

Leicester
City Council

Democratic and Civic
Support
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

30 September 2015

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2015 at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon, for the business hereunder mentioned.

Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2015 are available to view at:
<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=6886&Ver=4>

Copies are also available from Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6350 or
Committees@leicester.gov.uk.

4. **PETITIONS**

- Presented by Members of the Public
- Presented by Councillors

5. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

6. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

6.1 Independent Remuneration Panel Process

6.2 Leicester Youth Justice Plan 2015-16

6.3 Call-In – Highfields Community Association

7. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

7.1 Scrutiny Annual Report

8. EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

To vary the composition and fill any vacancies of the Executive and any Committee of the Council.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by the Deputy City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Barton:

Preamble

In July 2015, the Government announced its intention to change legislation affecting trade unions including measures relating to industrial action ballots; the organisation of industrial action and trade union subscription payment arrangements (known as check off).

Motion

Leicester City Council believes:

1. That the right to join a trade union and to participate in lawful industrial action is a fundamental right which should be respected in a free and democratic society.
2. The Government's proposals in the trade Union Bill will undermine constructive employment relations and that effective industrial relations are achieved by meaningful engagement and not additional legal restrictions on trade union activity.
3. Effective workplace representation ensures access to justice and has

benefits across employing organisations and that trade unions are an integral part of a modern workplace.

4. The Government's Trade Union Bill is a politically-motivated attack on trade unions and could have negative consequences for wider society.

Leicester City Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills stating the Council's opposition to their Trade Union Bill and to participate in any consultations to this effect.
2. To continue to recognise the important role played by the council's recognised trade unions in representing their members.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Filming and Recording the Meeting

The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Democratic Support.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

6.1 Independent Remuneration Panel Process

A report is submitted which asks Council to consider approval of the commencement of a review of the Council's Scheme of Members Allowances by an independent panel as specified in legislation.

The Council is recommended to:

1. approve the appointment and composition of an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider Members Allowances in Leicester as detailed in the report;
2. approve the commencement of a review of the Council's Scheme of Members Allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel as specified in legislation on the basis defined in the report and taking into account the current financial constraints facing the Council and;
3. note that consideration of the report of the Panel is a matter reserved to Council and that Council in setting a Scheme of Allowances at that point will have the choice to accept in full or in part or reject the findings of the Panel.

6.2 Leicester Youth Justice Plan 2015 - 16

Council is asked to consider a report which responds to the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:

- How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

The Council is recommended to note and adopt the Leicester City Youth Justice Plan for 2015/16.

6.3 Call-in of Executive Decision – Highfields Community Association

In accordance with Rule 12 of the City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, Councillors Dawood (proposer), Kitterick (seconder), Gugnani, Chowdhury and Malik have objected to the decision of the City Mayor of 24 July 2015 with regard to the above.

The submitted grounds for objection are:-

8 October 2015

“With reference to the decision made by the City Mayor in relation to Highfields Centre. We would like to call in the decision as it does not take account the impact upon the Highfields Community neither has there been any adequate consultation with users regarding ceasing services.”

A copy of the decision is attached along with the Executive report and associated decision notice.

Arising from the receipt of an objection the issue had been referred to the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission on 13 August 2015. The relevant minute extract from this meeting is also attached.

The City Council is recommended to **formally consider the Executive Decision.**

Under the provisions of City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rule 12 (h), the Council may either confirm the decision of the Executive which would take immediate effect or ask the Executive to consider an alternative recommendation.

**Sir Peter Soulsby
City Mayor**



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

COUNCIL

8TH OCTOBER 2015

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL PROCESS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DELIVERY, COMMUNICATIONS AND POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable Council to consider approval of the commencement of a review of the Council's Scheme of Members Allowances by an independent panel as specified in legislation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)

Council is recommended to:

1. approve the appointment and composition of an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider Members Allowances in Leicester as detailed in the report;
2. approve the commencement of a review of the Council's Scheme of Members Allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel as specified in legislation on the basis defined in the report and taking into account the current financial constraints facing the Council and;
3. note that consideration of the report of the Panel is a matter reserved to Council and that Council in setting a Scheme of Allowances at that point will have the choice to accept in full or in part or reject the findings of the Panel.

3. REPORT

3.1. Background

Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (section 19.1), all councils must make a scheme providing for the payment of allowances to Members (ie Councillors and Elected Mayors) and before a Council

makes or amends such a Members' Allowances Scheme, it must publish and have regard to a report and recommendations made by its statutory Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Section 21 of the Regulations defines that the IRP report must make recommendations on the responsibilities or duties in respect of:

- special responsibility allowance (SRA);
 - travelling and subsistence allowance; and
 - co-optees allowance
-
- the amount of such allowances and the amount of basic allowance;
 - whether dependents' carers allowance should be payable and the amount;
 - whether payments can be backdated when a scheme is amended at any time so as to affect an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made and;
 - whether changes to allowances are decided according to an index and, if so, which index and for how long that index should apply, (a maximum of four years), before its application is reviewed.

The last IRP held by Leicester City Council was in 2011 so the Regulations mean that an IRP is now needed to review member allowances.

3.2 The Panel

The regulations require that an IRP must have at least three members. The members of an IRP cannot be elected members of an authority in respect of which it makes recommendations and cannot be a member of a committee or sub-committee of such an authority. Anyone disqualified from being an elected member of any local authority is also disqualified from being a member of an IRP.

The regulations do not specify how members of an IRP are appointed but the 2003 Statutory Guidance (48-49) states:

“A local authority will need to consider carefully and plan its appointments process having regard to this guidance and the need to ensure that this process commands public confidence throughout all the communities in the local authority's area. The council should adopt an appointments process which it considers is best able to result in the membership of its independent remuneration panel being truly independent, well qualified to discharge the functions of the panel and representative of the diversity of the communities in the local authority's area.”

In constituting a Panel the main challenges are being able to identify panel members with sufficient knowledge and experience to make informed evaluations on such roles when in practice they may only be called on to do so every 4 years, and often are not able to draw on any comparable experience. Secondly, to engender public confidence in the approach ideally we need panel members who are suitably independent of the local authority, who have no direct conflicts of interest in any

significant aspects of the local authority's business yet have a sufficient knowledge and understanding of the local context in which we operate.

In practice therefore for transparency it is proposed that any nominees put forward for the Panel must:

- not be directly related or have any close personal relationship with any elected member or employee of Leicester City Council;
- be perceived from a public perspective as an individual who is suitably independent of the Council to include no direct funding relationship (other than in a routine manner such as a Council Tax payer); and
- have skills in assimilating a range of information and evidence and being able to make informed and balanced judgements on that basis.

In considering the proposed local membership in this context, it has therefore been necessary to look beyond those local organisations and partners who the Council works with on a regular basis and where there is also often some form of funding relationship. In terms of the chair of the panel efforts have been made to identify a chair who is wholly independent of the Council but who has significant experience of the complex regulations surrounding allowances and the specific requirements of an IRP chair. In terms of suitable panel members the regional Chamber of Commerce, the Magistrates Bench, and the TUC Regional office have been identified as organisations with a clear degree of independence from the Council but who can also bring knowledge of the local context. These organisations have been approached and individuals willing to undertake the role and who meet the criteria detailed above identified. The composition of the panel is therefore proposed as:

- **Chair** - Dr Declan Hall – an experienced IRP chair with over 15 years experience of working on allowances reviews for a wide range of authorities and has advised UK and regional governments in relation to allowances.
- **Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce** - Scott Knowles (Assistant Chief Executive)
- **Leicestershire & Rutland Bench Magistrates** – Stephanie Brown (Chair of the Magistrates)
- **Midlands TUC** - Lee Barron (Regional Secretary)

3.3 Report and Timescale

In preparing its report and considering its recommendations the IRP will be asked to take into account:

- allowances schemes in the Leicester City Council comparator group of councils that may consist for example of other mayoral authorities, the Core Cities group of authorities and geographically neighbouring cities where these do not fall within the previous categories;
- the views of Members, both written and oral; and
- the economic climate and the need for recommendations which could be feasibly met within the existing budget envelope available.

In addition it is proposed that a suitable and accessible means by which the Panel Chair can receive written representations from members of the public, would be put in place. This is felt to be more appropriate than vesting the public view in one or two residents on a Panel.

The timescale proposed for the review is:

- Complete appointment of the panel – Following Council decision.
- Meetings of the Panel – November.
- Panel report – December.
- Recommendations to Council – January.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

It is estimated that the chair of the panel will undertake 8 days work on the review at a cost of £5,200 plus expenses to include:

- Leading the organisation of the review including preparing the terms of reference and information pack for the Panel;
- Preparatory meetings in Leicester with relevant Officers to gather background information, collecting and analysing comparative information, and gathering views from Members;
- Preparing the training presentation for the IRP;
- Visiting Leicester City Council to chair the IRP;
- Receiving written views from residents;
- Leading on the first full draft of the report, including further research and any necessary follow up interviews via telephone, and further redrafting based on any comments received from other IRP members;
- Producing the final draft of report to send to council.

Any time reasonably undertaken over and above the estimated 8 days will be considered and a mutual agreement reached with the Director of Delivery Communications and Political Governance.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (section 20.3) specifies that an Authority may pay allowances or expenses to Panel members. Rather than pay a specific fee it is proposed that panel members be given the opportunity to claim reasonable expenses and for loss of earnings of up to £150 for each full day. It is estimated that no more than 3 days work will be required by panel members giving a potential maximum cost of £1,350 plus any expenses. Any claims received will be assessed and approved by the Director of Delivery Communications and Political Governance.

Any resources or support provided to the Panel by the Council will be met from within existing budgets.

It is therefore estimated that the review process will cost a maximum of £6,550 plus expenses.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

4.2 Legal Implications

The legal issues which are pertinent to the appointment and function of the IRP are covered within the main body of the report

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Head of Standards, 454 1401

4.3 Climate Change

There are no climate change implications associated with the report.

Louise Buckley, Senior Environmental Consultant, 372 293

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	N	
Policy	N	
Sustainable and Environmental	N	
Crime and Disorder	N	
Human Rights Act	N	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N	
Corporate Parenting	N	
Health Inequalities Impact	N	

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None

7. CONSULTATIONS

Kamal Adatia – City Barrister & Monitoring Officer

8. REPORT AUTHOR

John Thorpe
Democratic & Member Support Manager
0116 454 6351

Executive Report to Council

Youth Justice Plan 2015/16

Decision to be taken by: Full Council

Decision to be taken on: 8 October 2015

Lead director: Frances Craven



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: David Thrussell
- Author contact details: 37 1657
- Report version number: v1

1. Summary:

- 1.1 It is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:
 - How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
 - How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 1.2 The statutory youth justice plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published annually by 30 September. The youth justice plan is approved by the local Young Offender Management Board and submitted to the Youth Justice Board.
- 1.3 The document is the youth offending partnership's main statement of purpose and sets out its proposals to prevent offending by children and young people. The plan shows not only what the YOT will deliver as a service, but how strategic links with other supporting initiatives will be developed and maintained.
- 1.4 The youth justice plan is required to address the areas of performance, structure and governance, resources, value for money, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery. The plan takes into account local performance issues, lessons from previous full joint and YOS thematic inspections, together with any Serious Incidents.
- 1.5 The Leicester City Youth Justice Plan for 2015/16 can be seen in Appendix A that accompanies this report.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 To note and adopt the Leicester City Youth Justice Plan for 2015/16.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

- 3.1 Leicester City Youth Justice Plan 2015/16 (Appendix A).

4. Details of Scrutiny

4.1 The Youth Justice Plan has been considered and approved by the Leicester City Young Offender Management Board chaired by the Strategic Director for Children on 10 September 2015.

5. Financial, Legal and Other Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1 The 2015/16 budgeted and forecast expenditure and financing for the Youth Offending Service is summarised in Appendix A of the Youth Justice Plan contained within this report.

5.2 Legal Implications

5.2 Following consultation with relevant partner agencies, section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Leicester City Council formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan setting out:

- a) How youth justice services in the area will be provided and funded; and
- b) How the youth offending team is to be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out.

The plan must then be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and published.

Nicki Agalamanyi, Solicitor Advocate, Legal Services, Ext 37 1453

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Implications

5.3 There are no significant climate change implications resulting from the attached report.

Louise Buckley, Senior Environmental Consultant (Climate Change), 372 293

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

5.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission identified engagement with the criminal justice system as an equality gap, as a result of disproportional representation in criminal justice proceedings by some protected characteristics.

Therefore it is important for the Youth Offending Team and the Young Offender Management Board are aware of and understand trends over time of the protected characteristics of young people who are involved in the local criminal justice system. Operationally, at the local level, the council does continue to monitor the protected characteristics of those young people it engages with and this information is used to inform the range of needs considered in planning and programme delivery for the city. The city has a multi-agency Heritage Forum that meets fortnightly to consider any equalities implications when individual needs are assessed, and these are reflected in court and sentence planning reports.

The service is also subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty. Emerging case law on the process required for meeting this duty highlights the need for decision makers to be aware of relevant equality implications throughout the decision making process, and particularly at the point of making a decision. Decision makers must evidence their 'due regard' of the implications of equality considerations on the decision at hand. It is important that the Young Offender Management Board be aware of this continuing duty and that 'due regard' is made of relevant equality implications for all decisions made.

Irene Kszyk, Corporate Equalities Lead, ext. 37 4147

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

5.5 None

6. Background information and other papers:

6.1 The Youth Justice Plan should be read in conjunction with other relevant multi-agency plans including the Children and Young People's Plan, Safer Leicester Partnership Plan and Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Policing Plan. The Youth Justice Plan is supported by a more detailed operational YOS improvement plan overseen by the Head of Service, who reports to the Young Offender Management Board, chaired by the Strategic Director for Children.

