



Leicester
City Council

Environmental Budget 2026/2027

Housing Scrutiny Commission:

Date of meeting: 9 July 2026

Lead member: Cllr Cutkelvin

Lead director: Chris Burgin

Report Author:

Gurjit Minhas – Head of Service, Housing Division

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the amount of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding that will be invested on housing estates across the city in 2026/2027. It is estimated that over **£3m** is allocated each year, which includes the **£200k** for the Environmental Budget. The Environmental Budget is distributed across the three housing districts (Appendix 1), South, East and West, therefore, each district is allocated approximately **£66k**. To identify proposals for environmental schemes, consultation is carried out with tenants (including members of the Tenant's Scrutiny Panel), local ward Cllrs, and housing staff.
- 1.2 In addition to this, the Grounds Maintenance budget for housing estates is **£1.1m**, **£1.2m** is spent on the Estate Warden service, **£315k** is spent on the Neighbourhood Improvement Operatives and an additional **£200k** has been set aside to carry out a rolling painting programme in communal areas in flatted accommodation.

2 Recommended actions / decisions.

- 2.1 To note and agree the contents of the report

3 Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement.

- 3.1 The Tenants Scrutiny Panel, tenants and residents on estates, Ward Cllrs, housing staff and local stakeholders have input into the proposals.

4. Background

4.1 Environmental Budget

Over the years the Environmental Budget of **£200k** has been used to invest in council housing estates, to improve parking, green areas, communal areas and to introduce measures to reduce anti-social behaviour. Improvements have been made to make the environment safer and to help improve the quality of life for tenants, making them places where people want to live.

4.2 To identify proposals for each district, housing staff have carried out consultation and engagement exercises with tenants, local ward councillors, local stakeholders and other staff teams.

4.3 This year we have also had feedback from the **Tenant's Scrutiny Panel** accompanied by Engagement Officers, inspecting estates and identifying improvements in their localities.

4.4 Grounds Maintenance

The Housing Division contributes **£1.1m** to the grounds maintenance service to look after housing areas across the city, this involves mowing all the grass on housing land, cutting back shrubs and maintaining greenery. The service level agreement includes grass edging, weed sprays of hard areas and pruning of shrubs twice a year.

4.5 Estate Warden Service

The Housing Division contribute over **£1.2m** towards the estate warden service. Teams of wardens work on housing estates across the city, clearing rubbish, fly tipping and maintaining the estates to keep them tidy.

4.6 Neighbourhood Improvement Work

The Neighbourhood Improvement Team helps to bring people back into employment, by offering 6 to 12-month work placements. The housing division invests **£315k** to provide this opportunity to 10, Neighbourhood Improvement Operatives. The team works across the city carrying out work such as clearing communal garage sites, edging path and walkways, cutting back overgrown trees, hedges and bushes that can be a hazard in public areas. At the request of housing officers, the team will clear and tidy gardens of vulnerable tenants who are unable to do it themselves.

4.7 Communal Area Painting

An additional **£200k** has also been set aside per annum to paint the communal areas in flatted accommodation. A rolling programme has been developed to identify and schedule in blocks that are most in need of painting.

4.7 Public Realm Works Project

The public realm works project which started in 2020, focusing on the St Matthews and St Peters area of the city has come to an end, with the completion of the demolition of the Vostock garages. This project implemented the City Mayor's overall commitment to invest **£5m** on these estates, bringing about significant improvements and increasing safety for residents.

Garage site converted into accessible parking for residents in (Wycliffe Ward)



5. What we did last year - Below are some of the successful schemes completed from last year's **£200k Environmental Budget 2025/26**:

5.1 In the South District the funding is being used to introduce scooter stores for Sheltered Housing, which are in the process of being procured and a range of other estate improvements including the **installation of bollards at Kings Lock Close, Aylestone Ward**. Below are the pictures of below and after, as you can see this has made significant improvements to the estate.

Before - Kings Lock Close Aylestone Ward



After - Kings Lock Close Aylestone Ward



5.2 This has prevented parking and fly tipping on the grass which has led to positive feedback from residents and is helping to keep the area tidy.

