

# Scrutiny Annual Report 2012 - 2013





## contents

- 4** Introduction to the Scrutiny Annual Report
- 6** Annual Report – Overview Select Committee (OSC)
- 9** Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Commission
- 12** Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission
- 15** Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Commission
- 18** Health & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission
- 21** Heritage, Leisure and Sports Scrutiny Commission
- 24** Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission
- 27** Transport and Climate Change Scrutiny Commission
- 30** Scrutiny Arrangements 2013 - 2014

# Introduction to the Scrutiny Annual Report

## 2012-13

### It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2012 – 2013.

This report highlights key pieces of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Commissions over the last year and also looks ahead to future challenges.

Scrutiny is currently operating in a rapidly changing landscape. The national economic climate and the significant reductions in local government funding will impact on the way the City Council delivers its services. Leicester City Council has already planned to reduce its annual spending by £75m and we estimate that additional cuts of £50m will need to be made by 2016, with further pressures resulting from the welfare reform programme. Scrutiny played a vital role in undertaking a detailed examination of the budget process and highlighting areas in need of further work. For example, the Adults, Social Care and Housing Commission considered the proposals put forward for reducing the homelessness budget and recommended that the Executive reduce the level of savings by half. This is still being considered by the Executive.

We see Scrutiny as playing a key role in ensuring that the Council continues to provide an effective and efficient service to our residents, businesses and other users of the city services. We will support the City Mayor and the Executive in tackling these challenges by reviewing and scrutinising the decisions taken, by monitoring the performance of the Council and partner organisations, and by assisting in policy review and development. The scrutiny commission Chairs and I work as a team. We act as critical friends to the City Mayor and the Executive, providing a rigorous but fair challenge.

It has been a busy year for scrutiny and I would like to highlight just a few of the activities we have been involved in. Locally, we saw the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the introduction of his Policing and Crime Plan. Our Neighbourhood and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission reviewed the plan and submitted detailed comments during the consultation process. Also, a joint health scrutiny review, undertaken with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils, looked at the decision to close the Children's Heart Unit, at Glenfield. Evidence was submitted to the Secretary of State for Health, resulting in a visit from an

Independent Re-configuration Panel. It was recently announced that NHS plans to end children's heart surgery at three centres, including Glenfield, were flawed and could not go ahead in their current form. The NHS has been asked to come up with a new plan for children's heart surgery. Our health scrutiny review helped influence this decision.

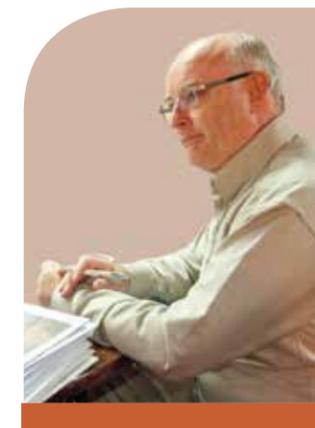
Looking forward to 2103-14, we will be looking at our current scrutiny arrangements to ensure they are able to meet the challenges ahead, particularly as services will increasingly be delivered across several organisations. The delivery of services will inevitably cross geographical boundaries and we will continue to develop effective working arrangements with our partners.

It is important that the public feel able to contribute to the work of Scrutiny and there are a number of ways for them to do this either by asking questions at meetings, submitting petitions or inspecting reports and other supporting documentation.

We have reviewed our existing scrutiny commissions and have re-configured these to reflect the changing demands we are facing. Details of these appear at the end of this report.

To ensure Elected Members are able to undertake effective scrutiny, a series of development workshops, focussing on the current challenges facing scrutiny members, was recently held. These sessions highlighted a number of issues which will inform our future scrutiny working arrangements.

I have enjoyed working with the other Scrutiny Chairs to ensure we continue to provide good quality services to our residents. We all look forward to the challenges the new municipal year will bring.



Councillor **Ted Cassidy** | Chairman of the Overview Select Committee 2012 - 13

# Annual Report – Overview Select Committee (OSC)

## What is scrutiny?

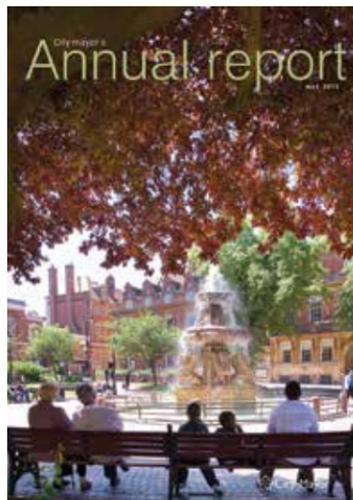
Overview and Scrutiny is vital to the work of Leicester City Council and its partners. It helps to develop policy, improve the performance of the Council and hold the City Mayor and Executive to account for their decisions. Scrutiny acts as a critical friend, standing back from the day to day decision-making to look at outcomes for Leicester residents and contributes to improved performance.