7. Summary of appendices:

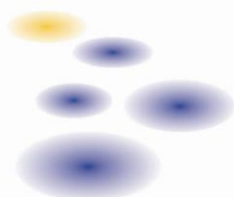
7.1 Leicester City Youth Justice Plan 2015/16

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

8.1 No

9. Is this a "key decision"?

9.1 No



Leicester City **youth** Offending Service

Leicester City Youth Justice Plan 2015 - 2016

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Introduction

The aims of Leicester Youth Offending Service (YOS) are to prevent youth offending and reduce re-offending and the use of custody for young people. This is achieved through working in partnership to deliver services that ensure young people are safeguarded, the public and victims of crime are protected, and those who enter the criminal justice system are supported with robust risk management arrangements. Our aim is to intervene early to provide help and support to young people and their families, whilst reintegrating young people into their local communities without offending.

The YOS participated in a Thematic Inspection on Young People and Desistance from Offending in February 2015. Initial feedback at the time of the onsite inspection was positive, and early recommendations have been incorporated into the YOS Improvement Plan. The final HMI report is due to be published in January 2016. The YOS continues to review recommendations from all HMI Thematic Inspections and has undertaken a review of the recommendations from the Thematic Inspection into Transitions published in 2012, in which Leicester participated. The YOS participated in 2015 in both the local Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Inspection, and the Children's Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers.

This Plan should be read in conjunction with a range of associated partnership strategies including the Leicester Children and Young People's Plan, Police and Crime Plan, the Safer Leicester Partnership Plan, together with individual agencies strategic plans. The Youth Justice Plan is supported by an operational YOS Improvement Plan that provides more detail as to how the YOS will deliver services to improve outcomes for young people, families and communities and is monitored through the local Young Offender Management Board.

The YOS implemented a new organisational structure in August 2014 which increased the number and ratio of qualified YOS Officers working with high risk repeat young offenders and provided a greater emphasis on the role of Youth Advocates and Youth Workers to support young people at risk of offending and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The new Director of Children's Services appointed in September 2014 assumed the role of Chair of the Young Offender Management Board, whilst statutory membership of the Board from Police, Probation and Health has remained consistent. The Young Offender Management Board has undertaken a self-assessment audit of its work following publication of the Modern YOT Partnership Guidance and benchmarked itself against HMI Probation Inspection Criteria to ensure that it is adopting best practice for governance arrangements.

We are working closely with our partners in the criminal justice system to ensure resources are effectively targeted at the minority of young people who are repeat offenders and responsible for the majority of youth crime.

We have continued to invest in our Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements with funding support through the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as part of our successful Deter Young Offender Strategy. We have reviewed local policing contributions to the Out of Court Disposal Panel to improve sharing of intelligence to enable the YOS to identify and intervene earlier with young people at risk of crime and anti social behaviour.

The YOS are active partners in the Think Family (Troubled Families) Programme. Overall performance for Phase One of the programme completed in March 2015 placed Leicester in the top quartile nationally including reduced offending and anti-social behaviour. Phase Two of the programme will ensure that support continues to be provided to families involved in offending through integrated early help family support, as part of the local early help offer.

The local Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) Team is managed in the YOS and has been successful in engaging both young people at risk of custody and young people at risk of entering the care system. MST performance in 2015 has been in the top quartile nationally and

additional funding has been secured from the DfE Innovation Fund to commence a new MST Neglect Team in 2015/16.

The YOS continues to work in partnership to support victims of youth crime and to reassure local communities and young people about the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour through local Joint Action Groups and the Safer Leicester Partnership. Our local restorative justice practices were celebrated as part of restorative justice week in November 2014 and the YOS are working with the OPCC to support the identification and support for victims of youth crime.

The YOS is making an important contribution to realising our ambition for all our children and young people of raising aspiration and attainment, reducing health inequalities and improving wellbeing. We also recognise the need to continue to invest in earlier interventions to ensure our most vulnerable young people continue to receive support to address their substance misuse, generic and mental health needs. In 2015 the YOS has contributed towards both the redesign and re-commissioning of substance misuse services and the review of local CAMHS provision.

The YOS has improved levels of young people's engagement in individually tailored assessment and support programmes. Participation in the Viewpoint programme has significantly increased in 2015. The youth service has worked collaboratively with young people and policing partners to develop a youth led Joint Action Group which culminated in a presentation by young people on community safety priorities and a local area action plan.

We have delivered a residential programme for repeat high risk young offenders jointly supported by the OPCC and in partnership with local voluntary youth sector providers. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board has supported a safeguarding summit involving over 100 children and young people in identifying safeguarding priorities. In 2015 our locally elected Young Peoples Council has worked with the Police to identify and support local policing priorities across the city for young people to prevent youth crime.

We believe a good education raises young people's aspirations and attainment and provides young people with opportunities for sustainable employment and training. Youth crime prevention work in 2015 has included the youth service working with local secondary schools to identify and support young people who are at risk of involvement in crime, anti-social behaviour or exclusion through targeted early intervention.

Targeted individual advice and guidance continues to be offered to our vulnerable young people who are not in education, training or employment (ETE), and local rates of ETE engagement for young people known to YOS are in the top quartile nationally. The Connexions Service is also working with economic regeneration partners to ensure that education; training and employment for young offenders and other vulnerable groups are a priority in the next five year round of sub-regional European Social Fund (ESF) programmes.

We are working with the OPCC to ensure that the YOS is as a key contributor to the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan for 2015/16 to support high risk first time entrants and repeat young offenders.

The YOS assumed responsibility for the Youth Justice Centre in 2015 providing an opportunity to expand programmes for young people who are subject to Attendance Centre requirement, and will be working with young people to further develop the programme as a local centre for restorative justice.

The local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for children and young people is currently being revised by Public Health and young people who are first time entrants and at risk of offending are a target group. The current needs analysis involves young people, and will inform future commissioning and delivery priorities for young people at risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Performance Overview

We continue to prioritise preventing youth offending, reducing re-offending and the use of custody for young people as local performance indicators. The impact of the YOS performance and its contribution to wider safeguarding and public protection responsibilities are monitored and reported through the local Children's Trust Board, Safeguarding Children Board and MAPPA Strategic Board.

The YOS has continued to refine its performance management reporting arrangements to better improve understanding of impact and outcomes and to inform the Young Offender Management Board on future resource allocation. The YOS has worked with the YJB in 2015 to develop a diagnostic tool to improve understanding of performance in respect of reoffending.

Systems for improved monitoring of high risk offenders and young people involved in anti-social behaviour have been improved together with 'deep dive' analysis by the Young Offender Management Board into areas of challenging performance including Reducing Reoffending, Children Looked After, Education, Training and Employment, and Custodial Sentencing.

YOS performance is reported through The Safer Leicester Partnership and Reducing Re-offending Board where shared priorities exist to reduce overall crime and anti-social behaviour. Reducing First Time Entrants and re-offending by young people is a priority of the Children and Young People's Plan, overseen by the Leicester Children's Trust Board.

The YOS continues to contribute towards regional and national improvement agendas including the East Midlands Resettlement Consortium and East Midlands YJB YOS Managers Forum.

Reducing First Time Entrants (FTE) Performance 2014/15

- There have now been sustained reductions in First Time Entrants (FTE's) in the last seven years. Leicester has continued to see a reduction in the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) and the rate of reduction is greater than the national rate. Despite the local reduction in numbers, the baseline figure for FTE remains above the national average.

Reducing First Time Entrants (FTE) Priorities for 2015/16

- To commission and support evidence based youth crime prevention activity as part of a more integrated early help strategy.
- To further reduce the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system, in partnership with other local agencies through more integrated and targeted youth support.
- To reduce the frequency and seriousness of re-offending by first time entrants and to improve earlier identification and assessment of first time entrants, including young people subject to court orders.
- To review progress against the recommendations from the HMI Report on Looked after Children published in 2012 as part of the YOS Improvement Plan.

Reducing Reoffending Performance for 2014/15

- The percentage of young people supervised by the YOS that re-offend remains at approximately 35% of the cohort which follows both the national and the midlands trends
- The YOS has higher than average national rates for young people reoffending on pre court and first tier orders whilst re-offending by young people subject to custodial sentences is lower than the national rate.
- Re-offending by young people known to the THINK Family (Troubled Families) and MST programmes is lower than the national average.

- Whilst the number of young people supervised by the YOS has decreased, there has been a continued increase in the frequency of offending each year. Using the latest national comparator data covering period July 2012 to June 2013 Leicester's rate for re-offending is higher than the midlands and slightly higher than the national figure.

Reducing Reoffending Priorities for 2015/16

- To reduce overall levels of re-offending and better understand effectiveness of programmes and disparity in re-offending rates.
- To reduce the frequency and seriousness of re-offending by young people known to YOS at all levels, including pre court and first tier interventions.
- To further improve reductions in reoffending by serious repeat young offenders, including young people at risk of custody and young people leaving custody.
- To complete a diagnostic of reoffending rates by young people in collaboration with the YJB and to monitor an improvement plan to reduce levels of re-offending.

Reducing the Use of Custody Performance 2014/15

- The YOS has a higher than average national rate for the use of custody although this is a relatively small cohort of 25 young people receiving custodial sentences in 2014-15.
- There has been a consistent reduction in the use of custodial sentencing in the previous decade and the custodial rate for 2013-14 is 1% per 1,000 of the population.

Reducing the Use of Custody Priorities for 2015/16

- To further reduce the use of remands to youth detention accommodation and custodial sentencing for all young people including children looked after.
- To contribute towards the East Midlands resettlement consortium to identify and support appropriate alternatives to target effective resettlement packages for young people leaving custody.
- To continue to work with partners to further develop robust processes for the identification remand cases and the full cost of remand placements, together with suitable community based alternatives to remand.
- To ensure young people who are subject to custodial remands or sentencing are appropriately safeguarded and their risk of harm to themselves and others is managed.

Engaging in Education, Training & Employment (ETE) Performance 2014/15

- The YOS has increased ETE engagement by young people who offend from under 60% to nearly 80% over the last six years. This level of ETE engagement is in excess of national, family group and regional comparators and places the YOS performance in the top quartile nationally.
- The high level of ETE engagement with young people known to YOS has been maintained despite the challenging economic climate and rising youth unemployment and has been sustained through close partnership working with Education Welfare and Connexions Services.

Engaging in Education, Training & Employment (ETE) Priorities for 2015/16

- To further reduce the numbers of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and known to YOS.
- To improve the targeting of ETE support for high risk entrants and repeat offenders.
- To increase the use of trained volunteer mentors, YOS advocates, and Connexions Personal Advisors, to support young people to successfully engage and remain in Education, Training & Employment.

Leicester Think Family Programme Phase One Performance 2015

Leicester worked with 1140 families at the completion of Phase 1 of the Think Family Programme which finished in March 2015, representing 100% of the target group. From this group, 45% met the criteria for youth crime and anti-social behaviour by a family member. The YOS were the lead practitioner in 10% of these cases where the young person was known and supported through preventative work, including youth and education welfare services.

Local Think Family (Troubled Families) Phase One programme performance is in the top quartile nationally. From the Phase One cohort completed in March 2015:

- 84% of families on the programme had no further offending
- 47% of families experienced a reduction in the number of offences committed at the close of their programme
- 370 adults were sustained into employment
- 89% experienced improved behaviour at school and 79% improved attendance

Structure & Governance

The YOS is positioned within the Education and Children's Department of the Local Authority. The YOS Manager is Head of Service for Early Help and Specialist Services, which includes a portfolio of services including the Youth Offending Service, Youth Service, Connexions and Education Welfare Service. This approach supports earlier identification of families with multiple and complex needs together with increased opportunities for more targeted work with children and families at risk of poor outcomes or involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The Head of Service for the YOS is managed by the Director for Children, Young People and Families, who reports directly to the Director for Children's Services (DCS).

Governance arrangements for YOS reside with a multi-agency Young Offender Management Board (YOMB) chaired by the Strategic Director for Education and Children (DCS). The YOMB has senior officer level representation from statutory services including Police, Health and the National Probation Service. (Appendix One) The YOMB meets on a quarterly basis where performance and finance reports are presented by the Head of Service, to inform strategic decisions and resource allocation.

Young Offender Management Board reports include analysis of performance against key national and local youth justice indicators, audit and self-assessment activity, Serious Incident reporting, National Standards audits and quarterly YJB monitoring reports. The YOMB revised its performance management framework in 2015 to take into account the revised Modern Youth Offending Partnership Guidance.

The YOS Manager is a member of the MAPPA Strategic Board and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board for reporting and monitoring lessons from Serious Incidents and Serious Case Reviews. The YOS completed a revised section 11 safeguarding audit in 2015 as part of the LSCB delivery plan. The YOS Manager is a member of the Early Help and Stay Safe Group which is a sub group of the Local Children's Safeguarding Board.

The YOS are members of both the Reducing Re-offending Board which supports Integrated Offender Management arrangements for young people and adults, and the Young Adults Project (YAP) Board, supporting transitions 16-24 year olds in the criminal justice system.

Resources and value for money

The YJB Youth Justice Grant allocation focusses on innovation and service improvement and supports the YOS improvement plan reviewed by the Young Offender Management Board. This ensures resources continue to be prioritised in areas where there are risks to future delivery and performance. Service improvement activity in 2015 has been supported by the YJB through a local re-offending toolkit to provide a more detailed understanding of local re-offending rates.

