and sub-regional economies. 🌸
5. Create additional evening **on-street car parking** beginning with new spaces for 100 cars to support the night time economy in the city centre. 🌸🌸
6. Publish clear **job descriptions** for the City Mayor, Deputy City Mayor, Assistant Mayor and councillors so the public know what to expect of their elected politicians and the standards on which they should be held to account and judged. 🌸
7. Set up a **Leicester Heritage Partnership** engaging organisations and individuals from across the City and working with the Council to promote the preservation, use and interpretation of Leicester's historic built environment. Specifically this Partnership will seek to engage the expertise and enthusiasm of organisations such as the Civic Society, Victorian Society and Conservation Area Societies. The Leicester Heritage Partnership will have held its inaugural meeting with the City Mayor and his team within these first 100 days. 🌸🌸
8. Set out our vision for **Extra Care Accommodation** in the city to help meet the housing needs and aspirations of older people and vulnerable adults. This plan will include possible sites for Extra Care developments, an exploration of funding opportunities and a plan for engaging older people in decisions regarding future accommodation. 🌸🌸
9. Announce a programme for **Meet the Mayor** events across Leicester's neighbourhoods, including the city centre. This will follow the first Meet the Mayor event held within our first week. Meet the Mayor events will be held regularly across the city. 🌸
10. Launch a **Commission for Fairness** to begin our work towards a Living Wage for Leicester and to drive forward a local fairness at work agenda to include new efforts to enforce payment of the national minimum wage and to tackle exploitative employment. 🌸

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- 🌸 Getting about in Leicester
- 🌸 Leicester: a healthy and active city
- 🌸 Our children and young people
- 🌸 The built and natural environment around us in Leicester

In our first 100 days, we will...

11. Publish a revised **Charter for Older People** setting out how older people can expect to be treated by the Council and other public services in Leicester. The Charter will include an unequivocal commitment to dignity and respect in old age and the importance of taking into account the needs, views and aspirations of older people in decision-making. We will seek the input and endorsement of the Forum for Older People for this new Charter. ❀❀
12. Explore how we can improve **street washing** in the city centre and in neighbourhood shopping areas as part of our continued work to ensure cleaner streets. ❀❀
13. Fully review and set out recommendations for improving the **Council's scrutiny arrangements** to ensure there are effective structures in place to hold the City Mayor and his administration properly to account. A new Scrutiny Unit will be established (within existing budgets) to support councillors undertaking scrutiny work. The local media and other interested parties will be invited to participate in this review of scrutiny and to share their ideas. ❀
14. Hold a summit meeting with businesses, Job Centre, trade unions and other public agencies to develop proposals for our **Leicester to Work** initiative aimed at tackling youth unemployment and providing work and training opportunities for young people. The Leicester to Work initiative will also consider how best to continue the work of our Multi Access Centres. ❀❀
15. Reaffirm our commitment to the **Every Disabled Child Matters** charter alongside the NHS and other partners. ❀
16. Launch a new **Biodiversity Action Plan** setting out how we will manage, promote and extend the city's natural habitats. ❀
17. Set out our full support for **SkyRide** and announce full plans for Leicester's third SkyRide event on 28 August. ❀❀❀
18. Launch a new **Task Force** chaired by a member of the City Mayor's team to explore how the Council can support local businesses more through its procurement activity – supporting and encouraging ethical and fair trade procurement. ❀❀
19. Host the **Cycling Futures Conference** as part of our commitment to cycling and sustainable transport, and alongside the Conference announce a new stream of public engagement work on improving existing and developing new cycle routeways across the city. ❀❀❀

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In our first 100 days, we will...