The work plan for scrutiny sets out the forward work programme for OSC and each of the Scrutiny Commissions and includes details of current and upcoming reviews, policy development and performance monitoring. Updated versions of the plan are considered at each OSC meeting and the City Mayor is kept informed of scrutiny activities.

## Regular work undertaken

OSC considers and comments on standing items which include monitoring:

- Budget proposals, revenue and capital out-turn reports, which compare spending against the budget for all General Fund Services and the Housing Revenue Account
- Treasury management, capital, revenue and income collection reports
- Procurement plans
- Petitions
- City Mayor’s Delivery Plan and the Plan of Key Decisions
- Questions for the City Mayor



## Other programmed work

In response to issues raised by elected members, the Chair of OSC worked with the Chair of Standards to update the **Political Conventions** to ensure they were not only fit for purpose but directly addressed the issues raised by elected members.

A review of the **Connecting Leicester** Programme was undertaken by OSC to provide a considered response to the Mayor’s Connecting Leicester proposals. The programme is of wide public interest and was predicted to cost £19m to implement. We felt that it was important for OSC to scrutinise the programme in some detail.

Following recommendations made by the Committee we can report the following updates:

- Each scheme which affects the main road network is looked at in detail to establish the acceptability of its effect on road capacity.
- Jubilee Square now includes proposals for various highway and pedestrian improvements which will provide a gateway to the city centre
- Work is being undertaken to establish the feasibility of providing children’s play equipment in the city centre
- The need to improve the displays at Jewry Wall has been identified as a key action for the Arts and Museums Service during 2013/14.



The Committee submitted a detailed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in response to its consultation on **electoral boundary changes** relating to the size of the Council. The committee highlighted the need to maintain the current number of elected members to effectively meet the needs of the electorate.

OSC identified a number of issues surrounding **procurement** and welcomed the establishment of the Local Procurement Task Force by the City Mayor. This task force has overseen significant progress in making opportunities available for Small and Medium Enterprises and also Small Local Suppliers (Voluntary and Community Sector). OSC now receives regular updates on the existing Corporate Procurement Plan and will consider future procurement plans.

OSC has undertaken rigorous monitoring of **petitions** received by the Council, focussing on reducing the time taken to respond to petitions.

Following the development of the draft Equality and Diversity Strategy, OSC resolved to establish a Task Group to monitor the **equality impact of the welfare changes** on Leicester’s residents. This work is planned for 2013-14.

### Scrutiny Commission Reviews

OSC receives the scoping documents for proposed reviews from the scrutiny commissions and receives final reports for comment and endorsement. Details of these reviews appear within the scrutiny commissions pages of this report.

### Looking forward

There are a number of major projects and issues which OSC will need to consider during the coming year, either directly or following examination by the appropriate Scrutiny Commission, for example:

- Connecting Leicester
- The Economic Development Action Plan delivery
- Monitoring the strategic impact of processes and performance in terms of reducing inequalities
- The equality impact of welfare changes
- Transition to alternative premises from New Walk Centre

### Statement from the chair

“I would like to thank all members involved in the scrutiny process and also the officers who have supported us in this work. It has been an extremely busy but positive year for scrutiny and I feel we have provided an effective check and challenge to the Executive.”

Councillor Ted Cassidy

# Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Commission

This commission has been responsible for overseeing two large areas of business for the council: Adult Social Care and Housing. This has involved balancing efforts to support both areas. Over the year, the commission has aimed to shape the work done by the Executive and service departments by adding value, specifically by providing oversight on some key decisions and areas of work, including the provision of housing and housing services, and the delivery of statutory adult social care functions.

In the face of the challenging economic climate the Council has been faced with difficult decisions on issues affecting vulnerable people. As such the commission has sought to support the Executive to ensure that these decisions still protect those most at need.

There was also particular interest in the levels of **rent arrears** last year and this area remained a standing item requiring a quarterly update. The commission continued to explore any trends/patterns that might keep rent arrears to a minimum.

### Areas of work undertaken

An in depth review was conducted by the commission last year into the city’s **elderly persons’ homes**. Recommendations were put forward to the executive as an alternative to proposals arising from consultation. This year the commission maintained a watching brief pending a decision by the Executive, keeping it as a standing item on the agenda.

This year the commission completed a review into bringing **private sector empty homes** back into use by exploring trends and options to reduce the time they remain empty. The Executive agreed five of the commission’s seven recommendations; including increasing the empty homes team budget by £60,000 per annum to employ two extra staff. Historically this extra resource had resulted in almost doubling the number of homes brought back into use.



A picture of an empty home that has been converted back into use.