Funding contributions from statutory partners in Health and the National Probation Service are confirmed for 2015/16. The OPCC has confirmed 2015/16 funding for YOS for both core police activities and to support work with high risk entrants and repeat offenders. In addition the OPCC has provided partnership funding for work with Troubled Families and young people at risk of domestic violence and child sexual exploitation. A table containing the financial, staffing and in kind contributions made by local partners is contained in Appendix Two.

The YOMB has commissioned a benchmarking exercise for the YOS which will inform future strategic priorities and business planning for 2016/17, as part of its ongoing commitment to developing a more robust outcomes based business model that demonstrate best value and cost effectiveness.

The YOS is working closely with the YJB national implementation team for the roll out of ASSET Plus which has now been re-confirmed for October 2015. The YOS has resourced a local implementation team and completed a detailed action plan overseen by the YOS Service Manager with support from key frontline staff and the Information Systems Officer responsible for the maintenance of the Careworks Management Information System.

The YOS is appropriately resourced by seconded warranted Police Officers, Probation Officers employed by the National Probation Service, and an education specialist managed within the Education Welfare Service. YOS are working with the CAMHS service to fill the permanent vacancy for a mental health specialist and interim cover arrangements are in place until this vacancy is filled. Additional resources beyond the statutory requirement include dedicated Educational Psychologist time and a dedicated Education, Training and Employment Personal Advisor surgery from the Connexions Service.

The YOS has a diverse workforce that reflects the diversity of the local communities that it serves. The entire YOS workforce is employed on a permanent basis, there are no agency employees. All frontline YOS Officers are professionally qualified.

The YOS has recruited a new cohort of volunteers in 2015 with a broad age range of backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of Leicester's communities. Volunteers and permanent staff are trained in restorative justice. A structure chart including the full YOS staffing establishment is contained in Appendix Three.

Partnership Arrangements

The YOS is fully integrated into local partnership planning arrangements for both children and young people and criminal justice services. There are regular joint meetings with key partners including the Police, Courts, Health and Probation (NPS) to support the delivery of shared strategic priorities.

The YOS Manager or YOS Service Manager is represented on the following key strategic partnerships:

- Leicester Children's Trust Board (LCTB)
- Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)
- Early Help and Stay Safe (LSCB) Sub Group
- Safer Leicester Partnership (SLP)
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Board
- Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Board
- Reducing Re-offending Board (RRB)
- Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Board
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Multi Agency Partnership
- Young Adult Project (YAP) Transitions Board
- Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) Strategic Board

The YOS co-commissions youth crime prevention programmes with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) that focus on preventing re-offending by high risk entrants to the youth justice system and repeat high risk offenders. This includes jointly commissioned work with local voluntary sector youth service providers that support national indicator performance and outcome measures jointly monitored by the OPCC.

The YOS are partners in the Troubled Families (Think Family) and Multi Systemic Therapy Team and re-offending by young people known to the programmes is lower than the national average.

Accommodation is included as part of all intervention planning by case managers for any young person made subject to a custodial sentence or remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation. Every young person who is made subject to a custodial sentence or made subject to Youth Detention Accommodation is allocated a Youth Advocate. The focus of the advocate work is to deliver and enable access for support with health, substance misuse, family support and contact, education, training and employment and accommodation.

All young people subject to custodial sentences are reviewed by a multi agency panel including Connexions, CAMHS and substance misuse, and parenting workers to ensure that young people's safeguarding, risk of harm, welfare and mental health needs are appropriately assessed. Parenting support is provided to all young people in custody and their families throughout the custodial sentence, to plan and support reintegration into the community.

Risks to future delivery

A challenge for the YOS is to maintain continuous improvement in the context of reduced government and partnership funding, and changing national priorities. Further reductions to central government funding through the dedicated Youth Justice Grant are now anticipated. Following the most recent government spending review in summer 2015, the Youth Justice Board is undertaking a consultation for a 10.6% in year reduction to the Youth Justice Grant to support additional 2015/16 savings required to be met by the Ministry of Justice. Further reductions to the Youth Justice Grant may also be considered as part of the government's autumn spending review which will place additional pressure on the YOS.

Local pressures on council funding are mirrored across the strategic partnership and the YOS is working with partners to develop a sustainable delivery model moving forward, that reflects shared strategic priorities. The National Probation Service is currently undertaking a review of funding contributions to YOS which may impact locally on future funding.

The YOS is working with strategic partners through the YOMB to ensure that national changes to the criminal justice system through Police, HM Courts and Probation services are managed appropriately and address risk, public protection and safeguarding priorities for young people.

The YOS continues to focus on areas of performance improvement related to management of risk of harm and safeguarding and a detailed improvement plan has been submitted to the YJB and is monitored on a quarterly basis.


Priorities for 2015/16

- To further improve the quality of YOS assessments and timeliness of YOS interventions.
- To ensure a partnership approach is maintained to prevent offending and further reduce reoffending by children and young people.
- To reduce the number of Children Looked After who enter the criminal justice system and to further reduce the number of young people subject to remands and custody.
- To continue to develop an evidence based model and “what works agenda” and to ensure resources are targeted effectively to prevent and reduce offending
- To continue to improve transition arrangements between the YOS and Adult Services including Probation (NPS) and the OPCC Young Adults Programme.

Appendix One

Leicester City YOS – Young Offender Management Board 2015/16

Name	Organisation
Frances Craven	Strategic Director, Children's Services, LCC
Martyn Ball	Superintendent, Leicestershire Police
Carolyn Maclean	Director of Offender Management Business Unit, NPS
Mel Thwaites	Associate Director of Children and Families, CCG

Date:	26 th August 2015
Signature:	
Francis Craven:	Strategic Director, Children's Services, LCC (Chair YOMB)

Appendix Two

YOS BUDGET 2015/16

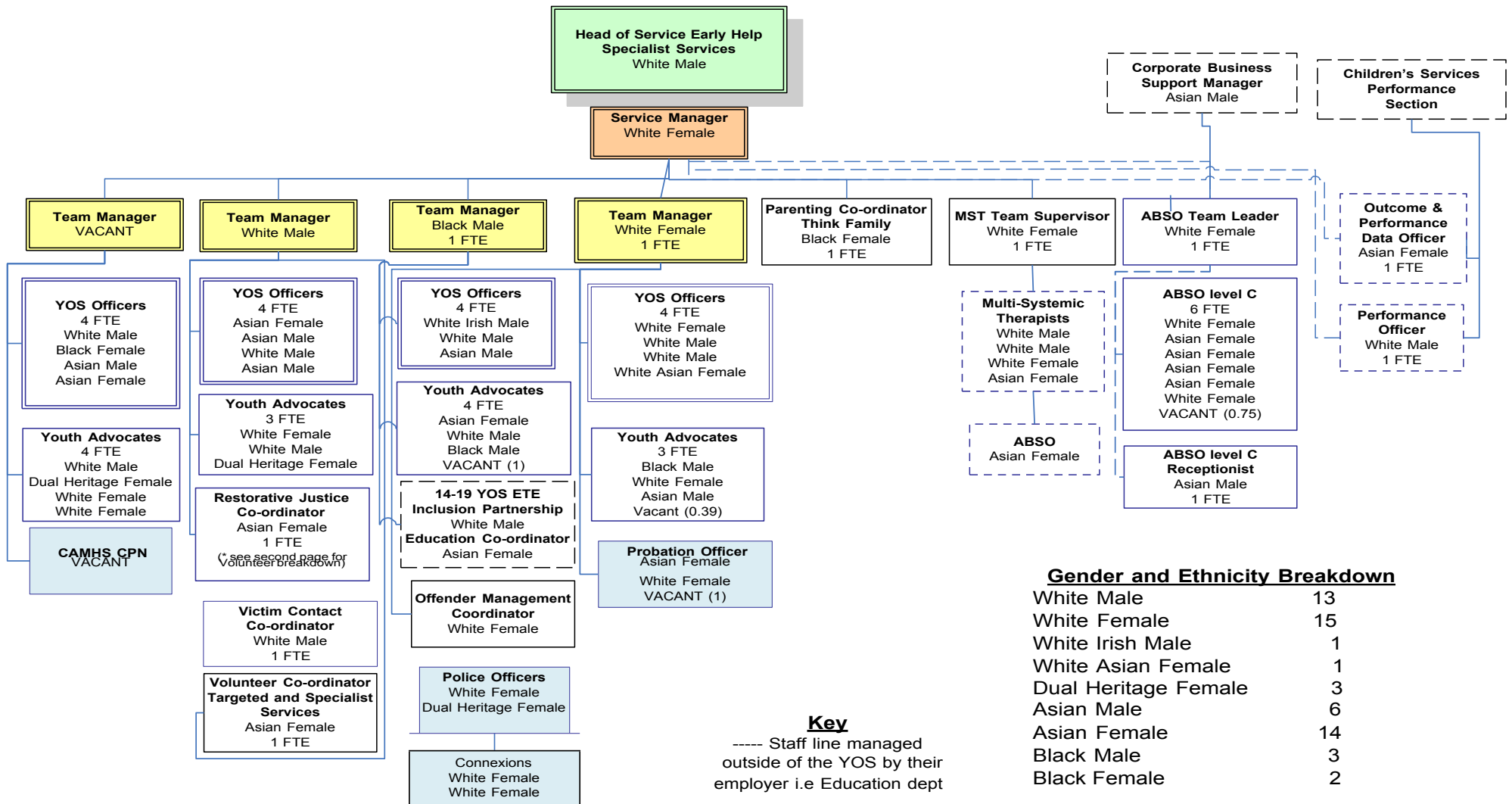
The budgeted and forecast expenditure and financing for 2015/16 in the following table:

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local authority	1,112,560	398,600		1,511,160
Police Service	107,274			107,274
National Probation Service	123,087		80,500	203,587
Health Service	50,192		58,200	108,392
Police and crime commissioner	20,000		99,300	119,300
YJB Good Practice Grant	769,000		56,457	825,457
Other				
Total	2,182,113	398,600	294,457	2,875,170

NB: The Youth Justice Board is undertaking a consultation in September 2015 for a 10.6% in year reduction to the Youth Justice Grant to support additional 2015/16 savings required to be met by the Ministry of Justice. The proposed reduced grant figure for 2015/16 is £672,997.

Appendix Three

Leicester City YOS Structure Chart 31 July 2015



Executive Decision Report

Highfields Community Association

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby

Decision to be taken on: 24 July 2015

Lead director: Liz Blyth



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Wycliffe, Spinney Hills and Stoneygate
- Report author: Shilen Pattni
- Author contact details: 37 1832
- Report version number: 1.0

1. Summary

This report sets out concerns in relation to engagement and funding of Highfields Community Association (HCA) for the management and operation of Highfields Centre.

2. Recommendations

The City Mayor is asked to note the significant concerns raised in this report and to consider the following:

- a. To conclude the funding issue by making no retrospective payment to HCA in relation to the funding for 2014/15 on the basis that agreement could not be reached
- b. To cease engagement with HCA in respect of Neighbourhood Services funding
- c. To note that since providing notice of the Council's intention to terminate the discontinuous sub lease that alternative arrangements for the provision carried out under that sub lease are being made to take effect from September 2015

3. Background

- 3.1 Despite considerable efforts to maintain a constructive working relationship with HCA it is clear that this has irretrievably broken down.
- 3.2 The damage to the relationship over the past nineteen months has created substantial and irreconcilable differences. The result is that the Council, as a responsible body for public funds, does not have trust or confidence in HCA's ability to prudently manage public funds, to demonstrate an acceptable level of care toward staff transferred to them from the authority in relation to their pension rights, or to develop a credible model for a sustainable future.
- 3.3 In 2010 the building and staff were transferred to HCA by the Council, following a long period of campaigning by HCA, to enable them to meet their stated aim of achieving financial independence. This was a unique arrangement and the first and only time the Council has agreed to transfer a major building asset (with a value of approximately £2 million) and staff team to enable Community Governance. Subsequently a 25 year lease was granted (with the option to extend for a further 25 years) at a peppercorn rate of £0.76 plus VAT per annum. Three years' funding of £879k (£293k per annum) for community

services was also provided. At the same time a discontinuous sublease was entered into for use of hired space by the Council in the Highfields Centre for adult skills and learning and children's and youth services with a value of £99k per annum for rent and service charges. In this time period HCA have also successfully bid for Council funding for other specific initiatives.

3.4 In 2013, when the three year agreement ceased, HCA sought further funding to the amount of £293k per annum. In order to give HCA further time to provide the Council with relevant information and a business plan funding of £73k was provided to HCA between December 2013 and February 2014.

3.5 Since the asset transfer to the HCA the Council now have in place a more robust policy framework for Community Governance and Community Asset Transfer. The arrangement with HCA is unique as it included an unprecedented level of financial support not in keeping with the Council's current Community Asset Transfer policy which requires interested organisations to demonstrate that they are financially sustainable. In their business planning, HCA needed to demonstrate a clear proposal for how they intended to reduce reliance on the Council's funding which is a clear objective for seeking Community Governance and utilise the assets of the building and staff to meet the stated aims of the organisation (ie to become economically independent and self-sufficient) but they have failed to do this.

3.6 Following discussion between the City Mayor and HCA in the spring of 2014, the Council sought to progress, subject to contract negotiations, to award HCA £200k for one year in 2014/15. This was for support towards the management and operation of Highfields Centre and contingent upon HCA providing a robust business plan and model to demonstrate its ability to become financially self sustaining.