5.3 In the West of the city some of the work carried out included installation of new security doors at Dupont Gardens in Mowmacre Ward. This scheme has proved to be

successful, the doors have improved the look of the flats and provided additional security to tenants which has reduced ASB in the area. We also funded a community food growing project in Mowmacre and made improvements to Norfolk House one of our sheltered housing schemes in Westcotes Ward.

Dupont Gardens Security Doors - Mowmacre Ward



Food Growing Project in Mowmacre Ward



Norfolk House New Benches – Westcotes Ward



New Fencing for Garden Area at Norfolk House – Westcotes Ward



5.4 This year's proposals have been collated by the District Managers who have consulted and liaised with ward Cllrs, tenants and housing staff. This year the Tenant's Scrutiny Panel have also identified proposals through carrying out patch walks on estates. The full list of all proposals put forward is at Appendix 2.

5.5 After all the proposals were collated, they were prioritised using the table at Appendix 3, to decide which proposals were viable to go forward. The evaluation considers the following housing priorities:

- **Cost** - This must be considered as the overall budget is £200k for the city
- **Need for investment** – Although all schemes proposed warrant investment, we do consider previous projects funded in the ward or if there is alternative funding being invested in the area, for example from Pride in Place or other funding streams. We also need to consider if the proposal is a housing responsibility and if it is appropriate to be funded by housing.
- **Support from tenants** – This is important as this funding comes from the Housing Revenue Account
- **Support from Ward Cllrs** – Constituents tend to raise their concerns with their Cllrs and Cllrs are aware of priorities in their wards.
- **Impact on Crime and disorder** – This is an important priority for tenants to help reduce ASB
- **Climate Change** – To minimise impact on climate change
- **Cost of living/ Place to live** – Some of the council housing estates are the most deprived areas in the city and anything we can do to support people with the cost of living is a priority and make areas more better places to live

5.6 Based on the scoring of 5 and above these are the final Environmental Budget proposals being for the city for 2026/27, which will keep the budget approximately to £200k:

South District Proposals with estimate costings 2026/27

- **South – Saffron, Braunstone and Eyres Monsell Wards** – Targeted estate clearance days, publicity and put on addition estate wardens to collect fly tipping and rubbish. - **£20k**
- **Saffron Ward**
 - **Zip Building** – Pushchair shelter requested by tenants and housing staff, currently tenants have no storage, and this is required for fire safety - **£3k**
 - **Zip Building** - Landscaping, realignment of fencing, installation of benches supported by tenants and housing staff, no play area for children – **£10k**
 - **Neston Road** - additional bins suggested by residents and Cllr Cutkelvin - **£200**
 - **St Andrews** – Estate Improvements including, painting of handrails and metal railing and replacement of benches in community area supported by Tenants and Cllr Cutkelvin – **£5k**

- **Eyres Monsell Ward**
 - **Sturdee Close** – Benches for residents suggested by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel - **£1k**
 - **Hesketh Avenue** – security bungalow lighting suggested by residents and community safety for security purposes - **£5k**
- **Braunstone and Rowley Fields Ward**
 - **Bowder House** – Replacement of signage requested by residents following consultation at the scheme- **£1.5k**
- **Castle Ward**
 - **Bob Trewick House** – Painting and install benches supported by residents and Cllr Sahu and Cllr Kitterick - **£6k**

The total spend for the South is estimated at **£62.5k**

East District Proposals and estimate costings 20206/27

- **Thurncourt Ward**
 - **Colhurst Way** – demolish garages and remove waste proposed by Cllr Aldred - **£16.5k**
 - **Thurncourt Road** - install CCTV in the shops to deter ASB proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£5k**
- **Troon Ward**
 - **Attingham Close** - timber fencing to create bin store, proposed by Cllr Cank and residents who is happy to support with £3000 of her ward funding, this will then cost a further - **£5.5k**
- **Wycliffe Ward**
 - **Multiple locations in St Matthews** – install shutters to bin stores to prevent smells and reduce pests in the summer, proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£18.5k**
 - **Manitoba and Edmonton Road** - Extend parking spaces, proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£10k**