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE



CHAIR  
Councillor **Ted Cassidy**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Rashmikant Joshi**

### MEMBERS

Councillors **Dr Susan Barton, Virginia Cleaver, Neil Clayton** (part year), **Andy Connelly** (part year), **Michael Cooke, Ross Grant, Patrick Kitterick, Dr Lynn Moore, Paul Newcombe** (part year), **Nigel Porter, Sue Waddington** and **Ross Willmott** (part year)



When considering the **Housing Revenue Account Budget** the commission recommended that the proposed rent increase be amended from 4% to 2.5% and that the proposed service charge increase be reduced from 3.1% to 1%. Subsequently the Executive agreed a 3.4% rent increase and 2.6% for service charges.

The commission looked at **financial fraud affecting elderly people** and recognised the need to examine this area separately from the more generic work carried out last year by the Neighbourhood and Community Service Commission on rogue traders. There was a specific need to raise the profile of financial fraud to protect vulnerable elderly people.

A special meeting was held to consider the **homelessness review** and to give an opportunity for providers from across the city to present their views to the commission on proposals made by the Executive. The Commission supported the strategy but did not think it was deliverable in the proposed budget and recommended the Executive halve the savings identified to the sum of £1m. The Executive is still considering its decision.

### On-going reviews

The commission is conducting a review into the quality of domiciliary care provision. Work on this will continue into next year and the commission hopes it can offer valuable information to the executive once the review is complete.

There is also an on-going review to look at alternative care for elderly people to promote independence and support outside of care homes. This review is considering how the Shared Lives Scheme might be adapted to offer an innovative approach to support elderly people.



### Key work areas for 2013-14

Next year the commission will be splitting into two, with adult social care and housing separating, demonstrating the breadth of both service areas. Currently both areas have important topics to take forward next year and these are identified below:

#### Housing

The **homelessness review** will be coming to a conclusion and the commission will keep a watching brief on this area and will want to ensure the strategy is implemented effectively.

The commission will continue the work started by the Economic Development Scrutiny Commission this year on **Gypsy and Travellers sites** and the specific housing related issues to include the effectiveness of the Multi Agency Travellers Unit (MATU) and the maintenance of the Meynells Gorse site.

#### Adult Social Care

The commission will continue work on the two reviews on **domiciliary care and alternative care for elderly people**.

Work on **elderly people's homes** will also be considered, including the decisions due to be made by the Executive on the homes.

Service reviews will be carried out on day care for older people with a mental health need and people with learning disabilities which scrutiny will also consider.

### Statement from the chair

“As this was the first time I had chaired a commission, I was extremely grateful to its members and officers for the support, advice and valuable input they gave, reflecting the wealth of experience they collectively brought to the areas of council work covered. I am very much looking forward to continuing the work we started in scrutinising Adult Social Care and in supporting the work of Assistant Mayor Councillor Rita Patel.”

Councillor **Dr Lynn Moore**

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION



CHAIR  
Councillor **Dr Lynn Moore**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Deepak Bajaj**

#### MEMBERS

Councillors **Dawn Alfonso, Hanif Aqbany, Inderjit Gugnani, Paul Westley** and **Ross Willmott**

# Children, Young People and Schools Scrutiny Commission

Children's Services is the largest department in the Council and this commission has been responsible for having oversight and examining key decisions and areas of work. This includes driving improvement in schools, school organisational changes, safeguarding young people in care, development of youth and learning services as well as considering many statutory reports.

## Areas of work undertaken

A strategic review of **services commissioned for young people aged 0-19 years** was undertaken by the Commission. A number of task group meetings were held and led to the final core offer being presented. This set out the services to be commissioned and the principles underpinning these and prioritised intervention through a more targeted approach, highlighting which activities needed immediate implementation and those which needed to be decommissioned.

A review was also conducted on **school admissions**, resulting in a recommendation to

move to online admissions. The commission kept a watching brief, receiving regular updates from the Executive on how the Council is progressing towards more online applications. The Commission has also scrutinised revised **primary and secondary school catchment area** proposals.

The commission maintained a watching brief on the **Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme**, keeping it as a standing item on the agenda. The commission expressed concerns about the involvement of G4S in city schools and asked officers and the Executive to monitor arrangements and keep the commission informed.

**Improving school performance** is an important area the commission monitors and we welcome the progress city schools have made. The commission recently confirmed its support for the Council's policy of opposition to **academies** especially where they may be imposed.

For proposals on the provision of **home to school transport**, the commission asked the Executive to consider allocating money from the contingency fund to protect the provision of discretionary transport. The commission also requested that the 13-19 Partnership be asked to explore ways in which bursaries are used by sixth-form colleges to assist with transport provision. The Executive agreed to continue funding all students already attending Post 16 provision for another two years.

When considering the **education and children's services budget 2013/14**, the above recommendation was made on home to school transport.