3.7 After the proposed funding was offered in June 2014, there followed long and protracted discussions, and reluctance from HCA to enter the funding agreement due to the presence of key clauses that HCA did not like:

- The Council withholding a proportion of funding pending confirmation of the amount of the pension fund deficit as a result of HCA's unilateral decision in September 2014 to withdraw from the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). This is known as a set off clause and was in the 2010 funding agreement with HCA. Withholding funding was necessary at the time to protect the Council as guarantor to the pension fund should HCA not reimburse the fund for the deficit; however the County Council as LGPS administrator advised in June 2015 that it no longer considers that the City Council has liability for any deficit, following agreement of a payment schedule with the HCA. It should also be noted that the HCA had not continued to maintain a bond or indemnity, as required in the original LGPS agreement to mitigate the risk to the pension fund and hence the Council.
- Seeking amendments to the Council's standard safeguarding clause which is included to reflect legal requirements, the multi-agency policy framework and best practice to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse. It is not negotiable with service providers. The amendment sought appeared to be to enable HCA to employ staff without DBS clearance and remove the

- Council's opportunity to confirm compliance with the safeguarding clause.
- Rejecting the standard clause that would give the Council access without notice to the HCA premises to investigate a complaint or incident involving the delivery of the service (from the police or a whistle blower) or to monitor the delivery of the service and performance.
- Rejecting the clause inserted requiring HCA to maintain a positive working relationship with the Council in public and in private. This was added because of the experience during funding negotiations of HCA's adversarial approach to the Council as their principal funder.
- Seeking to reduce the target for service activity at HCA from 100,000 usages per annum to 83,000 per annum. The Council maintained that by being more efficient HCA, can, like many organisations including the Council, reduce costs without reducing service quality, and that based on the Council's experience the target was reasonable and had been previously met by HCA.
- In addition to these clauses, the Council asked for confirmation that the HCA Board had resolved to enter the funding agreement and for details of the broadly comparable pension scheme they are required to provide following their withdrawal from the LGPS.

3.8 By January 2015 HCA had still not agreed to the terms and conditions and no payments had been made.

3.9 In February 2015 the HCA Board reported to have reluctantly agreed to the conditions set out in the funding agreement in order for them to receive funding.

3.10 To summarise, since December 2013, following the end of the three year funding agreement, there has been a long, difficult and protracted negotiation between the HCA and the Council on a number of matters including:

- a) The expectation from HCA that along with the transfer of the building and staff in 2010 the Council would also provide significant levels of funding to HCA after the three year agreement ended in 2013.
- b) Reluctance from HCA to agree to the terms and conditions associated with the one year funding offered to HCA for 2014/15. HCA deemed several clauses in the funding agreement unreasonable and were still contesting these in January 2015, seven months after the funding had been offered.
- c) The unilateral decision by HCA to give notice on withdrawal from the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in September 2014, without engagement or consultation with the Council. HCA have not been able to demonstrate that they acted in a prudent manner on this matter nor that they took independent financial or legal advice. Their withdrawal has resulted in a significant and unnecessary liability of £162k through the crystallisation of a deficit on the pension fund, for which they have sought to blame the City Council as well as the County Council as LGPS administrator.

- d) In addition, despite repeated requests, HCA have not demonstrated how they will meet their legal obligation to provide a pension scheme that is broadly comparable with the LGPS for the staff transferred by the Council, resulting in concern over the HCA level of care for those staff previously in our employ. This obligation is a requirement of the Employee Transfer Agreement.
 - e) An initial expectation from HCA that the Council should provide additional funds over and above that which has been offered through the Community Services offer to help 'bail out' the organisation in relation to this pension scheme liability. This was refused.
 - f) An apparent lack of will to enter into any form of meaningful dialogue, or foster any form of positive relationship with the Council, and instead taking a stance that could only be considered argumentative and adversarial.
 - g) The lack of a credible business case for HCA moving forward, despite feedback to them on the business case put forward in 2014 and the offer of assistance to develop a more robust and meaningful plan to meet their stated aim of becoming financially independent.
- 3.11 Given the protracted and difficult engagement with HCA, consideration has been made to the consequences for HCA and the consideration that cessation of the Council's funding could present a financial challenge too great for the HCA to meet. The HCA's accounts for 2012/13 and 2013/14 have been reviewed and show that they have been reliant on Council funding for at least 70% of their income (79% in 2012/13 and 70% in 2013/14). The balance of approximately 30% has been generated through centre activities and grants from other organisations. HCA's accounts for the year ending March 2015 are yet to be published.
- 3.12 The 2013/14 published accounts show reserve funds of £671k at March 2014, of which £647k was unrestricted. These unrestricted funds were earmarked for asset replacement (£275k), programme support (£40k) and transforming services (£60k), with a remaining general reserve of £272k.
- 3.13 In the absence of published 2014/15 accounts, it is assumed that some of the unrestricted funds will have been utilised during 2014/15 given that the Council ceased funding in February 2014, although the Council has continued to pay for rented space within the building. In the absence of clear and robust financial future modelling and without the 2014/15 accounts being available to the Council, it is difficult to predict how long HCA may remain solvent unless they are able to obtain financial resources from alternative sources and/or reduce expenditure. This also depends on how much of the £647k of unrestricted funds is still available to support running costs.
- 3.14 The longer term financial viability of HCA has since transfer of the building and assets from the Council in 2010 been dependent on the HCA's ability to develop sustainable funding streams and associated expenditure levels and this remains the case.

3.15 Given the concerns outlined in this report the following is put forward in order to conclude the position regarding funding:

1. To make no retrospective payment in relation to funding for 2014/15 on the basis that agreement could not be reached
And
2. To cease engagement with HCA in respect of neighbourhood services funding

4 Discontinuous Sub-lease

- 4.1. In addition to the historical Community Services funding and the 25 year (plus 25 year extension option) lease on the building, the Council has a discontinuous sub lease with HCA for the use of space in the building at prescribed times.
- 4.2. The sub lease expired in November 2012 but it is currently “holding over” on the terms of the expired sub lease. The current rent is £50k pa plus a service charge (combined total capped at £99k pa) for space originally occupied by Adult Skills and Learning, Early Prevention and Youth Services.
- 4.3. The Council’s overall usage of space has varied in the 2014/15 financial year but not significantly. It is likely to change significantly in 2015/16. On this basis the Council have now given notice to HCA to end the sub lease. The two services utilising the agreement are Adult Skills and Learning for a variety of courses, and Early Years for pre-school provision for up to 24 children, run by Leicester City Council staff.
- 4.4. The options were to renegotiate usage on a room rental only basis or terminate usage altogether and withdraw completely from the Highfields Centre by September 2015 while establishing alternative sites /models to deliver provision in the area. Work has been carried out to assess the options for this provision in order to seek to minimise the impact on users.
- 4.5. Timing of the notice was important to enable the provision of adult skills classes through to end of this financial year and ensure planned classes are not disrupted to the end of the academic year in July 2015. In addition the early years’ provision is term time only and was due to break up for the summer on 12 July. Given that the sub lease is holding over the Council are obliged to serve at least one quarter’s notice in order to terminate the sub lease. On 22nd June 2015 notice to terminate the Council’s occupation of the Centre was served on the HCA, expiring on the 28th September 2015.
- 4.6. Given the significant cost of this arrangement in comparison to usual market rents, HCA were invited to provide an offer for the use of a reduced level of space at the Highfields Centre. Specifically the space previously occupied by youth services was no longer required, the requirement for early years’ space was increased from 5 to 7 days a week for an additional 9 weeks a year, and the space required by adult learning was reduced by 70%. Overall this amounted to a 50% reduction in space. Unfortunately the offer received was 40% greater (£140k) than the previous charge (£99k) and almost four times greater than estimated market valuation (<£50k) for the amount of space being requested.

- 4.7 Following receipt of this offer HCA were asked reconsider and urgently provide a revised offer within twenty-four hours. In response HCA disputed the Council's market valuation and sought to revise its offer by 10th July 2015 which also clashed with the end of the school term and the closedown of preschool and adult learning courses. This is significant as the Council has a duty of care to ensure that service users, particularly children and parents, are made aware of changes as early as possible.
- 4.8 On 3rd July 2015 the Council reluctantly informed learners and parents that the Council's adult skills and early years services will cease to continue from Highfields Centre as the Council will be vacating occupation of the Centre by September. Arrangements are in hand to close the preschool and relocate adult learning provision in order to maintain services at other nearby facilities for the next academic year.

5. Financial and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The report is concerned with financial implications throughout, in particular the HCA's ability to move to financial independence, concerns over its ability to manage public funds appropriately and the potential implications of significant reductions in the Council's funding on the HCA's future prospects.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

5.2 Equalities Implications

5.2.1 The following range of services is offered HCC/HCA as indicated on their website on 17 July 2015:

- **advice service:** welfare benefits, housing, debt, immigration, nationality, education, general advice
- **sports and health:** sports facilities and sports activities
- **arts service:** courses – youth/community recording sessions; music production studio sessions for young people; creative youth, creative writing course; audio visual hire
- **venue hire:** main hall, two lounges
- **active youth:** arts & sports programme Friday and Saturday
- **employment training & business support:** employment and business support services
- **adult learning:** classes
- **children's pre-school group**

5.2.2 The funding provided to HCA referred to in the report was for sports, arts and non-specific community support services. No payment has been made for 2014/15 for reasons presented in the report. No financial accounts nor a more detailed business plan for HCA have been received for 2014/15. Therefore it is not possible at this point

in time to consider the actual or potential impacts of payment not having been made during 2014/15 without more detailed information from HCA.

5.2.3 The Council does commission youth service provision through a consortium that HCA belongs to, so there is no anticipated change in youth provision at HCC. The Council does not commission the advice service provided at HCC. The Council rents premises for two services which it delivers on site: adult learning classes and the children's pre-school group.

5.2.4 **PSED considerations:** The Council is mindful of its continuing responsibility to meet a range of needs of city residents, as required by our Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. The original agreement with Highfields Community Association (HCA) to transfer Highfields Community Centre as a community asset was based on the anticipated community benefits arising from such an arrangement and this arrangement being an appropriate means for the Council to, in effect, continue to meet local community needs through services cited in this report.

5.2.4 The following considerations have been undertaken by the Council in regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty:

a) ensuring that it understands each of the populations affected by the proposal:

5.2.5 The Council has produced a compendium of key statistics for Leicester, which includes census 2011 statistics at ward level across the city. HCC is located within Wycliffe ward but its users span these ward boundaries and for some services reach across the city.

5.2.6 To complement demographic information presented in the compendium, the Council produces adults' and children's joint strategic needs assessments to inform key issues affecting the health and well being of local people in the city. The joint strategic needs assessments focus on demographic considerations, including ethnicity, as well as the social and environmental context which shapes need. Given that HCC is located in an area of deprivation, this is particularly relevant to understanding the needs of local people who use HCC services.

5.2.7 The City Mayor's Delivery Plan cites the main strategic themes for action and outcomes by the Council. The following delivery plan themes provide a strategic context for how different areas of activities provided by HCC fit within Council strategic priorities: a place to do business; a healthy and active city; providing care and support; our children and young people; our neighbourhoods and communities.

b) Being clear of the protected characteristics of those currently accessing HCC services:

5.2.8 Given the demographics of the area, and the range of services provided by HCC, the relevant protected characteristics are: age, ethnicity, religion or belief (given local profile) and likely disability given its prevalence across different groups and potentially disproportional impact because of deprivation in the area.

c) Understanding the potential impacts of the proposed recommendations/decision:

5.2.9 Of the three proposals presented in the report, two relate to funding considerations related to the transitional support provided by the Council for the original community asset transfer to HCA. The third proposal relates to the termination of the discontinuous sub lease for the provision of the adult learning and pre-school service at the Centre.

5.2.10 The original community asset transfer to HCA was carried out on the premise that they would be seek to become financially self-sufficient as an organisation in the delivery of the range of services they have on offer, and interim Council transition funding to support this outcome was provided. As indicated in the report, HCA have reserves in place to continue to fund HCC activities but the longer term financial viability of the Centre is uncertain once Council transitional funding is no longer provided. The Council has been unable to influence HCA practice through the breakdown of their working relationship as cited in the report, and on the basis of the governance arrangements in place, is unable to directly intervene in terms of taking mitigating actions that would reduce any potential adverse impact to continued service provision at the Centre.

5.2.11 The only Council services likely to be affected by the third proposal to no longer rent premises at the centre are adult learning and pre-school provision for reasons cited in the report. The Council will be able to relocate adult learning provision. Our assessment of childcare provision in the area indicates that there is a sufficiency of childcare spaces to meet need and the council is actively assisting parents to seek alternative pre-school places via its brokerage service. These are the only mitigating actions available to address this potential negative impact.

5.2.12 The above explanation sets out how the Council has ensured that it meets the first aim of the PSED, to eliminate discrimination. Its approach to strategic service needs and delivery across the city is inclusive in approach and informed by local population needs.

5.2.13 The second aim of the PSED is to advance equality of opportunity between different groups of people. The Council's key strategies, such as the City Mayor's Delivery Plan, set out how the range of services delivered by the Council and in partnership with others, help to promote equality of opportunity, particularly for those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged because of their social and economic circumstances. It is unfortunate that the partnership working arrangement between the Council and HCA has broken down and that this has affected Council use of the Centre as a local venue for service provision. However, alternative sites for delivery will ensure that initiatives contributing to equality of opportunity in terms of outcomes benefiting local users. It is not clear at present whether this breakdown in working relationships will affect service provision by HCA through the Centre. The Council has a strategic remit to ensure continued meeting of need and this is embedded in its strategic operating framework – the City Mayor's Delivery Plan. Although the outcome of these proposed funding decisions may affect HCA as a service venue and provider, it will not affect the Council's continuing to meet its PSED in identifying and addressing local need.