The total spend for the East is therefore estimated at **£55.5k**

West District Proposals and estimated costings 2026/27

- **Abbey Ward**
 - **Closterdale Close** - Improvement on communal outdoor seating area to provide a better environment for tenants, identified by housing officer and tenants - **£8k**

- **Garth Avenue** – Improvements to flats, new communal doors, deep cleans, removal of overgrown shrubs, identified by tenants and housing staff - **£20k**
- **Wheatland Road** – continuation of food growing project run by Buzzroots supported by tenants - **£3.5k**

- **Beaumont Leys Ward**
 - **Peppercorn Close** – install knee rails to prevent cars parking on the grass, supported by Cllr Bhatia and residents **£10k**
 - **Trigo Close** – install bike rack identified by tenants in block - **£700**

- **Fosse Ward**
 - **Tudor Close** – Install fence with gate to parking area, residents have raised this through a petition, supported by Cllrs - **£10k**

- **Western Ward:**
 - **Dupont Gardens** – Continuation of security gate project, identified by Leicester Safer Partnership 6 years ago, ward Cllrs are in support to finish this project, this is estimated to cost - **£24k**
 - **Outwood Close** – Install knee rail to prevent parking on the grass identified by a Tenants Scrutiny Panel Member. - **£6.5k**

The total spend for the West is therefore estimated at **£73.7k**

5.7 With the help of the Tenants Scrutiny Panel we have involved more tenants than ever before in shaping the proposals put forward for this year's Environmental Budget. We have also had increased input from local ward Cllrs this year.

5.8 To help manage expectations in future we will invite people to put forward proposals that are within the range of £1k to 20k only, so that we are clear about the level of funding available. We will also advise tenants asking for communal cleaning to join the cleaning programme to be fair to all tenants paying for additional services.

5.9 Several of the proposals exceeding the funding available in the Environmental Budget this year will be considered for funding by the Pride in Place initiative. Please see details of this, contained in Appendix 2.

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

6.1 Financial implications

Finance-Capital Finance-Capital@leicester.gov.uk

In addition to the budget figures stated in this report, there is also £181k brought forward slippage from 2025/26 that can be utilised for community and environmental works. The spend on environmental works is monitored quarterly with the district managers.

Signed: Jade Draper, Principal Accountant HRA

Dated: 21 May 2026

6.2 Legal implications

legal.property legal.property@leicester.gov.uk

No implications

legal.commercial legal.commercial@leicester.gov.uk

Commercial Comments: Any procurement or commissioning activity should be in compliance with procurement rules and internal contract procedures rules therefore appropriate support and advice to be sought from Procurement and Legal Team as needed.

Signed: Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor, Commercial Legal Team

Dated: 14 May 2026

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This report outlines how the Environmental Budget and other investment will fund improvements on housing estates across the city in 2026/2027. The proposed schemes are expected to have a positive impact on residents across the city, particularly where they improve the safety, accessibility, and usability of communal spaces and estate environments. The proposals are expected to have a positive impact on residents with protected characteristics, particularly older people, disabled people and families with young children, by improving safety, accessibility and the general quality of communal estate area.

Signed: Equalities officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 18 May 2026

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There could be an impact on carbon emissions and embodied carbon associated with resurfacing, repainting, parking works and other similar environmental landscaping projects. The potentially negative impacts from these works may be mitigated by the improvements made to green spaces through landscaping, a reduction in damage to existing green spaces caused by fly-tipping and nuisance parking, and community involvement in schemes such as food growing and other measures to improve quality of life for local residents. Improving parking and creating additional parking spaces can either exacerbate car dependency or improve safety and reduce idling depending on the design and whether it simply increases car convenience or supports wider modal shift through safer streets and supporting active travel and transition to electric vehicles.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246