20. Bring in additional 'end of term' **refuse and waste collections** in areas with large numbers of student houses. ✿
21. Introduce as part of our Budget Review a new **Staff Innovation Fund** to support the development and implementation of ideas generated by council staff which improve service delivery, save money and improve how the council works. ✿
22. Announce a rolling calendar of **Community Clean-up Days** across the city to tackle grotspots and improve neighbourhoods. ✿ ✿
23. Set out our plans for **kerbside recycling** as we aim to increase recycling rates across the city. ✿ ✿
24. Extend the **One Clean Leicester** smartphone apps allowing people to report highways problems such as potholes and broken slabs, as well as vandalism and grot spots using their iPhone or BlackBerry. ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿
25. Launch a new **Grot Spot Rapid Response Team** to bolster our efforts to clean-up fly tipping, graffiti and other vandalism as quickly as possible. ✿ ✿
26. Have entered into discussions with the Government about the need to have stronger powers similar to those held by the Mayor of London to **regulate local bus services and public transport**. ✿ ✿
27. Begin the development of a new **Leicester Heritage and History Walk** smartphone app to encourage residents and visitors to explore and enjoy our city's unique heritage and history. ✿
28. Hold at least one **community bikeability** event to promote family cycling. ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿
29. Develop in partnership with Belgrave Road businesses, traders, councillors and residents a **Golden Mile Action Plan** setting out our intentions to improve this much-loved and popular area. ✿ ✿ ✿
30. Begin consultative work with councillors and residents on the introduction of **20mph zones** near schools, community facilities and in residential areas. ✿ ✿ ✿
31. Launch a campaign to attract private sector support for a **Leicester Cycle Hire scheme** as part of our sustainable transport agenda. ✿ ✿ ✿
32. Promote the recently launched **Leicester's Healthy Heart Campaign** in every community as part of our plans to tackle health inequalities and improve public health in the city. ✿ ✿
33. Set out a programme of capital investment to support and improve **Leicester's Adventure Playgrounds**. ✿
34. Launch a new **public policy partnership** with De Montfort University as part of our drive to involve and engage the city's academic expertise in policy-making and practice on the ground. ✿

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In our first 100 days, we will...

35. Trial and develop new formats for **Council Meetings** to encourage and improve wider debate on the big issues facing Leicester and to support efforts aimed at improving and enhancing how the City Mayor and his administration are held to account in public. ❀
36. Make **youth participation** a formal responsibility of the Council's Democratic Support team with new ways of working in place to encourage the active involvement of young people in council decision-making at all levels. ❀❀
37. Begin work to explore the delivery of **free Wifi** in public spaces and community facilities across the city. ❀❀❀❀❀
38. Commission an independent **School Choice Advisor** to provide advice and advocacy to parents and families. ❀
39. Agree continued funding for the **De Montfort Street** area community safety scheme to tackle kerb crawling and anti-social behaviour. ❀
40. Set out our public health priorities and expectations of local health service providers through the new **Health and Wellbeing Board** and ensure Leicester's transition arrangements are on track with clear public accountability arrangements in place for the NHS. ❀
41. Begin a review involving parents, community groups, the Admissions Forum and councillors of school admissions materials and the **admission process** to bring forward recommendations on how this process can be improved and made more citizen-friendly. ❀
42. Sign up to the National Autistic Society's 'You Need to Know' pledge in support of the campaign for better mental health services for **children with autism** and in recognition of the Council's vision that every young person deserves the chance to realise their full potential. ❀
43. Hold a family event in Town Hall Square as part of our support for **National Play Day**. ❀
44. In consultation with young people and councillors set out new requirements for **Ward Community Meetings** to involve young people and to elect a new **Youth Champion** in each community. ❀❀❀
45. Publish our plans for how we will continue to support and develop the **Whatever It Takes** initiative to promote reading and literacy, including the development of new Knowledge Centres to promote excellent teaching of reading. ❀
46. Consider the findings of the **Welfare Advice Services** review and publish our initial plans and vision for the future provision of welfare advice services in communities. ❀

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In our first 100 days, we will...