5.2.14 The final PSED aim for consideration is that of continuing to foster good relations. The breakdown of working relations between the Council and HCA could affect good relations between local residents and other groups within the city if they perceived that they were being disadvantaged because of services no longer

continuing to operate in the same manner (based on the termination of the Council's transitional support) by HCA through the Centre. From the perspective of the Council's understanding of its PSED responsibilities, it has not sought to end this provision that would affect meeting local residents' needs, and has a strategic framework in place against which it measures its continued meeting of local resident needs as assessed through its needs assessment and statutory service provision. The Council is committed to community cohesion, an inclusive city and meeting its PSED duties and has a variety of mechanisms in place to pursue these outcomes. Through its proposed actions, as set out in the report, the Council has sought to deliver the legal agreement for community asset transfer as proposed and entered into willingly by HCA. It is unfortunate that this working relationship with HCA has broken down.

Irene Kszyk, Corporate Equalities Lead, ext 374147

6. Consultations

6.1 This report has been compiled in consultation with relevant service areas in the Council.

6.2 The Ward Councillors from Wycliffe, Spinney Hills and Stoneygate have been briefed by the City Mayor.

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A – Legal advice, not for publication


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

The legal implications to the report are marked 'Not for Publication' because it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended: i.e. 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)'.

9. Is this a "key decision"?

No.

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	DECISION TITLE	Highfields Community Association (HCA)
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	None
3.	DATE OF DECISION	24 July 2015
4.	DECISION MAKER	City Mayor
5.	DECISION TAKEN	<p>(1) To make no retrospective payment to the HCA in relation to 2014/15 on the basis that agreement on funding could not be reached</p> <p>(2) To cease engagement with HCA in respect of Neighbourhood Services funding</p> <p>NB. The legal implications to the report are marked 'Not for Publication' because it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended: i.e. 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)'.</p>
6.	REASON FOR DECISION	<p>A loss of confidence in the ability of the HCA to manage its resources (financial, staff and building asset) effectively and with due diligence.</p> <p>The absence of a clear business case from HCA to warrant consideration for funding.</p>
7.	<p>a) KEY DECISION Y/N?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? y/n</p>	No.
8.	OPTIONS CONSIDERED	<p>(1) Retrospectively agreeing a funding settlement for 2014/15</p> <p>(2) Maintaining an ongoing funding relationship with HCA for 2015/16 onwards.</p>
9.	<p>DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Members of a Scrutiny Commission or any 5 Councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. • Notification of Call-In with reasons must be made to the Monitoring Officer 	31 July 2015
10.	<p>SIGNATURE OF DECISION MAKER (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of Executive Member)</p>	



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCRUTINY
COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2015 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Dawood (Chair)
Councillor Gugnani (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Corral
Councillor Halford

Councillor Hunter
Councillor Khote

In Attendance:

Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor
Councillor Clair, Assistant City Mayor - Culture, Leisure and Sport
Councillor Master, Assistant City Mayor - Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Sood, Assistant City Mayor - Communities & Equalities

Also Present:

Councillor Aqbany
Councillor Dr Chowdhury
Councillor Kitterick
Councillor Malik

* * * * *

9. CALL-IN OF CITY MAYOR DECISION - HIGHFIELDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The following decision had been called-in and was referred to this Commission for consideration under Council Procedure Rule 12(f), Part 4D of the Council's Constitution:

Decision by the City Mayor:-

- 1) To make no retrospective payment to the HCA in relation to 2014/15 on the basis that agreement on funding could not be reached; and

- 2) To cease engagement with HCA in respect of Neighbourhood Services funding.

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

The Chair noted that the meeting was being filmed from the public gallery, so in accordance with Council policy, he invited anyone who did not wish to be filmed to so indicate. No objections were made.

The Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services introduced the decision that had been called in. It was noted that, as indicated in the report setting out the reasons for the decision, it was felt that events since 2014 had resulted in an irretrievable breakdown in the working relationship between the two organisations.

The building used by the HCA and the staff employed by it had been transferred to the HCA in 2010, in response to pressure from the HCA to do so. This was an unprecedented action by the Council, which involved a substantial physical asset, a staff team and a three-year funding agreement.

This funding agreement had ended in December 2013. Discussions were held on how the HCA could become financially self-sustainable, in accordance with the original agreement, but it was considered that the initial business plan provided by the HCA was not robust enough to enable this to happen. As such, three months' transitional funding was provided in December 2013 and in the spring of 2014 a further one year's funding was offered on condition that the HCA strengthened its business case.

By January 2015, the HCA had not agreed terms and conditions for the funding, which the Council considered to be standard to funding agreements, (for example, in relation to safeguarding and the right of the Council to visit the premises). Serious concerns also had arisen by this time about the action taken by the HCA on the pensions of the staff transferred to the Association. As a result of these various concerns, the decision was taken to make no retrospective payment and cease engagement with the HCA regarding Neighbourhood Services funding.

At the invitation of the Chair, Priya Thamotheram, the Head of the Highfields Centre, addressed the Commission. He also tabled some notes on his comments, a copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes for information.

Mr Thamotheram drew particular attention to the following points:-

- Records of the meetings with senior officers referred to under paragraph 1.3 of the notes were available;
- There was no formal agreement that the HCA would be financially independent within three years. The HCA had challenged the Council to provide a record of this, but none had been produced;

- A business plan had been prepared by the HCA with the assistance of a national body. This gave three different scenarios for the future of the HCA;
- Other agencies had been consulted about the terms and conditions that the Council said were standard. These agencies had said that those terms and conditions had not been applied to them;
- It initially had been thought that the HCA would need to reduce its funding by 40% in 2014, but it was realised that a reduction of 80% would be needed. The Trustees had to respond to this through a range of measures. One of these was the introduction of a new pension scheme, which was agreed with staff;
- The Local Government Pension Scheme had agreed a settlement for the pension deficit and had absolved the Council of future responsibility for the pensions of HCA staff;
- Meetings had been sought with Council officers in recent months regarding room hire charges, as the HCA wanted to formalise the room hire arrangements, due to other problems arising. A meeting had been arranged for early June, but this was cancelled at short notice;
- The HCA had been asked to respond to the Council's proposals for room hire charges in less than 24 hours. However, the HCA had sought an independent valuation of the accommodation, so could not respond within that timescale;
- The HCA's reserves had been built up over 30 years, to enable it to continue to provide services and take responsibility for the refurbishment of the Highfields Centre;
- The HCA service highlights listed on the notes tabled at the meeting had been included to show why the HCA was a successful organisation, partnered by a lot of agencies in the city and appointed the lead partner in a major project supported with European funding; and
- The HCA had not wanted its relationship with the Council to take the course it had, but it felt that service users were being victimised in relation to services in the Highfields area.

Councillor Kitterick then addressed the Commission at the invitation of the Chair:-

- He expressed concern about what had happened to the service users since the Neighbourhood Services funding had been withdrawn from the Highfields Centre, especially those attending the pre-school group.

Response from the Head of Service Early Help Targeted Services

There had been 13 children receiving Early Years day care when the service was withdrawn.

When it was known that the service was being withdrawn from the Highfields Centre, the families of those affected were advised of two days when officers would be available to discuss, with language support, alternative provision. Only four families used this facility and all were offered alternative provision. Attempts had been made to contact the other families by telephone, but it was not known if they had now found alternative provision. Councillor Kitterick asked if this information could be made available to Members.

- Further concern was expressed that four members of staff had been given less than two weeks' notice of the proposed changes to their conditions of service.

Response from the Head of Service Early Help Targeted Services

The four members of staff were fully engaged in considering the options for their relocation. Further discussions would be held on 26 August 2015, the staff having initially been told of the changes in late June / early July 2015.

- Two copies of a letter to the members of staff referred to above had been passed to the Chair of the Commission, one of which stated that the staff concerned would be relocated to the Thurnby Lodge Children, Young People and Family Centre.

Response from the Head of Service Early Help Targeted Services

Relocation to the Thurnby Lodge Centre was one of the options being discussed with staff, not the only one.

The first letter, referring to staff relocating to Thurnby Lodge, was a draft letter that had been prepared in advance of discussions, in accordance with good practice. The second letter was the one that had been used and did not refer to Thurnby Lodge.

- How many adult education classes and learners had there been at the HCA?

Response from the Head of Adult Skills and Learning Services

In 2014/15, there were 52 courses, 231 learners and, due to people enrolling on more than one course, 529 enrolments. Alternative provision had been made for these courses and learners. Many had moved to the African Caribbean Centre, while some had gone to St Peters Church Hall and the community wing at Spinney Hills Primary School. Members were welcome to visit to scrutinise arrangements.

- Why had the HCA had not been included in the Transforming Neighbourhood Services review that had been undertaken?

Response from the City Mayor

This reflected the fact that the HCA was not a direct provider of Council services, but was a unique Centre, with self-governance and transitional funding in preparation for it achieving self-sustainability.

- Clarification of the response to the above question was sought, as it had been stated that the on-going review of community facilities would consider such facilities, irrespective of whether the Council funded them.

Response from the City Mayor

A decision on future Neighbourhood Services funding of the HCA could not wait until the review of community facilities reached that part of the city. When the review did reach that part of the city, it would include provision by the HCA and other suppliers in the area, but this was not scheduled for the immediate future..

- It was queried whether the funding withdrawn would be ring-fenced for use in Highfields.

Response from the City Mayor

Funding had not been withdrawn, it had ceased in 2013 and so what was in question was additional funding. As such, there were no funds to ring-fence.

The City Mayor addressed the Commission at the invitation of the Chair, explaining that before any decision was made on ceasing the provision of childcare at the HCA, a check had been made that there was “sufficiency of provision” in the Highfields area. From this, it had been found that there was an over-supply of children’s pre-school groups in that area of the city.

Members expressed some unease that services were being taken away from the Highfields Centre, but noted that a business plan had not been provided as requested. Priya Thamotheram reminded Members that a business plan, prepared with the assistance of a national body, had been submitted in June 2014.

The Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services reiterated that a business plan had been received, but the Council considered that it was not sufficiently robust. Any decision on whether to provide future funding had not been made, to give the HCA time to strengthen the business plan and help to do this was offered by the Council. However, by May 2015 a revised business plan had not been received.

Members suggested that the comment made at 4.3 in the notes tabled by the HCA was a bit severe. Priya Thamotheram replied that this referred to remarks made over the previous 18 months and a clause in the lease agreement for the Highfields Centre that if the HCA ceased to function the Council would have first call on the premises.

In reply to a question from the Commission, Priya Thamotheram explained that

rent paid by the Council for use of the Centre was calculated on the basis of a formula and was capped at just under £100,000. This included payment towards insurance and heating costs. The rent proposed for future use was based on the same formula.

The Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services noted that the Council was changing its usage requirements for the future, due to the changing needs of Adult Learning and Early Years services. This represented a reduction in space required of approximately 50%, but the rent proposed by the HCA had increased by 40% to approximately £140,000.

Priya Thamotheram confirmed that the HCA would have been willing to negotiate rent levels with the Council if more time had been made available. However, the City Mayor noted that the issue of rental of space by the Council at HCA was a separate one to that called-in.

Councillors requested information on what measures the HCA had taken to ensure that children were safeguarded. Priya Thamotheram advised that, as a responsible employer, the HCA had undertaken its own registrations with the former Criminal Records Bureau and with the Disclosure and Barring Service that replaced it. This was done for every member of staff and every volunteer engaged to deliver a service at the centre.

AGREED:

- 1) That the Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services be asked to provide information about the services offered to all 13 children affected by the ending of the service at the Highfields Centre and to track those children to find out what play provision they will be attending in September 2015;
- 2) That concern is expressed about the future employment options of four early years staff affected by the above decision and the need for them to be offered appropriate other employment within the city;
- 3) That the Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services be asked to:-
 - a) Provide members of the Commission with information about the successor provision for the adult education services relocated from the Highfields Centre, including numbers of students, courses and education locations; and
 - b) Invite Members to scrutinise the new arrangements identified under a) above, notifying Commission members and signatories of the 'call in' of where the enrolment will be undertaken and enabling them to attend the enrolment days.

8 October 2015

REPORT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

8.1 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Mohammed Dawood submits a report that provides an overview of the activities of the Council's Scrutiny Committee & Commissions 2014-2015.

A copy of the full report is attached, along with the relevant minute extract from the Overview Select Committee held on 3rd September 2015.

Council is asked to note and endorse the work of scrutiny in 2014 / 2015.



Scrutiny Annual Report 2014 -2015

Decision to be taken by: Full Council

Decision to be taken on: 8th October 2015

Presented by: Councillor Mohammed Dawood

Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: ALL

■ Report author: Scrutiny Support Manager

■ Author contact details: Kalvaran Sandhu, Scrutiny Support Manager. Tel no: internal 37 6344, external 0116 454 6344, Email: Kalvaran.Sandhu@leicester.gov.uk

Cover Report to Scrutiny Annual Report 2014 - 2015

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides an overview of the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014 - 2015.

2. Summary

2.1 The Chairs of the Overview Select Committee and Scrutiny Commissions developed a summary of the activities they have undertaken during 2014-15. The Scrutiny Annual Report highlights their areas of work and also the outcomes achieved.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Full Council is asked to note and endorse the work of Scrutiny during 2014-2015.

4. Annual Report

4.1 The Annual Report contains an introduction by the Chair of the Overview and Select Committee, which gives an introduction to scrutiny as a whole.

4.2 Each Committee / Commission has reported on their activities during the year.

5. Progress

5.1 All members have received a copy of the Annual Report and those partners and stakeholders who have been involved in scrutiny activities will also receive an electronic copy.