The commission is involved in preparing the consultation documents on proposals to reduce the children's centres budget and introduce satellite centres.

Following a fire on the site of **Catherine Junior School**, the commission supported the option to rebuild the school on the existing site retaining the existing steel structure, without the use of mobile classrooms.

The commission considers many statutory reports throughout the year on **children's safeguarding** and the processes surrounding **fostering and adoption**. The commission offers comments and suggestions on these before they go to the Executive.

## On-going reviews

The commission is conducting a review into the quality of **transport for looked after children**. The review is considering whether the current provision is adequate and offers value for money whilst ensuring it supports the young people and their parents/carers. This work will continue into next year and the

commission will be making recommendations to the Executive on its findings.

## Key work areas for 2013-14

Next year the commission will be examining in detail plans and consultation processes in connection with a re-design of the **children's centre** network to secure savings £1.6 million and reporting our findings to the Executive.

The **number of Looked After Children (LAC) has increased** which will impact on available resources, however we want to ensure these vulnerable young people are appropriately cared for. The Dartington peer review will be finalised shortly and the commission will want to ensure any proposals made are followed up.

The commission will continue to hold the executive to account for **improving school performance** and ensuring all our children thrive and meet their full potential.

As the **BSF programme** enters the phase of delivery and construction on all sites, the commission will continue to monitor the progress being made.



### Young People's Council

With young people at the heart of issues being discussed by the commission it is important to have input from young people, as such there are four youth representatives from the Young People's Council who sit as standing invitees on the commission.

“Being able to sit next to a group of adults and being listened to and treated as an equal was something I didn't think would be very common within a local authority. But I am proud to say Leicester City Council has proved me wrong. When I have something to say at a scrutiny meeting I am listened to as an equal, regardless of what my question or my view is. Councillors have told me that we are a valuable part of the scrutiny process as we are the Young People, and what is discussed in the

scrutiny meetings will affect us or someone we represent in one way or another. I don't think many other authorities give young people this opportunity and I am very thankful towards LCC for letting us be part of this.”

Orhan Ahmed, YPC

### Statement from the Chair

“I became Chair earlier this year and would like to thank Councillor Andy Connelly for his work as Chair during the previous 2 years.”

Councillor Ross Willmott

## Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

The commission has been responsible for oversight of activities which have an enormous impact on the communities the council serves. Over the past year the commission has sought to review a wide spectrum of activities within its portfolio, providing oversight, policy development and recommendations on some key decisions and areas of work.

In the difficult financial climate the Council has faced some difficult decisions, however, the Commission has looked at ways in which employment opportunities can be improved and how the cultural life of the city can help boost the economic prosperity and the quality of life of the communities the council serves

### Key areas covered in 2012-13

The commission conducted a major review of employment and the **economic development strategy** recommending a range of proposals to go into the City Mayor's Economic Action Plan.

A second major piece of work was commissioned by the mayor to review the Council's proposals for **gypsy and traveller sites** within the city. The commission's conclusions and recommendations on this difficult and challenging review represented a key narrative for the Executive in their decision on proposed siting of gypsy and traveller sites within the city.

A third major review looked at the economics and social framework of **three key arts venues within the city** – Curve, Phoenix and De Montfort Hall. The city council contributes around £2m a year to these venues and the key question was: did this represent value for money? The review, in which De Montfort University provided key data and research, was unique in that it tried to specify the artistic, social and community value – as well as the economic development benefits provided by this grant.

The report and its findings have been given to those who have put together the City of Culture bid being led by the council to support the contents of the bid.

The commission also received evidence from the chair of the **Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP)** on its work programme.



### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION



CHAIR  
Councillor **Ross Willmott**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Malcolm Unsworth**

#### MEMBERS

Councillors: **Culdipp Singh Bhatti, Adam Clarke, George Cole, Andy Connelly (part year), Elly Cutkelvin, Ross Grant and Lynn Senior**

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

Standing Invitees: **De Queon Pegg, Isra Diriya, Nabina Ibrahim, Orhan Ahmed (Youth Reps) Rabiha Hannan (Muslim Faith Rep) Anu Kapur (Leicester Secular Society) Peter Flack (Teaching Unions) Gary Garner (Unison, Union Representative)**

**Continued from 2011-12**

A watching brief has been kept on Adult and Learning Services (LASALS) following the commission’s review of the need for the service to have a new strategy.

The commission also reviews progress made on recommendations in its first review under my chairmanship of English as a second language [ESOL] service in the city.

**On-going reviews**

The Commission has started a review of the ways in which the city is promoting tourism. This will continue into the 2013-2014 programme of meetings.

LASALS will come back to the Commission as a developing issue from time to time.

**Key work areas for 2013-14**

The **tourism review** will constitute a major piece of work for the next few months.