47. Progress plans for the **Football Foundation** project, working with G.N.G and Leicester Ladies football clubs, to ensure the provision of excellent facilities on an appropriate site. ❀ ❀
48. Ask the **Forum for Older People** and councillors to undertake work exploring how best older people should be engaged in council decision-making. ❀
49. Agree and sign a joint programme of priorities with the **City Centre Management Board**. ❀
50. Explore how a **student accommodation strategy** can be developed for the city within existing planning laws and responding to community views. ❀
51. Reach a decision on the future of **New Walk Centre** and accelerate work on the Council's future office accommodation strategy. ❀
52. Launch a new programme of work to support **social enterprises** and co-operatives in Leicester. ❀ ❀
53. Set up a **Commission on Child Poverty** to tackle the deep rooted and underlying reasons leading to the city's alarming child poverty rates – this Commission will seek input from national experts and will draw on experience in other cities. ❀ ❀ ❀
54. Begin detailed discussions with councillors, market traders and other partners to develop plans for the refurbishment and future development of **Leicester Market**, specifically addressing the indoor meat and fish market halls. ❀ ❀
55. Respond to the recent scrutiny review of **school meals** in Leicester with our plans to make sure school meals in Leicester remain affordable and nutritional. ❀ ❀
56. Set out our vision for the city's **voluntary sector** including how the City Mayor and Council will support the voluntary sector across the city and our plans for reform in the way council funding supports voluntary organisations. ❀
57. Launch a new campaign to tackle **street drinking** in the city centre and neighbourhoods with tougher enforcement of existing alcohol free zones and action against premises who sell to persistent offenders. ❀
58. Set out our vision for **strong and vibrant communities**, where people have good access to public services and community facilities and where local people are encouraged and empowered to take part in shaping local services, running local facilities and influencing local decisions. ❀ ❀
59. Publish a calendar of local **Ward Community Meetings** for every neighbourhood across the city and review the areas Ward Community Meetings cover where councillors or residents request this; we recognise that ward boundaries are administrative and do not always best reflect peoples' sense of their own community. ❀ ❀

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60. Develop an **online questions system** where citizens can submit questions to the City Mayor and his team and where responses are published. ❀
61. Set out our commitment to local **Bioblitz events**, such as the recent event at Abbey Park, with the aim of involving local residents and voluntary groups in improving understanding of the biodiversity in Leicester's city parks and greenspaces. ❀❀
62. Launch a new project in partnership with Groundwork Leicestershire and local colleges to train **solar panel** installation engineers and provide affordable solar panel installations to local communities. ❀❀
63. Start work on the new **District Heating Scheme** and alongside the District Energy Company actively encourage large public and private sector organisations to consider joining the scheme to help us achieve energy price stability and carbon emission reductions. ❀❀
64. Audit all **Section 106** funding and explore new ways for giving local communities a greater say in how 106 monies are spent in their areas. ❀❀
65. Begin discussions with stakeholders on developing new plans to improve Leicester's **Youth Service** into a gold standard provision responding to the needs of our communities. ❀❀
66. Announce proposals for the **City Mayor's Festival Programme** including how the City Mayor and Council will support festivals, events and our creative sector to make sure Leicester is recognised as one of the best cities for festivals and events in the country. ❀❀
67. Launch a **Task Force** to take forward work developing a voluntary code of practice around dignity, respect and residents participation for sheltered housing providers in Leicester. ❀❀❀
68. Publish a rolling programme of **community carbon reduction** events as part of our efforts to tackle climate change and make Leicester a Low Carbon city. ❀❀
69. Building on the current **Register of Members** Interests begin work to explore how independent oversight and scrutiny of standards and conduct of elected members can be improved. ❀
70. Continue work to drastically reduce the use of **external consultants** across the Council. ❀
71. Begin work to ensure new and more secure protections for the **city's green spaces** including the riverside and green wedges. ❀❀
72. Continue to make the case to the Government for the full **electrification of the Midland Mainline** as a key driver for economic prosperity in Leicester and that we do not lose the chance of this investment in favour of a high speed route which would bypass Leicester. ❀
73. Complete work at the first house in a programme of **solid-wall insulation**, as part of our efforts to improve energy efficiency across homes in the city and our vision for low carbon living to become a reality. ❀

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A brisk walk on
Orton Square



In our first 100 days, we will...