5.2 A limited number of paper copies will be made available upon request and an electronic version of the report will be made available on the Council's website.

6. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the preparation of the Annual Scrutiny Report, beyond the use of existing resources.

(Alison Greenhill, Director of Finance)

6.2 Legal Implications

No legal implications.
(Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Head of Standards)

7. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities		Implications were considered by each of the Scrutiny Commissions and the Overview Select Committee as part of the appropriate scrutiny process.
Policy		
Sustainable and Environmental		
Crime and Disorder		
Human Rights Act		
Elderly/People on Low Income		

9. Report Author

Kalvaran Sandhu
Scrutiny Support Manager

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

Scrutiny Annual Report

2014 - 2015

Message from the Chair of the Overview Select Committee, 2014-15

Throughout the year, the council has continued to deal with the need to make efficiency savings as a result of reduced government funding. The five year plan until 2015/16, to make funding cuts and find the necessary savings, has led to a drastic change in the way the city council delivers its services. With this ongoing review of all areas of the council's work, scrutiny has had an extremely important role to play in ensuring that services provide value and that the most vulnerable in our community are protected.

For the last two years as Chair my aim has been to ensure services that are most valued by the community are safeguarded by scrutinising proposals and changes to policies that have a potential negative impact. Scrutiny's consideration of the Ofsted inspection of the council's children's services (which were rated inadequate), where scrutiny were keen to explore what went wrong and seek assurances that services were improved with immediate effect to protect potentially vulnerable young people is an example of this. Also, scrutiny reviews with findings to improve policies on pavement parking and communal cleaning and recommendations for improved communication and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities via a better understanding of Equality Impact Assessments are just some of the examples of scrutiny work done this year to improve services where there may currently be a negative impact.

I must convey my thanks to the chairs of the scrutiny commissions in leading the work of scrutiny through their commissions throughout the year. I'd also like to acknowledge all commission members for their input in ensuring the scrutiny process effectively examined decisions and processes, ensuring efficient and quality services are provided to residents of the city. Finally I'd like to thank the City Mayor and the Executive for providing information to scrutiny throughout the year and for taking on board suggestions and recommendations by scrutiny to improve services.

I hope to see effective scrutiny continue in the coming years as we face the challenge to make efficiency savings, whilst protecting services for those in most need.

Councillor Mohammed Dawood





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ST MARTINS WEST

Introduction

Scrutiny is an essential part of local government to ensure that the council and its partners remain effective and accountable. The Centre for Public Scrutiny define scrutiny as “the activity by one elected or appointed organisation or office examining and monitoring all or part of the activity of a public sector body with the aim of improving the quality of public services. A public sector body is one that carries out public functions or spends public money. Scrutiny ensures that executives are held accountable for their decisions, that their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public and that there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve public policy.”

For the year 2014-15, the council had an Overview Select Committee and seven scrutiny commissions to cover all parts of the council business and that of its partners, such as local health providers, the police and voluntary and community sector organisations amongst others. Whilst there are specific committees, work is often cross-cutting and therefore this report of the Overview and Select Committee has opted to split the areas, for the purposes of this report, into the themes set out in the City Mayor’s Delivery Plan.

There has been a considerable amount of work done in scrutiny this year via reports to meetings, reviews, call-ins and task groups. Through information received and evidence gathered there are often recommendations made to the Council’s Executive and its partners for improvements to policies and services and/or to consider policy changes with them being considered and in some cases adopted.

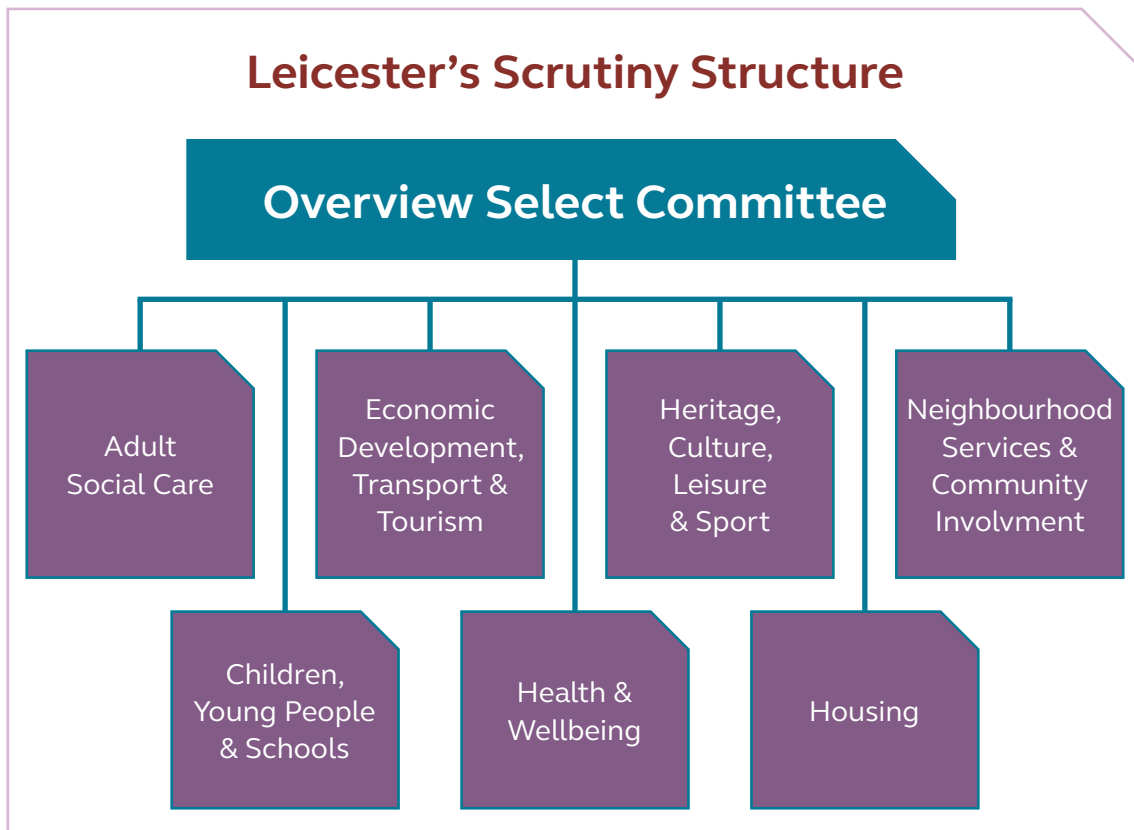
This report picks out some of the highlights for the key areas of work covered by scrutiny in 2014/15. There are a number of other items that aren’t mentioned but were considered by scrutiny and all pieces of work including detailed outcomes can be found on the Council’s website from the following link:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories>.

Contact

For more information please contact the Scrutiny Team on **0116 4546340** or email scrutiny@leicester.gov.uk

Membership of Scrutiny Commissions in 2014-15



The following is a list of the commissions for 2014-15 and the members that sat on each committee:

Overview Select Committee

CHAIR: Councillor **Mohammed Dawood**

VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Lynn Senior**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Lucy Chaplin, Adam Clarke, Michael Cooke, Ross Grant, Patrick Kitterick, Paul Newcombe, Abdul Osman, Nigel Porter, Baljit Singh, Sue Waddington, Paul Westley** and **Ross Willmott**

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Lucy Chaplin**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Vijay Singh Riyait**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Dawn Alfonso, Elly Cutkelvin, Mohammed Dawood, Patrick Kitterick** and **Ross Willmott**

Standing Invitee: Healthwatch Leicester representative (**Philip Parkinson**)

Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Ross Willmott**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Malcolm Unsworth**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Culdipp Singh Bhatti, Adam Clarke, Virginia Cleaver, George Cole, Ross Grant** and **Dr Lynne Moore**

Co-opted Members: **Bernard Monaghan** (Roman Catholic Diocese), **Carolyn Lewis** (Church of England Diocese), **Mohammed Alauddin Al-Azad** Parent Governor (Primary / Special Needs)

Standing Invitees: **Arshad Daud, Brahmpreet Kaur Gulati, Yash Sharma, Ryanvir Singh** (Youth Reps), **Rabiha Hannan** (Muslim Faith Rep), **Anu Kapur** (Leicester Secular Society), **Peter Flack** (Teaching Unions), **Gary Garner** (Unison, Union Rep)

Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Sue Waddington**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Rashmi Joshi**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Harshad Bhavsar, Ted Cassidy, Luis Fonseca, Nigel Porter, Vijay Singh Riyait** and **Gurinder Sandhu**

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Michael Cooke**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Elly Cutkelvin**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Deepak Bajaj, Lucy Chaplin, Anne Glover, Ross Grant, Deborah Sangster** and **Rob Wann**

Standing Invitee: Healthwatch Leicester representative (**Surinder Sharma**)

Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Abdul Osman**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Sundip Meghani**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Deepak Bajaj, Dr Susan Barton, Wayne Naylor, Paul Newcombe** and **Bill Shelton**

Housing Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Paul Newcombe**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Dawn Alfonso**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Hanif Aqbany, Rashmi Joshi, Mian Mayat, Veejay Patel, Barbara Potter** and **Paul Westley**

Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission

CHAIR: Councillor **Baljit Singh**
VICE CHAIR: Councillor **Culdipp Singh Bhatti**

MEMBERS

Councillors: **Dr Shofiqul Chowdhury, Stephen Corral, Iqbal Desai, Inderjit Gugnani** and **Sue Waddington**

A place to do business

The first of nine priority areas in the City Mayor's delivery plan; this area is focused around how the council works with the business, public, voluntary and community sectors to respond to the economic challenges the city faces.

The focus here is to support start-up businesses to be sustainable, increase the skills base of people into training and employment and create new job opportunities.



Areas of work undertaken

Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Sport Scrutiny Commission looked at the development of the King Richard III Visitor Centre, receiving regular updates before and after it was opened. Having considered visitor numbers and charges, sustainability and local impacts, e.g. car parking, the main recommendations were to monitor progress and to encourage more schools / young people to visit the Centre.

Economic Development, Transport and Tourism (EDTT) Scrutiny Commission reviewed progress of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) since its establishment in 2010. The Commission noted the view that the City Deal element of the LLEP programme was not as flexible as first indicated by the Government, however the overall view was that the LLEP had started to work effectively across the communities it was set up to serve, and is delivering significant capital and social programmes, the latter based on European funding schemes.

EDTT Scrutiny Commission also reviewed the Tourism Action Plan following earlier scrutiny work (reporting in December 2013), which made a series of recommendations about the tourism strategy for Leicester. The City Centre Director reported to the Commission that all the recommendation from the Commission's previous report into tourism in the city had been incorporated into the final Tourism Action Plan which was welcomed and it was agreed to review the plan in 12 months.

In-depth review

A review into employment, skills and training was carried out by EDTT Scrutiny Commission. The review considered the transition from education to employment, provision and value of training and apprenticeships; the role of European Social Funds in supporting social inclusion and employment support programmes and a range of work opportunities for young people, women, who continue to be under-represented in the workforce and the value and impact of adult education.

The Task group found there was concern about the employment rates of women within the Leicester economy and that wage rates and career progression opportunities for many young people in their first decade in the work market are too poor to allow for economic progression and this is a significant problem within the local and national economy. Other recommendations can be found on the website. The Commission has asked for a response to the recommendations which will come back to a future meeting.

Getting about in Leicester

With a growing population in the city this area prioritises the need to have an effective traffic management network. This includes having effective road maintenance and an efficient public transport network which is technologically advanced and up to date. Provision for cyclists and pedestrians is also important ensuring that they can get around the city safely.

Areas of work undertaken

The ten year Cycle Action Plan (2014-2024) was brought to the EDTT Scrutiny Commission. The primary target in the action plan is to double the number of every day cyclists by 2018 and again by 2023, with a cycling modal share of 10% city centre traffic by 2024. It also incorporates wider aims such as delivering an infrastructure network of high capacity, quality cycle tracks along main road corridors.

The Commission supported the Action Plan but asked that greater clarity be given on the enforcement of unlawful pavement cycling and for enhanced engagement with business communities and schools and colleges in promoting cycling.

In-depth review

EDTT Scrutiny Commission also continued their review to look at the impact of pavement parking on vulnerable pedestrians, and resolutions to improve the issue. Via a task group the commission took evidence from departmental officers, interest groups including VISTA and the private sector and also held an online consultation and invited pictures to illustrate problems. Information was requested from and shared with other authorities and included a site visit to Slough where

large-scale parking enforcement has come into force.

The review found that this is a real social problem, but no single solution is possible due to the street configurations (many are too narrow to allow for pavement parking, for example). Stronger enforcement by police (in relation to enforcement) and TRO regulations by the council would help and changes to national regulatory framework are required.

After a series of recommendations were made by the commission the department and task group continued to work in partnership by working with ward councillors to identify pilot areas for the introduction of pavement parking regulatory schemes. Currently two areas have been identified and scrutiny will continue working with the department, members and local communities to identify further areas for the introduction of a pavement parking ban, where appropriate.



A low carbon city

Reducing the city's carbon footprint is another key priority and the aim is to reduce to reduce greenhouse emissions from the council's own operations, from transport in Leicester by promoting sustainable methods of travel, and to reduce the emissions from homes and businesses.

Areas of work undertaken

A draft of the Air Quality action plan was considered by members of the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commissions at a briefing by the Deputy Mayor. Following the briefing the plan went out to public consultation.

A further examination of the plan, along with a summary of comments received during the course of the consultation will come back to scrutiny. There will also be consideration of the way in which health and transport objectives are aligned and how objectives and targets within the action plan can be set and programmed.