The commission will monitor progress on its recommendations for:

- The Gypsy and Travellers sites review – including progress on any planning applications
- The Economic Action Plan, including implementation of proposals to support women to get into or back into employment and details of the way in which phases one and two are being funded.
- The Three Venues Review. In particular the Commission will be interested in receiving and reviewing three-year financial and artistic strategies for each of the venues.

The commission will also review aspects of the City Mayor’s delivery plan.

The Commission has already reviewed the Ashton Green development proposals and would expect further reports when this project develops further.

I have asked for a seminar to be organised which will provide a briefing on the economic development aspects of information published following the 2011 Census.

I would at this point like to thank officers and witnesses from organisations across the city, and of course members, who were so helpful in getting the work of the commission done.



**Statement from the Chair**

“One of the main challenges for the Council is to enhance the economic position of the City at a time of recession, so that we can contribute to inclusive sustainable social and economic development. The Commission has examined proposals for development and has considered how investment can provide more jobs and better quality jobs for Leicester residents. “We have made recommendations covering the need for improvements in skills, women’s and young people’s employment opportunities, and

to encourage greater access to culture and adult learning. Our work this year has also involved an in depth consideration of the possible new sites for gypsies and travellers, in the face of considerable unmet need in the City. I would like to thank the members of the Commission and the many stakeholders who have shared their expertise with us and contributed to our work.”

Councillor Sue Waddington

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**



CHAIR  
Councillor **Sue Waddington**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Culdipp Bhatti**

MEMBERS  
Councillors **Harshad Bhavsar, Ted Cassidy, Lucy Chaplin, Shofiqul Chowdery, Wayne Naylor, Nigel Porter and Bill Shelton**

# Health & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission

The Health & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission has a unique democratic mandate to act across the whole health economy in Leicester.

The Scrutiny Commission is set up to examine, challenge and influence the decisions that are being taken around health and community involvement issues by the City Mayor and his executive, so that power is used wisely and the Council's performance is improved.

*During 2012/13, the Commission scrutinised a number of areas, including:*

- The quality of the health services in Leicester e.g. the Dementia Strategy, the Homelessness Strategy and Health Through Warmth issues, affecting vulnerable people in the city.
- The transformation of the NHS and future health services in Leicester
- How mental health services are delivered
- How drug and alcohol services are delivered
- The Council's engagement with voluntary community sector organisations
- Public Health Funding

The commission will listen to and work with stakeholders and patient panel forums, e.g. Healthwatch, to ensure that citizens receive a good standard of health care from all health service providers in Leicester.



Source: Local Healthwatch, health and wellbeing boards and health scrutiny – Roles, relationships and adding value - the Centre for Public Scrutiny

## Key areas covered in 2012-13

The commission also has a remit to scrutinise community involvement issues. The commission listened to the 'Concerns by the Voluntary Community Sector in the City'.

The review gathered evidence relating to the challenges and difficulties faced by the voluntary sector and the lead commissioners in this current climate of funding cuts and changes to commissioning processes. It also highlighted the positive contribution, commitment and value of the voluntary sector services, and of volunteers, to support the communities in Leicester. The key findings of the review were submitted to the City Mayor to inform the council's budget consultation process.

A special meeting was held jointly with Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council to scrutinise the decision to

close the Children's Heart Unit at Glenfield Hospital. This specific review heard key evidence from representatives of University Hospital Leicester (UHL), University of Leicester, and Patient Panels (Links). The findings were submitted to the Secretary of State for Health, which led to an independent reconfiguration panel coming back to Leicester to review the original decision. As previously stated, the NHS has been asked to come up with a new plan for children's heart surgery.

## Continued from 2011-12

An in-depth review completed by the commission in the previous year into 'Mental Health Services of Working Age Adults' was re-visited this year. The commission examined the previous recommendations, identified progress and received an update on the changes in health and social care service provision. Evidence for this review was received from the voluntary sector and health and social care representatives.

This report was concluded in May 2013 and the findings sent to the City Mayor and local health care commissioners and providers to enable them to improve services.



## On-going reviews

The commission has a remit to regularly scrutinise Performance Data, Annual Accounts and Complaints Data of Health bodies in the city e.g. University Hospitals of Leicester, East Midlands Ambulance Service and LOROS. Work on this is done quarterly or annually to oversee that these organisations are providing a high quality and value for money service to patients.

The commission will continue to review and monitor the performance of Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group, Leicester City



Council and providers of public health services in the city.

The commission will monitor the city council's forward plan and the work of the new Health & Wellbeing Board.

## Key work areas for 2013-14

The commission will continue to gather the views and experiences of organisations and user groups, to be better informed about the key health-related issues in Leicester.

The Francis Public Inquiry Report into the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has raised key concerns nationally on the way in which health services operate and care for patients. The commission will look at its own role of how it scrutinises health care services in the city in order to address some of the key implications of the Francis Inquiry.