74. Launch Leicester's **public transport smartcard** scheme. 🌸🌸
75. Review current internal and external **partnership arrangements** across the Council and wider public sector to ensure structures are relevant for the challenges we now face, the new governance arrangements and are not creating duplication or waste. 🌸
76. Commission a customer-led review of the **HomeChoice** system and consider further changes and improvements to the Council's housing allocation policy and systems. 🌸🌸
77. Start work to develop new **creative workspaces** at the Rutland Street site as part of our plans for the Cultural Quarter. 🌸🌸
78. Look into new ways of working with **council tenants** and giving tenants a stronger voice and opportunities to take part in scrutinising the housing service. 🌸🌸
79. Begin work to give new impetus to the Leicester Promotions Partnership focussing on **marketing the city** for inward investment, tourism and visitors and to include a new agenda for promoting civic pride in the City. 🌸
80. Set out plans to bring **Curve, De Montfort Hall and Phoenix Square** into a more integrated partnership to include programming and marketing arrangements. 🌸
81. Publish our initial project brief for the **Survey of Leicester** to ensure the Council and other service providers have access to the most up to date and detailed information about our population and living in Leicester. 🌸
82. Launch plans to plant **more trees** across the city, building on the success of the 10,000 trees initiative, including plans for at least three new community orchards. Alongside developing new community orchards we will actively promote allotments and garden growing to support local people in 'growing their own'. 🌸🌸
83. Select two areas of the city to undertake a mini **Total Place** type assessment of all public budgets and interventions to consider effectiveness, efficiency and impact. 🌸
84. Develop an action plan to tackle **parking problems**, including parking on grassed verges, on the outer estates. 🌸
85. Hold a summit meeting of **knowledge economy stakeholders** to shape immediate plans to support the sector as a key driver of the city's future prosperity, including discussions with potential investors in the Innovation & Technology Park and the Cultural Quarter. 🌸
86. Complete a **carbon footprint analysis** of the Council's procurement activity to support work and decisions on making our procurement and supply chains greener and more sustainable. 🌸🌸
87. Support the Royal Horticultural Society's **It's Your Neighbourhood** programme to encourage local community projects in cleaning-up or greening their local environment. 🌸🌸

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In our first 100 days, we will...

88. Launch an initiative to deal with **business-related litter** across the city with enforcement against offending businesses. ❀ ❀
89. Complete and publish a citywide **Co2 reduction** road-map. ❀
90. Announce the first wave of a £600,000 programme to improve **city neighbourhood** shopping areas and gateways. ❀ ❀ ❀
91. Launch the **summer holiday play schemes** programme with over 47,000 places for city children. ❀
92. Develop plans for **private landlord and Housing Association** responsibility including a new campaign of enforcement against unlicensed Houses of Multiple Occupancy. ❀ ❀
93. Submit a bid to acquire land currently owned by the East Midlands Development Agency for the development of new **innovation workspace** at the Innovation & Technology Park next to the National Space Centre. ❀
94. Explore in full all possible opportunities and options to progress and restart programmes for **private housing renewal** and to build new **social housing** across the city. ❀
95. Begin work on a new **skills vision** for Leicester to make sure we are providing the right skills development opportunities for people looking for work in the local economy; this will include a new skills partnership with the business community, trade unions and training providers. As part of this work we will look more broadly at the provision by the Council and other providers of adult learning, recognising that a varied adult learning curriculum offers many benefits to individuals and the wider community. ❀ ❀
96. Agree an **improvement scheme** for Humberstone Gate East and public transport improvements in this area. ❀ ❀ ❀
97. Work with the Police and ward councillors to assess the effectiveness of **joint working** at the community level including how well Joint Action Groups and Community Safety Partnerships are working across the city. ❀ ❀
98. Reach a decision through discussions with the Culture Partnership Board and other stakeholders on whether full exploratory work should proceed on a Leicester bid for **City of Culture 2017**. ❀ ❀
99. Hold high level discussions with the bus companies and start work to ensure the city has at the very least a basic evening and Sunday **bus service** to stop communities becoming totally isolated. ❀
100. At the end of our first 100 days we will publish a **full tracking report** detailing the progress and delivery of each of these commitments to aid public accountability of our work to date. ❀

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 **City Mayor**

Leicester City Council,
7th Floor, Block B, New Walk Centre,
Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG.