A petition was submitted to Overview Select Committee asking the Council to review and resolve the traffic chaos / congestion caused by the various improvements made to the city centre and surrounding roads. The petitioners argued that if people did not take up alternative methods of travel, such as cycling, walking or using buses, congestion remained which resulted in pollution that in turn impacts on public health.

The Executive disagreed that congestion had increased, stating instead that it was unchanged. However, it was acknowledged that a balance had to be maintained between the needs of motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, traders and the wider city, which it was recognised was not easy to achieve.

The Committee suggested that it would be helpful if the City Mayor could set out all of the plans for change over the next three to four years. This would enable people to see how they worked together and they could then comment in the full knowledge of what was trying to be achieved. It also could mean that situations were avoided where plans had to be changed as people were not aware of the context of individual proposals.



The built and natural environment

With the discovery of Richard III in the city there has been a real focus on the city and its heritage, particularly in the last year. Initiatives such as Connecting Leicester have made a real effort to promote the heritage and connect shopping, leisure, heritage, housing and transport facilities in the city.

Preservation of historic buildings, investment into parks and open spaces and new regeneration programmes such as Jubilee Square, Cathedral Gardens, Richard III visitor centre and the market redevelopment are all included in this section.

Areas of work undertaken

The Bereavement Services and Burial Space Strategy were considered by members of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Sport Scrutiny Commission. The focus for members was the Leicester Water-Based Site for Scattering of Ashes and the Burial Space Strategy. The commission recommendations included improvements to Saffron Hill Cemetery and to the signage at the Leicester Water-Based Site for Scattering Ashes. An improved service was felt to have been established through the process and was reported in local media.

The Housing Scrutiny Commission scrutinised proposals to changes in the Responsive Housing Repairs service, including a new requirement on tenants to take more responsibility for repairs. Evidence was provided by officers and tenant representatives (and praise) about improvements to the service. Members endorsed the improvements to the service, and the use of benchmarking with other authorities to help improve the service, but expressed concern about potential craft job losses.

Housing Scrutiny Commission also reviewed proposed rent and other charge changes and the associated capital and revenue programmes. Evidence was gathered from tenants representatives and from reports. Members and tenants supported the proposals for a 2.2% increase as providing a fair balance between cost increases and investment in the community; however one proposed charge increase – for communal cleaning – was suspended to await the outcome of the communal cleaning scrutiny task group review. The impact of increased charges will need to be assessed in the light of benefit ceilings and other pressure on tenants.



Affordable new housing is high on the list of commitments for this council. The Housing Scrutiny Commission looked at the supply of new affordable homes as contrasted with the pressure on social housing to provide accommodation in the city. The commission heard that 750 new homes a year were required and around 11,000 people were on the housing register. Loss of units through Right to Buy was reported at 148 for 2012/13 and 173 for 2013/14. Members were pleased with the commitment to new-build, but were concerned about the impact of new developments on local facilities and on school places.

The details of the Waterside Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) came to the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Commission as part of the wider community and city consultation. The information received identified a strategy for the redevelopment, through land assembly, partnership working and outside investment, of the area near Frog Island which has experienced severe decline, mainly through decades of de-industrialisation.

The Commission supported the strategy underlying the SPD and much of the detail.

There was concern about how the development would impact on local facilities, and particularly the provision of primary school places.

Members were also very conscious that the development will have an impact outside the proposed SPD area as well as within it, and therefore recommended the fullest possible consultation with local communities, residents and businesses as well as local ward councillors, about both the planning proposal and the delivery plan for the project. The commission also felt that Repton Street (and the bottom

of Bonchurch Street) and the area around Rally Park should be included within the zone of change as the area requires improvement, investment and redevelopment.

In-depth review

The Pitch Allocations Policy for Traveller Sites was looked into jointly by the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism and Housing scrutiny commissions. The report on allocations was in response to the original joint task group report.

The task group review involved visits to sites within Leicester and further afield. The reports arose over concerns by members about the site conditions at Meynell's Gorse and the poor relationships between tenants and site staff, including Multi Agency Travellers Unit (MATU) staff. Two new sites are being opened in the city in 2015. Additionally the government has provided £1.4m to redevelop and modernise the existing Meynell's Gorse site. Looking forward a key issue is to establish and maintain good relations on traveller sites. A range of recommendations, including education support for children and families on the sites, and the setting up of site-based liaison committees should be considered.



A healthy and active city

With Leicester having poor health on average in comparison to the rest of the country it is important to provide excellent healthcare and promote healthier lifestyles to close the gap on the rest of the country.

Scrutiny focusses on specific areas of health and healthcare in the city determining how well the city's strategies and facilities cater for the health needs of people in Leicester. This involves calling to account all health partners in the city.

Areas of work undertaken

The Health and Wellbeing (HWB) scrutiny commission has special powers built into statute that allows them to call health service providers to account and to scrutinise their performance. This was activated recently to investigate the Highfield's Medical Centre relocation. Members heard evidence from NHS England, Healthwatch Leicester, GP Practices and the Patient Participation Group on behalf of affected patients. This topic also attracted local media interest.

The commission concluded that the relocation of the Highfields Medical Centre did have a negative impact on the patients due to lack of consultation and the short timescales involved meant patients had little time to arrange an alternative surgery. The commission recommended for health partners to consider developing a workable protocol to prevent a recurrence of similar situations.

The commission previously used its powers to make a referral to the Secretary of State for Health on the issue of Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Review. Following this, in 2015 the Commission responded jointly with the Council's Executive Lead, to the NHS England new consultation on Congenital Heart Disease Review. These comments



were sent directly to the NHS England Review team. The NHS England Review Programme lead officers attended a commission meeting on 25th March 2015 to outline the results of the consultation.

A priority for the council is to promote healthy and active lifestyles. One topic that attracted local media attention was the Golf Courses Consultation which was scrutinised by the Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Sport Scrutiny Commission.



Site visits were conducted by members to the two council golf courses under review, Humberstone Heights and Western Park, and the members heard evidence from golf club representatives. The commission concluded that the decision to close Western Park will provide savings, but a further outcome should be to improve resources at Humberstone Heights Golf Course which has a higher usage.

The Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Sport Scrutiny Commission also scrutinised Leisure Centre Gym facilities. The aim of the Commission was to compare local authority and private sector gyms market provision. Members conducted site visits to Aylestone, Evington and Spence Street Leisure Centres, following this they concluded that there was a high usage for local authority run gyms, but there was a need for improvements and investment in order to compete with private sector providers. The Executive will reflect on the findings as part of the council's Leisure facilities review.

The Housing Scrutiny Commission looked at a health related pilot scheme in the context of it providing help and support to private rented sector tenants. A briefing to members of

the commission demonstrated how interventions in the physical fabric of a home could have positive health benefits which had a big overall financial benefit in terms of improved health and reduced healthcare costs. The Commission agreed that the scheme should be supported in principle.

Joint scrutiny work by the Health & Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commissions played an important role this year in carrying out some effective reviews, such as holding a special inquiry into the Future of Healthwatch Leicester. The aim was to determine why the Healthwatch Leicester board and Voluntary Action Leicestershire (VAL) had failed to novate a contract. The commission found that there had been a breakdown of communications across all parties, but in particular the shortcomings by VAL in blocking Healthwatch Leicester board in moving forward. The review recommended that VAL must novate the contract as soon as possible in order to move forward. The novation took place at the beginning of May 2015.

Developing Joint working protocols is seen as good practice and a way to improve partnership working and this has been a positive achievement

for scrutiny this year. In 2014 Leicester Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission signed a Joint working protocol with Healthwatch Leicester to improve partnership working on health scrutiny issues. The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commissions invited the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to a meeting to discuss sharing intelligence and improvements for future working. The recommendation called for a protocol agreement as the way forward.

Members of both commissions also undertook to hold a special inquiry into delays that patients in Leicester were experiencing when travelling to and from hospital via hospital transport. Evidence was gathered from Arriva Transport Solutions and Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group. Members found that there were serious failures in relation to targets with patients often left stranded for hours. The main recommendation was that if improvements were not made, the contract should be terminated. The commission referred this to the Health and Wellbeing Board to monitor progress.

In-depth review

In light of the recent national Francis Inquiry into the failings at Staffordshire Hospital, the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission undertook a review of its own health scrutiny arrangements. This 'fit for purpose' review was led by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The main recommendations related to:

- Improved public and community involvement
- Clarification of relationships
- Effective prioritisation of issues to scrutinise and member skills development.

Following this an implementation Plan has been agreed to take forward the improvements to future health scrutiny work. This has been fully supported by the Executive lead.

Another detailed review by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission looked at Mental Health Services for Black British Young Men in Leicester. The objective was to determine the effectiveness of the service provision in Leicester.

Evidence was gathered from Voluntary Community Sector, Police Service, Health Sector Organisations, Justice System, Leicester City Council Commissioning and Public Health.

The Commission found that this service had not improved over the last 10 years and there was a still a lack of targeted services, and poor data collection processes for Black British Young Men in Leicester.

The recommendations called upon service providers and commissioners to improve services to Black British Young Men in Leicester.

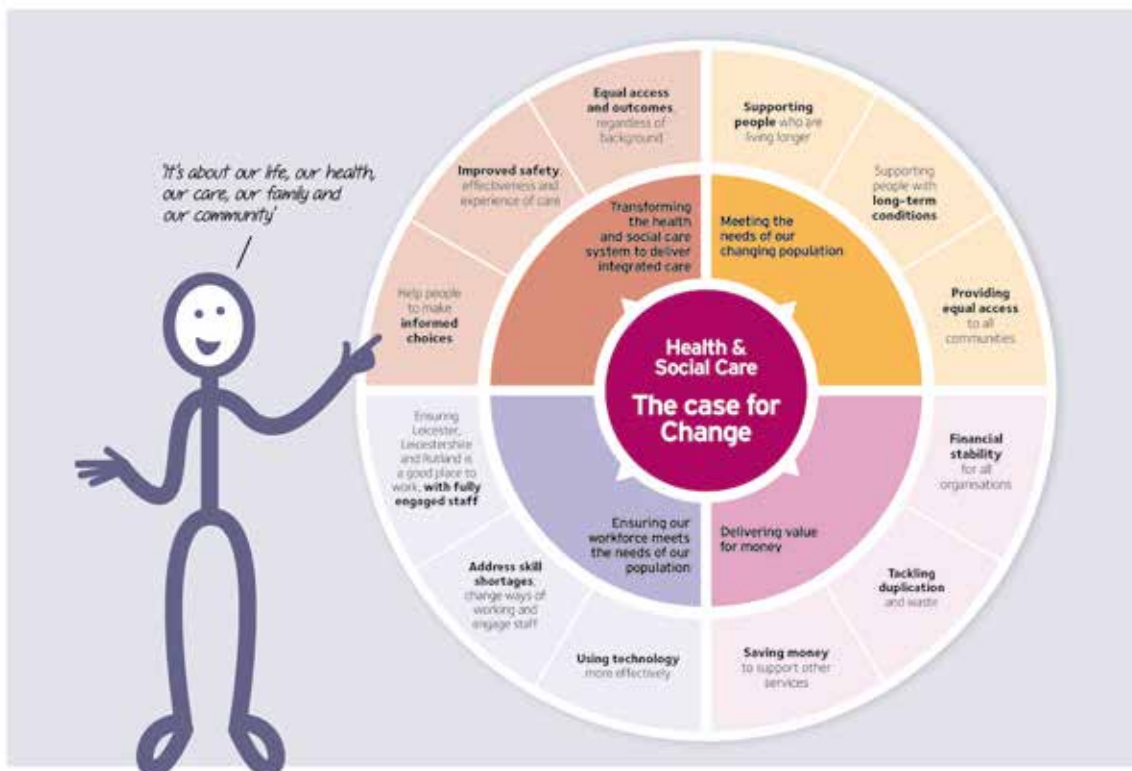
Providing care and support

With an ageing population the care provided for older people needs to be adequate for the needs of people and this is moving away from the traditional social support services and towards promoting independence to allow people to live in their own home for longer. These services are also being increasingly aligned to healthcare to ensure a greater transition for older people between the two when they require health and/or social care. As well as users of services there is also a need to ensure that carers are well supported.

Recent cases of abuse against children and young people across the country also highlight the importance of adequate protection of vulnerable young people and ensuring that they have improved outcomes dependant on their individual needs.

There is also a need to support people who are at risk of harm and abuse to stay safe and to prevent

homelessness and provide appropriate support to people who become homeless. These are some of the most vulnerable people in society and it is important that policies and services are fit for purpose and any changes made deliver quality services to meet the needs of people, whilst balancing against tight resource availability.



Areas of work under taken

Members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission reviewed the status of residents during their move from the council's Elderly Person's Homes that closed into new accommodation and how they felt after moving. This involved continued monitoring of the individual impact on residents and there was also monitoring of the sale of the homes and the commissioning process.

The Commission found that most residents had been happy with their move with only a select few reportedly not settled but this will continue to be monitored.

The sale of the first two homes has gone through with payments received in full ahead of the agreed date.

The commission also explored the costs of adult social care (ASC) staff in services external to the council being paid the national living wage (NLW) and therefore fully adopting Unison's Ethical

Care Charter. Costings were drawn up and presented to the commission and representation was heard from a provider of residential care.

It was found that the total additional cost would be £10m to have all staff receive the NLW and the implication for the council, would mean changing how funds are allocated across ASC if adopted. The commission recommended that an action plan be devised to consider paying ASC staff the living wage with the action plan indicating progress towards being a NLW city for all ASC staff. There should also be consideration of how other authorities had implemented the NLW.

