



# 100 Days Programme



City Mayor



# Foreword

## by Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Sir Peter Soulsby**  
City Mayor



# Introduction

by Cllr Rory Palmer, Deputy City Mayor

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

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

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

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

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



**Cllr Rory Palmer**  
Deputy City Mayor





# Cabinet Members



Back row:

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

Front row:

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

# Themes

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



An accountable, democratic and strong Council



Leicester: a place to do business



Leicester: a low carbon city



Our neighbourhoods and communities – people, culture and leisure



Getting about in Leicester



Leicester: a healthy and active city



Our children and young people



The built and natural environment around us in Leicester

# In our first 100 days, we will...

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

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# In our first 100 days, we will...

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

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# In our first 100 days, we will...

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

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# In our first 100 days, we will...

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

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

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

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A brisk walk on  
Orton Square

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# In our first 100 days, we will...

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

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

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