Dated: 14th May 2026

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

7. Background information and other papers: N/A

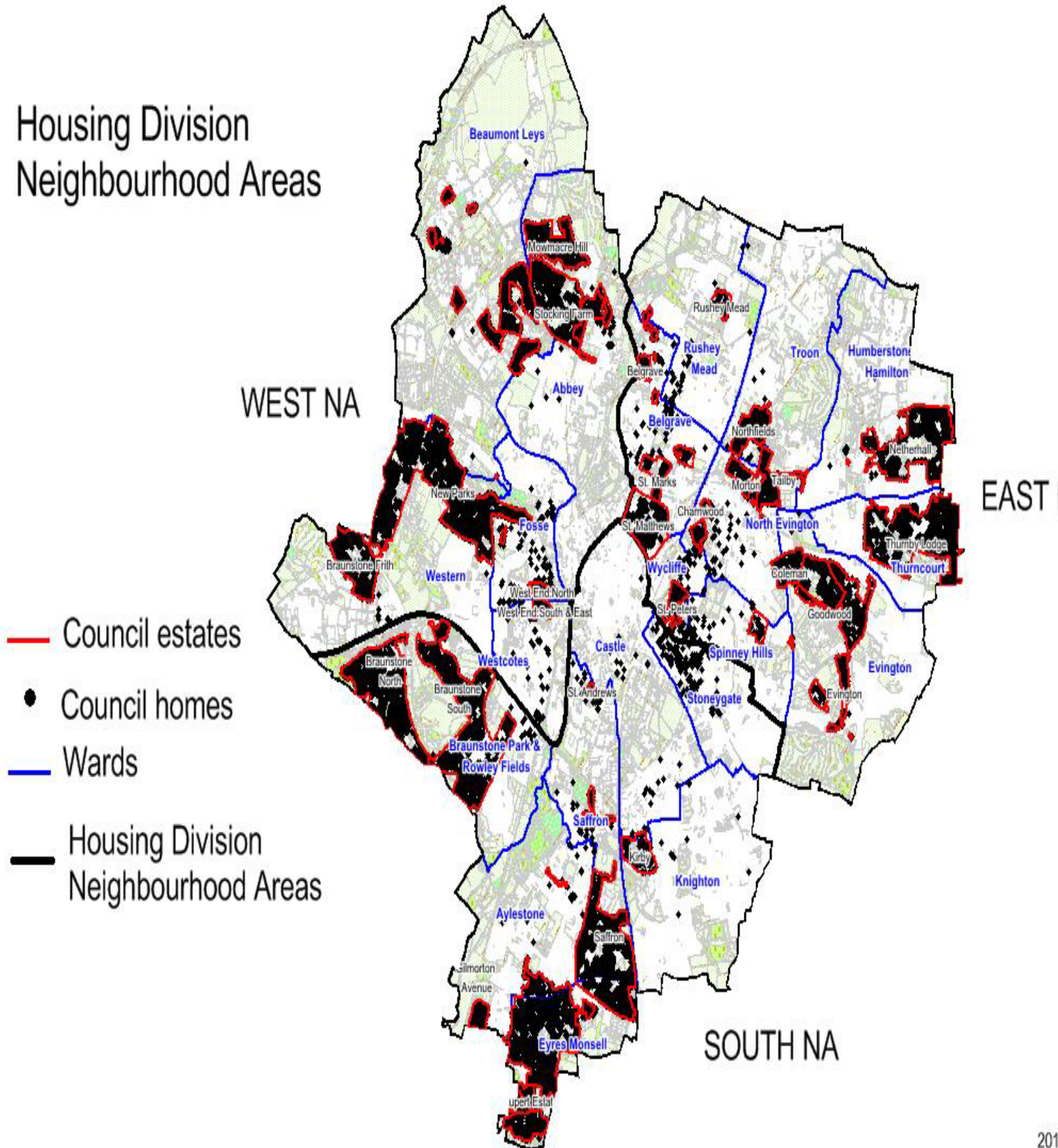
8. Summary of appendices: Appendices 1,2,3

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)? No

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why? No

Appendix 1

Housing Division Neighbourhood Areas



Full List of Proposals Collated from Consultations and Engagment:

South District Proposals and estimate costings 2026/27

- **South – Saffron, Braunstone and Eyres Monsell Wards** – Targeted estate clearance days, publicity and put on addition estate wardens to collect fly tipping and rubbish
- **Saffron Ward**
 - **Zip Building** – Pushchair shelter requested by tenants and housing staff, currently tenants have no storage, and this is required for fire safety - **£3k**
 - **Zip Building** - Landscaping, realignment of fencing, installation of benches supported by tenants and housing staff, no play area for children – **£10k**
 - **Neston Road** - additional bins suggested by Tenants Scrutiny Panel - **£1k**
 - **St Andrews** – Estate Improvements including painting of handrails and metal railing and replacement of benches in community area supported by Tenants and Cllr Cutkelvin – **£5k**
- **Eyres Monsell Ward**
 - **Tadcaster Green** – Parking restrictions supported by Cllr Pickering and residents - **£10k** (Could potentially be funded through Pride in Place)
 - **Packhorse Road & Green, Hillsborough Rd, Silsden Rise, Queens Park Way, Ibsley Way and Eamont Close** – Replacement of old wooden communal gates to bungalows with metal gates to add more security. Supported by residents, Cllr Pickering and Cllr Pantling - **£10k** (Could potentially be funded through Pride in Place)
 -
 - **Sturdee Close** – Benches for residents suggested by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel - **£1k**
 - **Hesketh Avenue** – security bungalow lighting suggested by residents and community safety for security purposes - **£5k**
- **Aylestone Ward**
 - **Hopyard Close** – Parking supported by Cllr Porter & Cllr Kennedy-Lount - **£60k**
 - **Belvoir Drive** – Deep clean of 3 blocks requested by residents who are not on the cleaning programmes- **£1k**
- **Braunstone and Rowley Fields Ward**
 - **Bowder House** – Replacement of signage requested by residents following consultation at the scheme- **£1.5k**
- **Castle Ward**
 - **Bob Trewick House** – Painting and install benches supported by residents and Cllr Sahu and Cllr Kitterick - **£6k**

- **New Walk** - Deep clean blocks requested by ward Cllrs on patch walk, however blocks are not part of the cleaning programme - **£1k**

The total spend for the South is estimated at **£114.5k**

East District Proposals 20206/27

- **Evington Ward**
 - **Ethel Road** - repurpose grass verges to create 9 parking spaces proposed by Cllr Haq - **£85k**
- **Thurncourt Ward**
 - **Colhurst Way** – demolish garages and remove waste proposed by Cllr Aldred - **£16.5k**
 - **Roborough Green** – 2 space extension to car park proposed by Cllr Osman - **£26k** (Could potentially be funded through Pride in Place)
 - **St Austell Road** – deep cleaning of block proposed by tenants in block, not part of cleaning programme - **£3k**
 - **Somers Road** – repurpose grass verges to create 12 additional parking spaces proposed by Cllr Aldred - **£118k** (Could potentially be funded through Pride in Place)
 - **Thurncourt Road** - install CCTV in the shops to deter ASB proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£5k**
-
- **Troon Ward**
 - **Attingham Close** - timber fencing to create bin store, proposed by Cllr Cank and residents who is happy to support with £3000 of her ward funding, this will then cost a further - **£5.5k**
- **Wycliffe Ward**
 - **Multiple locations in St Matthews** – install shutters to bin stores to prevent smells and reduce pests in the summer, proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£18.5k**
 - **Manitoba and Edmonton Road** - Extend parking spaces, proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£10k**
 - **Lethbridge and Ottawa Road Courtyard** – create play area proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£800k**
 - **Fraser Road** – replace sheds with eco version sheds – proposed by the Tenants Scrutiny Panel representative - **£66k**

The total spend for the East is therefore estimated at **£1.154m**

West District Proposals 2026/27

- **Abbey Ward**
 - **Closterdale Close** - Improvement on communal outdoor seating area to provide a better environment for tenants, identified by housing officer and tenants - **£8k**
 - **Garth Avenue** – Improvements to flats, new communal doors, deep cleans, removal of overgrown shrubs, identified by tenants and housing staff - **£20k**
 - **Wheatland Road** – continuation of food growing project run by Buzzroots supported by tenants - **£3.5k**

- **Beaumont Leys Ward**
 - **Peppercorn Close** – install knee rails to prevent cars parking on the grass, supported by Cllr Bhatia and residents **£10k**
 - **Trigo Close** – install bike rack identified by tenants in block - **£700**

- **Fosse Ward**
 - **Tudor Close** – Install fence with gate to parking area, residents have raised this through a petition, supported by Cllrs - **£10k**