The Drug & Alcohol Services Review will be concluded and the commission intends to monitor the lead agencies responsible for the new commissioning plans and processes for delivering these services.

**Statement from the Chair**

“It has been a challenging year for the commission, in which we initiated the Glenfield Hospital Children’s Heart Unit Review and scrutinised topics of public interest e.g. Mental Health, the Performance of Hospitals and the funding impacts to the Voluntary/Community Sector. The aim of the Commission is to ensure that all Leicester citizens are receiving value for money and fit for purpose healthcare services, more importantly now, in light of the recent Mid-Staffordshire Francis Inquiry into healthcare failings.

In looking forward, the Commission will continue to

review standards, performance and delivery of health services through the performance of Commissioners and Providers including, now, the City Councils responsibilities for public health and its leadership of the Health and Wellbeing Board.”

Councillor **Michael Cooke**



# Heritage, Leisure and Sports Scrutiny Commission

The commission has been responsible for oversight of activities which have enormous impact on the communities the Council serves. Over the past year the commission has sought to review the whole spectrum of activities within its portfolio, providing oversight and policy development on some key decisions and areas of work.

This Commission has oversight of the one of the most exciting areas of potential development - namely heritage, following the establishment of the last resting place of Richard III.

as a museum. The Commission looked at the balance of arguments between the cost of continuing to run the facility as a museum, with low and falling numbers of those attending, with a reshaping of the facilities to provide a range of new events there.

**Key areas covered in 2012-13**

The commission conducted a major review of **Sports Engagement** within the city. This allowed for an in-depth investigation of the reasons for an apparent low uptake of sports within the city compared with similar communities. The base data was provided by Sport England.

A range of conclusions and recommendations was agreed at the Commission’s meeting in April and went to the Overview Select Committee’s May meeting for formal endorsement. I presented the report to the Executive.

A second major piece of work involved a joint review with the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Commission into the council’s **Events and Festivals programme**. This fed into the City Mayor’s review of this programme which aimed to reshape the funding provided by the council to the city’s range of events.

A third piece of work involved reviewing the work of the **Museums Service**. A particular issue of public concern and Commission inquiry was the future of **Belgrave Hall**.

Significant investment to upgrade facilities at the hall have been met by concerns about the loss of amenity there



**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**



CHAIR  
Councillor **Michael Cooke**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Deborah Sangster**

MEMBERS  
Councillors **Dawn Alfonso, Inderjit Singh Gugnani, Wayne Naylor, Baljit Singh, and Paul Westley**

**Continued from 2011-12**

An on-going issue for the Commission was the extent to which there had been a positive legacy following the **London Olympics** events and the **Special Olympics** held in the city.

A key issue arising from that report and presented to the executive was that the “Commission work with the Executive... to understand better the barriers to adult participation in Leicester and to identify ways of removing those barriers.” This was partly borne out by the Sports Engagement report but needs further work.

**On-going reviews**

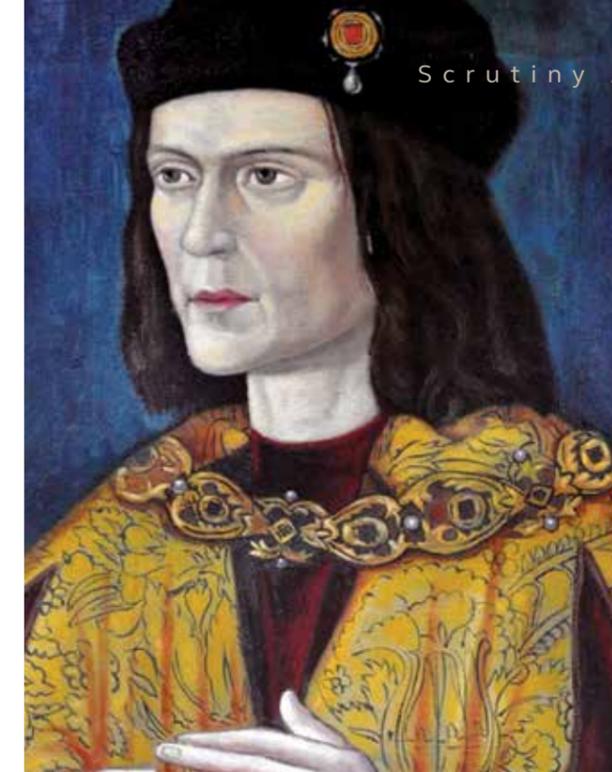
The Commission has set out the scope of a review of the ways in which the city is working with the county to operate the **Public Records Office**. This will continue into the 2013-2014 programme of meetings. The development of **Jubilee Square** as part of the **Connecting Leicester** programme is likely to be re-visited as part of a wider strategy to develop the heritage story of the city, and the public and private investment this will bring to the city.