Progress of the Better Care Fund has also been monitored through reports to the Adult Social Care scrutiny commission, which considered progress against indicators used to measure outcomes. It was found that current progress was good and that the city council was thought to be leading the



way as an example of best practice. The commission did request that the equality impact is monitored throughout the process and that looking forward, the public needs have to be considered and effectiveness of progress needs to be assured and this will be monitored by scrutiny.

The Jay and Casey reports highlighted a number of issues with regards to the poor safeguarding of children in Rotherham and Rochdale and highlighted a national issue. Children, Young People and Schools scrutiny commission considered the current status in the city and were given an update on the council's procedures to safeguarding of children in the city and how we are equipped to deal with the problems in Rotherham. It was agreed then that findings would be considered at a future hearing as members felt there was a need to know what action was being taken in the city and how the council was performing.

A video presentation was received from Dear Albert Social Enterprise Project to the ASC scrutiny commission, highlighting the support they give to substance misuse users.

Members concluded that this was a successful project that had been well received and was growing and, recommended that it is used as a blueprint for future projects and highlighted as good practice. The Chair nominated the project to receive an Honoured Citizen Award which was presented to them by the Lord Mayor.

The Housing scrutiny commission received a report which looked at temporary provision for teenage parents as part of the homelessness policy. The current arrangements for leasing support accommodation ends in July 2015 and future support will be provided at Border House. Whilst the report was accepted, members signalled

that they wished for a further report on the new arrangements, and a possible site visit, in future.

In-depth review

ASC Scrutiny members have considered preliminary designs and concepts for the new intermediate care facility building and made suggestions to ensure it is a sustainable building that meets the needs of users. Members also suggested that it should be a one storey building instead of two and to avoid having a café as it is often found they don't work. The proposed café has since been removed from the designs following consultations with scrutiny members and others, but the building will remain as two storeys as it is considered financially and logistically more viable. The commission will continue to monitor progress.

Our children and young people

The aims of this priority are for every child to be safe, loved and live a happy and healthy childhood, free from harm and given every chance to pursue their aspirations and fulfil their potential. The aim is to do this by:

- Improving children's health and reducing the gap between the most and least deprived.
- Raise achievement in Leicester to national averages and higher, and narrow the gap between the lowest achievers and other children and young people.
- Develop an integrated children's workforce that is confident and capable of intervening early – thinking flexibly across job roles, functioning across organisational boundaries, supporting children in the whole family context.
- Reduce and mitigate the effects of family poverty on children's life chances in Leicester.

Areas of work undertaken

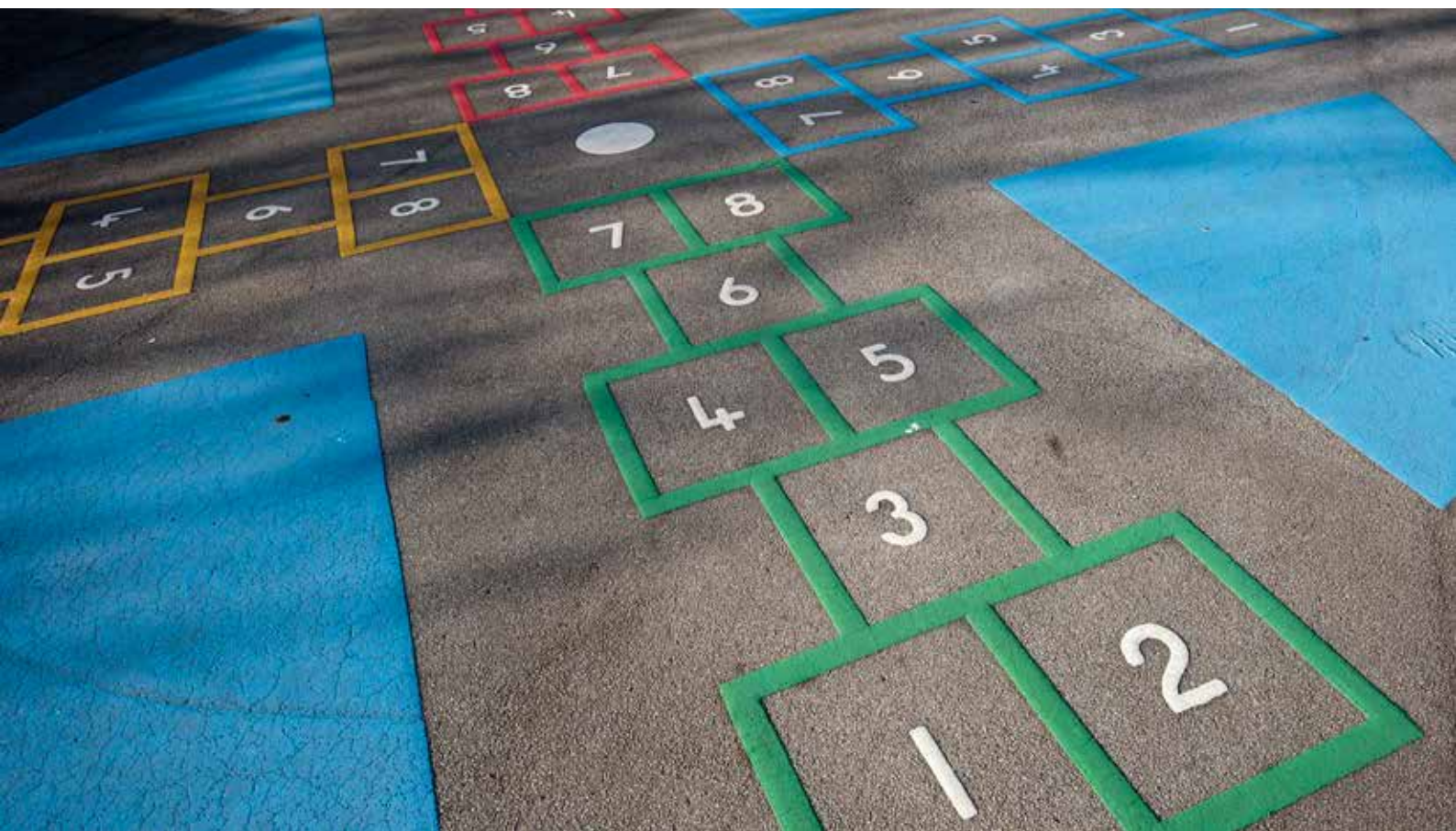
The Children, Young People and Schools (CYPS) and Health and Wellbeing scrutiny commissions considered the proposed temporary relocation of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to Coalville. The Chairs of the commissions sent letters to the Chief Executive and Chair of the Leicester Partnership NHS Trust to highlight the concerns about spending large sums of money on a temporary unit which is located away from the city (where most of the users were from).

The unit's move to Coalville was only temporarily. Members recommended that a permanent base should be in the city as most of the users are from there. It was agreed to revisit this issue in a year and that there was a need for improvement in engagement with the

Council when considering a permanent base in the city.

CYPS scrutiny also received information on education attainment results in key stages 2 and 4. It was noted that the results in some schools were better than others but the good progress being made was commended. The commission endorsed the aspirational targets and asked that the effectiveness of the improvement action plan be brought back to scrutiny in the future.

The Chair of CYPS scrutiny highlighted the need for a joined up reporting mechanism on outcomes and performance across the service and the commission recommended that it received regular quarterly performance reports. This would allow for better scrutiny of the service and a better



understanding of issues facing it. This was agreed to come to scrutiny in the coming year.

The commission also heard that a number of pupils had been allocated to schools above the statutory walking distance as part of Primary Place Planning. The situation had arisen partly because of late applications for school admissions and partly due to parental choice. Where this had been the case it was confirmed that support was being offered to those pupils and their parents and this was supported by the commission.

In-depth review

Members of CYPS scrutiny were invited to join members of Overview Select committee to consider the OFSTED report into the inspection of children's services which rated the service as inadequate. Following in-depth evidence gathering from all parties, the scrutiny commission made a number of recommendations for improvement, which echoed those in the OFSTED report. It was agreed that the action plan for improvement and an update on progress would continue to come to scrutiny in the coming year and beyond.

Our neighbourhoods and communities

Neighbourhood facilities are extremely important in allowing people to access services and facilities locally. The council has considered ways of making services in the community more effective and efficient by reducing costs and improving services through the better use of buildings, joining up services locally and by helping local neighbourhoods to run facilities from some of these buildings themselves.

It is also important to communicate effectively the range of welfare reforms that are taking place and reduce any impact and this is also a priority in this area. There is also an aim to ensure council housing is of good quality and energy efficient.

Environmental and enforcement services to help keep people safe, tackle anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and substance misuse, and keep the city clean and green through waste collection and recycling, and tackling fly tipping are also a priority in this section.

The Housing Scrutiny Commission regularly scrutinised particular issues relating to welfare reforms. For example the proposed national Universal Credit System and the bedroom tax was considered in relation to negative impacts such as rent arrears and evictions from council homes.

The roll-out of the council's transforming neighbourhood services programme was considered by the Neighbourhoods Services & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission. Main findings were that the review in





the south of the city was completed successfully, and that clear community consultations were taking place as the review for the West of the city was undertaken. The recommendations included a request to the Assistant Mayor (Neighbourhood Services) to consider whether facilities other than the two rooms currently identified at Fosse Library could be used to house the music library.

In relation to substance misuse in the city, members of the Neighbourhood Services & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission looked at the issue of a City-wide drinking ban order. Evidence to the Commission included representations from the local community and ward members voicing particular concerns about the problems being addressed.

Members were concerned that street drinkers should have access to appropriate support measures. It was noted that the police were not obliged to enforce a city-wide drinking ban. But the measure would stop displacement of street drinking from one zone to an area where no street drinking ban was in place.

Main commission recommendations were:

- To support the implementation of a city-wide street drinking order, provided such an order is balanced with the needs of habitual drinkers;
- That the Assistant Mayor (Neighbourhood Services) be asked to advise the Parks service of the concerns raised above about the maintenance of Onslow Park and Cedar Park;
- That the Head of Community Safety be asked to provide regular monitoring reports on the implementation of the city-wide street drinking order; and
- That the Assistant Mayor (Neighbourhood Services) be asked to advise the Commission of any response from the Executive to the implementation of a city-wide street drinking order.

In-depth review

In relation to good quality housing and a clean city, the Housing Scrutiny Commission carried out a detailed review of the Communal Cleaning Service in tenant and leaseholders' blocks of flats. The commission examined tenant satisfaction; value for money and effectiveness of the service and the relationship between the service provider (City Cleaning Services), Housing and tenants.

A task group was set up to work with the housing department; leaseholders; cleansing services; members and tenant representatives. Tenant representatives were an integral part of the task group. Tenant surveys and site inspections were undertaken. Evidence was taken from a co-operative to advise on different ways of working and organising the workforce, perhaps based on community enterprises.

The Task Group found that the service needed a radical overhaul. The service experienced difficulties by being required to take back the work when a private company walked away from the

contract. Tenants were largely happy with the service and value for money. The final report, with recommendations, was approved by OSC in March 2015. Members considered that a complete renegotiation of the communal cleaning contract arrangements was required.

A working group should:

- (i) define what areas should be covered by a communal cleaning service
- (ii) re-calibrate work patterns to ensure enough time to do the required work. This should include further investigation into alternative frequency of cleaning associated with more times being allowed to do the work
- (iii) establish new cleaning standards reflecting current conditions. This should include investigating the cost and value of re-introducing annual and other period deep-cleans.

The tenants and leaseholders forum could be a suitable vehicle for developing these issues, with the cleaning team joining it for the specific programme of developing new contract structures.

A strong and democratic council

It is important for the public to have confidence and value the work of the council and also for them to be able to participate in decisions affecting them. As such ensuring the way the council's work supports openness and accountability, communicating effectively, and encouraging the people of Leicester to participate in the democratic process and in the shaping of services is an important priority.

Also working in partnership with business, the voluntary and community sector, community organisations, the education sector, faith groups and unions to maximise the benefits this can deliver, and a commitment to fair practices and to tackling inequality of outcomes and discrimination are important factors in this area of work.

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Area of work undertaken

Overview Select Committee (OSC) called-in a decision on the Voluntary and Community Sector Review. They heard evidence from a number of organisations currently funded. Members raised concerns about the impact of undertaking a competitive tendering exercise for such work and the potential impacts of the review in terms of community cohesion. OSC concluded by asking the City Mayor to re-consider the decision.

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission received an update on the status of ward community meetings. It heard that officers will continue to identify methods of positive engagement with local residents such as via social media and that the impact of changes to the ward boundaries will be monitored. Commission members recommended for community meetings to contribute £500 towards additional publicity for meetings and to continue finding ways of improving the administration of grants and supporting the meetings.

In-depth review

OSC set up a task group to review Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs), particularly those relating to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) communities, looking to see if improvements could be made to ensure greater consideration of LGBT issues in future. After a series of meetings with officers and members of the LGBT Centre the Task Group found that a methodology should be developed for capturing demographics of the LGBT population in Leicester and that EIAs were improving but required better monitoring and that there was a disjointed training plan and a that a mandatory e-learning programme should be developed.

OSC endorsed a range of actions for scrutiny to look at issues further in particular departments and called for a robust training plan to provide a more joined up approach in educating employees of LGBT issues. The outcome of this should be a better service delivery and support to LGBT communities.



SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS 2015-2016

Overview Select Committee

Chair: **Cllr Singh**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Dempster**

Scrutiny Commissions

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Cleaver**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Bajaj**

Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Dr Moore**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Cole**

Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Willmott**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Joshi**

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Chaplin**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Fonseca**

Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Dr Barton**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Unsworth**

Housing Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Newcombe**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Alfonso**

Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission

Chair: **Cllr Dawood**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Gugnani**

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