- **Western Ward:**
 - **Dupont Gardens** – Continuation of security gate project, identified by Leicester Safer Partnership 6 years ago, ward Cllrs are in support to finish this project, this is estimated to cost - **£24k**
 - **Burns Flats** – Deep clean bins identified by tenants and supported by ward Cllrs - **£10k**
 - **Outwood Close** – Install knee rail to prevent parking on the grass identified by a Tenants Scrutiny Panel Member. - **£6.5k**

The total spend for the West is therefore estimated at **£92.7k**

Appendix 3

| District/ Ward | Project | Cost | Need for investment | Support from Tenants | Support from Ward Cllr | Impact on Crime & Disorder | Climate Change | Cost of living/ Place to live | Priority - Score |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| South – Saffron/ Braunstone / Eyres Monsell | Targeted Clearance Days | £20k | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |
| Saffron | Zip - pushchair shelter | £3k - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |
| | Zip - landscaping | £10k - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |
| | Neston Road - bin | £200 - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | Yes | Yes | 6 |
| | St Andrews estate improvements | £5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 6 |
| Eyres Monsell | Tadcaster Parking restrictions | £10k - Yes | No – due to PIP | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | 4 |
| | Packhorse Road install metal gates | £10k - Yes | No – due to programme | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | 4 |
| | Sturdee Close - Bench | £1k - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | No | Yes | Yes | 5 |
| | Hesketh Avenue bungalow lighting | £5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | 5 |
| Aylestone | Hopyard - Additional parking | £60k - No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 4 |
| | Belvoir Drive - Deep clean | £1k - Yes | No – due to programme | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 4 |
| Braunstone | Bowder House – signage | £1.5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | 5 |

| District/ Ward | Project | Cost | Need for investment | Support from Tenants | Support from Ward Cllr | Impact on Crime & Disorder | Climate Change | Cost of living/ Place to live | Priority - Score |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| Castle | Bob Treweek House painting and install benches | £6k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 6 |
| | New Walk – Deep clean | £1k - Yes | No – due to programme | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 4 |
| East – Evington | Ethel Road - repurpose verges to create parking | £85k - No | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | 3 |
| Thurncourt | Colurst Way - demolish garages | £16.5 - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 6 |
| | Roborough Green – Extention to car park | £26k - Yes | No – due to PIP | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 4 |
| | St Austell Road – Deep Cleaning of Blocks | £3k - Yes | No – due to PIP | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 4 |
| | Somers Road – Additional Parking | £118k - No | No – due to PIP | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 3 |
| | Thurncourt Road – CCTV | £5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 6 |
| Troon ward | Attingham Close – Timber fencing | £5.5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 6 |
| Wycliffe | St Matthews bin shutters | £18.5k - Yes | No – Prior Realm Funds | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |

| District/ Ward | Project | Cost | Need for investment | Support from Tenants | Support from Ward Cllr | Impact on Crime & Disorder | Climate Change | Cost of living/ Place to live | Priority - Score |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| | Manitoba and Edmonton – parking spaces | £10k - Yes | No - Prior Realm Funds | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |
| | Lethbridge and Ottawa Road Courtyard | £800k - No | No - Prior Realm Funds | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 4 |
| | Fraser Road - sheds | £66k - No | No - Prior Realm Funds | Yes | N/A | Yes | Yes | Yes | 4 |
| West - Abbey Ward | Closterdale Close- improvements to outdoor area | £8k - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | Yes | Yes | 6 |
| | Garth Avenue – communal doors and improvements | £20k - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |
| | Wheatland Road – food growing | £3.5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 7 |
| Beaumont leys | Peppercorn Close – Knee rail | £10k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No | 5 |
| | Triago Close – Bike Rack | £700 - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 7 |
| Fosse Ward | Tudor Close – Fence to parking area | £10k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | 6 |
| Western | Dupont gardens - security doors | £24k - Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No` | Yes | 6 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|---|
| | Burns Flats – Deep clean bins | £10k - Yes | No – Funds already allocated | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | 4 |
| | Outwood Close – knee rails | £6.5k - Yes | Yes | Yes | N/A | Yes | No | Yes | 5 |