**Statement from the Chair**

“Being chair of Heritage, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission for the past year has been one of the most rewarding episodes of my life. I wish to thank everyone for trusting me with this role and especially to the commission members and officers who have supported me. It’s been an amazing year for heritage, leisure and sport in the city, what with the Story of Leicester project, Olympic events and the discovery of a certain set of bones. With the addition of Culture to the portfolio and our bid to become UK City of Culture, the next year promises to be just as exciting.”

Councillor **Dr Susan Barton**



**Key work areas for 2013-14**

The development of the Richard 111 legacy programmes will constitute a major piece of work for the authority over the next few months and years. *Tracking progress, making observations and providing advice relating to this programme is likely to make up an important part of the Commission’s work over the next year.*

- The commission will monitor progress on its recommendations and conclusions for its Sports Engagement review and will also review aspects of the Mayor’s annual delivery plan.

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**



**CHAIR**  
Councillor **Dr Susan Barton**



**VICE-CHAIR**  
Councillor **Wayne Naylor**

**MEMBERS**  
Councillors **Deepak Bajaj, Luis Fonseca, Rashmikant Joshi, Mustafa Kamal** and **Paul Newcombe**

# Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission

Over the past year the commission has sought to review the whole spectrum of activities within this portfolio, providing oversight and policy development on some key decisions and areas of work.

In the current difficult financial position the Council has faced some difficult decisions, we have seen the way in which some of the front line services that are delivered adapt and change. With this being the case, the commission had sought to assess the impact of these changes and protect those in greatest need. A key issue has been the impact on residents personal finances due to the changes in welfare and benefits systems, which will continue to be a major issue for the coming year.

## Key areas covered in 2012-13

A major piece of work looked at the way in which the local authority planned to communicate the changes in the welfare and benefits system, particularly to the most vulnerable. This detailed piece of work helped to identify gaps and the need for new partnership working.

Against an extremely tight deadline, the commission scrutinised the proposals put forward by Sir Clive Loader, Leicestershire Police & Crime Commissioner, for a three year

Policing and Crime Plan. The Commission provided observations and recommendations to the Overview Select Committee and Executive, as well as to the Police and Crime Panel.

We scrutinised the retendering process of community legal advice services in the City, ensuring that we get the best service for our residents.

The commission took regular reports from three key areas that have been under review;

**Library Services** - In particular we scrutinised the reduction in library opening hours, the decommissioning of the library mini bus, the new library management system and progress in opening the three new libraries.

**Enforcement Services** - The commission have reiterated how valued the City Warden service is in our communities. Reports have included information on how this service is changing with the city wardens gaining new powers of enforcement, recognising the need for good training and management particularly during a period of transition. We have also looked at the noise monitoring service and recycling.



**Neighbourhood Services** – We have had regular updates in this very complex area and as you will be aware this continues to be a big piece of work. The commission recently consulted upon the strengths and weaknesses of community governance of council facilities and the fob key access system. Evidence from a number of sources has been received.



**On-going reviews**

The commission received regular reports on the work of various departments, including the library service, customer services, revenues and benefits service

A task group is looking at the technical arrangements for the way in which the council encourages community groups to make greater use of community centres and other community facilities.

The commission will continue to monitor the Leicestershire Policing Plan, in particularly looking at the ways in which partnership funding is reflected in partnership working.

**Key work areas for 2013-14**

- Further update on the contract won by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to provide legal advice services within the City.
- Mapping of welfare and legal advice within the City. A scoping document has been drafted to undertake an investigation into the mapping of benefits, financial, legal and housing advice, both before and after the awarding of the new legal advice contract to CAB.
- Task Group review of issues relating to community governance of council facilities, including fob access arrangements.

- Examine Council Tax collection figures.
- Moving of the current Customer Service Centre at New Walk centre to its new location on Granby Street – threats and opportunities.
- Installation of the new Household Recycling Centre and other related initiatives, funded by the Weekly Support Grant in order to maximise recycling in the City.
- Issues contained within the City Mayor’s Action Plan will be subject to review by the commission.

**Statement from the Chair**

“It is only through the involvement of commission members that scrutiny can succeed, and I would like to thank the members of the commission for their contribution.”

Councillor **Virginia Cleaver**

# Transport and Climate Change Scrutiny Commission

This commission has been responsible for oversight of two areas of business for the council: Transport and Climate Change. Over the past year the commission has balanced its efforts to support and shape the transport element to try and add value to the work done by the executive and service departments - providing oversight on some key decisions and areas of work.

In the face of the current challenging economic climate there have been some difficult decisions the Council has encountered on issues affecting roads and public transport, as such the commission has sought to support the Executive to ensure that these decisions still protect areas that are of most importance to residents and businesses.