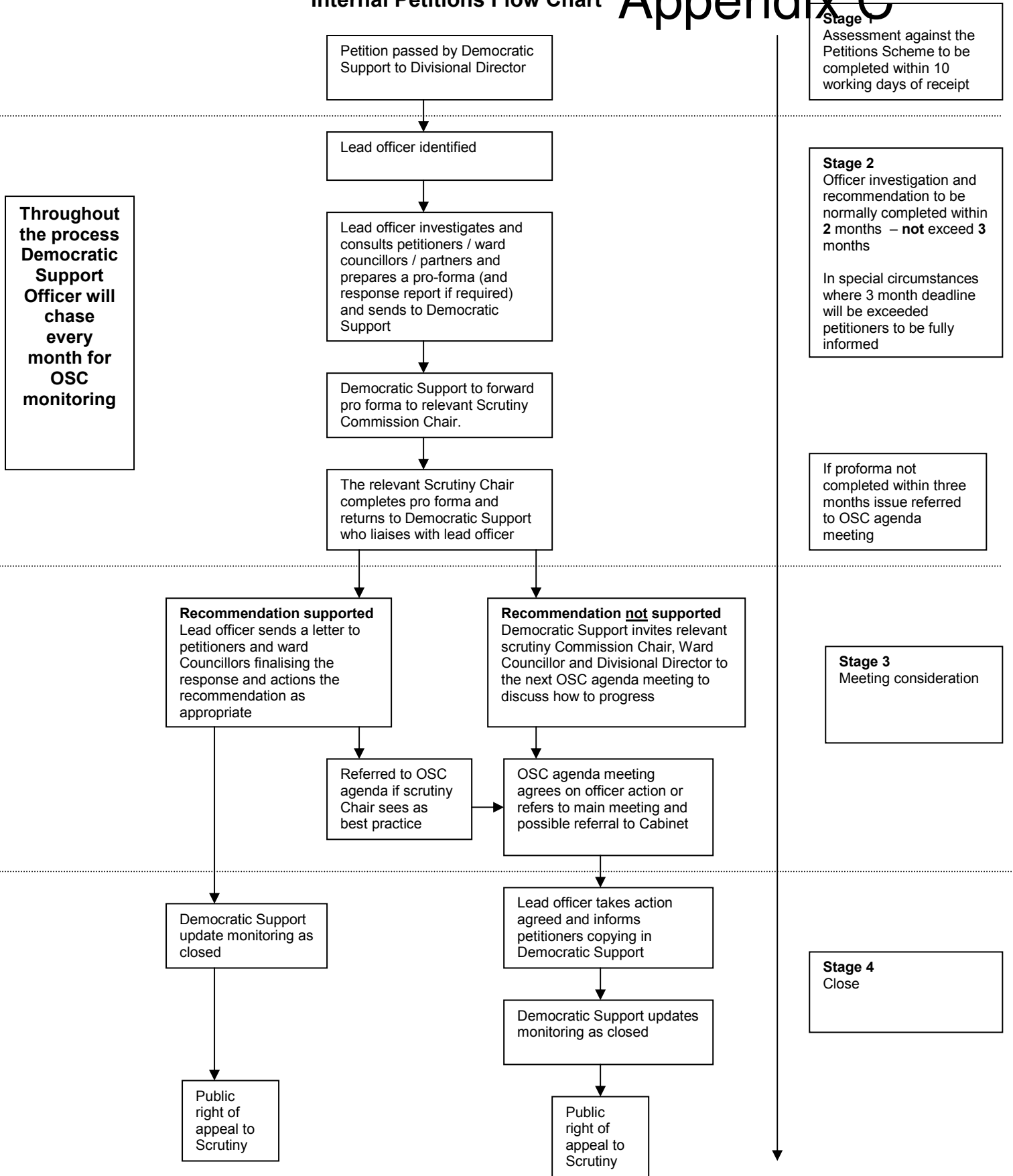
0116 252 8313

themayor@leicester.gov.uk

www.leicester.gov.uk/citymayor



Internal Petitions Flow Chart Appendix C



If a Ward Councillor has concerns regarding the speed of progress or action at any stage they can request that the matter be considered at an Overview Select Committee agenda meeting with the Ward Councillor, the relevant Scrutiny Commission Chair and Divisional Director invited.

The lead officer to copy Democratic Support into all correspondence to allow update of the monitoring report

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