
The Regeneration of Leicester



The city centre is the shop window for the city and provides a focus for its economic activity. As with all successful cities the city centre needs to be presented as a place where there is high quality public realm and where it is easy for pedestrians, cars and cyclists to get into the centre and move between areas.

A total of £67m has been invested through the City Mayor's Economic Action Plan to support this aim. £25m of this has been secured through external sources of funding such as the Department of Transport and European funding.

I will be making a presentation which will set out the range of initiatives that have recently been completed to improve and regenerate the city centre and also improve cycle, pedestrian and transport links. The key elements that will be covered in this presentation are:

The *Connecting Leicester* programme which is now connecting areas which were previously separated and has provided new and improved environments in which walking and cycling can flourish, making the city centre a place that people want to visit and which attracts business investment.

- So far £14m has been invested in the city centre which has created three new open spaces at Jubilee Square, Cathedral Gardens and Humberstone Gate West and has rebuilt 2Km of streets to high quality standards such as Applegate, Guildhall Lane and Silver Street. Whilst this investment in the city centre has been an important part of the council's capital programme it represents under 3% of the council's total capital programme.
- This improvement in the public realm has provided a high quality environment to support other significant improvements that are being made in the retail and cultural offer of the City e.g. the newly created King Richard III visitor centre and the new Food Hall at the Market.
- Furthermore, the investment in areas such as Jubilee Square has led to significant investment by businesses in the surrounding area particularly along the high street and at the Highcross shopping centre. The owners of these businesses have stated that this is directly linked to the investment that has been made by the City Council.



Jubilee Square



Applegate



Cathedral Gardens



New Food Hall at Leicester Market

- The quality of the public realm and the approach taken by the city council in regenerating the city centre was also cited as a key reason why IBM and Hastings chose Leicester as the place to locate their new operations.
- Further projects are now underway including the next phases of the Market redevelopment project, the new Haymarket Bus Station and further connections and improvements at St Nicholas Circle and the Old Town.
- In addition works have been undertaken to improve the environment and provide new segregated cycle facilities on Newarke Street and Southgates. This is in parallel to the improvements that have been made by removing the Belgrave Flyover and the consequential improvements that have been made to Belgrave Road and Circle.
- The city features heavily in the government's growth deal for Leicester and Leicestershire which has allocated a total of £60m for projects in Leicester over the next six years. This provides funding to support the regeneration of the Waterside area and to improve the key roads, links and public realm improvements between the waterside and the rest of the city centre.
- The growth deal funding has specific allocations to support the future phases of the Market redevelopment and Connecting Leicester. It also includes further works to improve vehicular access to the city centre that will be delivered on the A50 (including Frog Island) and A6 over the next three years.
- A second wave of Connecting Leicester projects is therefore now being planned. This will include improvements at a number of key areas including the Belvoir Street, Horsefair Street, Church Gate, New Walk Centre and King Street.
- Members will note that a petition stating "*We the undersigned petition the council to Review and Resolve the Traffic Chaos/Congestion caused by the various improvements made to our city centre and surrounding area roads*" was submitted on 11th January 2015 by Mr M Radymski. It was signed by 1170 residents of the city and 471 people residing outside the city. This matter will be addressed at the meeting.
- I am aware of the perceptions of the public when undertaking works on the highway within the city centre. I therefore have been careful to ensure that full consultation exercises are undertaken before schemes commence and where possible the views of the public have been taken into account.
- The impact on traffic flows has been monitored as these works have been undertaken and once they are complete. For example the data that has been collected has shown that the new cycle lane on Newarke Street has not reduced traffic flows in that area.