The Commission has concluded that there is currently no compelling evidence to alter bus lane restrictions for private hire taxis or motorcycles, but that the latter should be further explored by the Executive.

The Commission also conducted a review into **highways maintenance** in light of the recent budget growth totalling £1.1M in 2012/13. The Commission found that the budget increase has allowed significant long term maintenance issues to be addressed. We also received clear evidence that our highways and footways are being maintained to a higher and safer standard than previously.

**Key areas covered in 2012-13**

The commission conducted three major reviews during the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

The Commission looked at **Bus Lane Enforcement** in Leicester in response to a request from the Deputy City Mayor to provide independent views on who should be allowed to use bus lanes and when.

Finally the Commission looked into the Council’s **regulatory powers in relation to public transport**. We concluded that the current Leicester Quality Bus Partnership

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**



CHAIR  
Councillor **Virginia Cleaver**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Elly Cutkelvin**

MEMBERS  
Councillors **Deepak Bajaj, Stephen Corrall, Luis Fonseca, Anne Glover Ross Grant and Sundip Meghani**



does not work well, as evidenced by the lack of progress on issues such as a lack of cross-operator fares, inaccurate information on bus stops, failure of the 'Star Trak' real time information service, lack of evening / Sunday services and the downward trend of bus passenger numbers since 2007. The Commission acknowledged that there may be little progress on some or all of these issues until such time as we have a Passenger Transport Executive covering the county/region.

**Continued from 2011-12**

An in-depth review completed by the commission last year focused on **20mph zones**.

The Commission supported the general principle of ring-fencing £100k per year to introduce new 20mph zones but recommended that there was no need to introduce these in residential areas already subject to traffic calming measures, as speed

reductions had already been achieved.

A detailed review of **Residents' Parking Schemes** in Leicester gave the schemes a clean bill of health, recognising the overwhelming satisfaction felt by residents where schemes had been introduced.

**Other work in 2012/13**

As well as in-depth reviews, and scrutinising the council budget, the Commission has looked at a number of one-off items during this municipal year.

These include:

- a. Assessing the current usage and costs of the Council's **park and ride** schemes;
- b. Monitoring the establishment of the Local Transport Body; and
- c. Scrutinising developments involving the bus network in Leicester, for example Humberstone Gate East improvements and the Haymarket Bus Station improvements.



**Key work areas for 2013-14**

The Transport and Climate Change Scrutiny Commission is being merged with the Economic Development Scrutiny Commission as we head into 2013/14.

Whilst the Commission has undertaken a broad work programme over the past two years there are issues which need further investigation or monitoring into the future.

These are:

- Climate Change: The Commission may wish to receive updates on the Council's 'Programme of Action' launched in September 2012, as well as an update on air quality in Leicester.
- Cycling participation rates: The Commission may wish to scrutinise recent statistics released by Department for Transport concerning the number of people regularly cycling and walking in Leicester.

**Statement from the Chair**

*“It has been a very interesting year as Chair of the Transport and Climate Change Commission. We have been really grateful to the City Mayor for his contributions to the Commission and for the many outside bodies and individuals that have assisted our work. During several reviews we have discovered a vast amount of information. I hope that our recommendations will be of assistance to the Executive in the months to come.”*

Councillor Neil Clayton

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**



CHAIR  
Councillor **Neil Clayton**



VICE-CHAIR  
Councillor **Paul Newcombe**

MEMBERS  
Councillors **Hanif Aqbany, Gurinder Singh Sandhu, Colin Marriott (part year) Veejay Patel, Cllr Lucy Chaplin (part year), Cllr Nigel Porter, Wayne Naylor (part year) and Malcolm Unsworth (part year)**

# Scrutiny Arrangements

## 2013-2014

Scrutiny commissions have been re-configured to take account of the areas of policy covered by executive members and also of the workloads of individual commissions.

The new arrangements, and lead members, are as follows:

## Overview Select Committee

Chair: **Cllr Mohammed Dawood**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Baljit Singh**

## Scrutiny Commissions

### **Adult Social Care**

Chair: **Cllr Lynne Moore**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Lucy Chaplin**

### **Children, Young People and Schools**

Chair: **Cllr Ross Willmott**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Malcolm Unsworth**

### **Economic Development, Transport and Tourism**

Chair: **Cllr Sue Waddington**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Rashmikanth Joshi**

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Chair: **Cllr Michael Cooke**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Deborah Sangster**

### **Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport**

Chair: **Cllr Abdul Osman**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Adam Clarke**

### **Housing**

Chair: **Cllr Paul Newcombe**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Dawn Alfonso**

### **Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement**

Chair: **Cllr Elly Cutkelvin**

Vice Chair: **Cllr Inderjit Singh Gugnani**

For more information please contact the **Scrutiny Support Team** on 0116 229 8898 or email [scrutiny@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@leicester.gov.uk)