



Food Bank Update:

Scope & Demand Analysis 2015

Service Development & Improvement
LCC Revenues & Benefits
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
LEICESTER CHARITYLINK
& THE LEICESTER FOOD FORUM

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1 Preface

In the current economic and political climate, many welfare and provision budgets are being cut. Since 2011, Leicester has faced public service funding reductions of more than £75 million. Consequently, many advice services in areas such as benefits, housing, debt management, employment and immigrations have been scaled back or ceased, and the poorest among the Leicester City community have been affected the most. In addition, social institutions have been required to constrict their outputs and services, often meaning that vulnerable people are left without the basic necessities of everyday life.

Seven years after the financial crash of 2008, Leicester continues to suffer from the after-effects of recession – more than 25,000 jobs were lost between 2008 and 2011, twice the national average – and both unemployment and under-employment remain high. Among the most extreme examples of increased deprivation is individuals and families going hungry and not eating enough nutritional foods, because they simply cannot afford it. Other issues that have derived from recent research include digital exclusion, as a result of a lack of computing facilities. This in turn affects an individual's chance to find more employment opportunities, or chances to succeed in an existing educational opportunity.

Since April 2013, Leicester City Council has supported a five day per week city centre food bank through our partners Leicester Charity Link as part of the Local Welfare Provision funding our customer support. Following research conducted in 2013 and 2014 by LCC Revenues & Benefits, there has been recognition that an increase in food bank facilities is needed – in December 2013 food banks across the city were distributing essential food to over 800 families per week, although a number of providers were closing or at risk due to lack of support.

Our partners have therefore agreed to commit to supporting a further two five day per week sites at strategic locations outside the city centre. However, with necessarily limited resources planning for these new sites - comparing areas that are most in need and analysing where these facilities would be of most benefit - is crucial.



2 Targeting Priority Wards: Methodology

Historically, assessment of need within LCC of deprived areas has been carried out on a ward-by-ward basis. The 2011 Social Welfare Advice Review considered the needs profile of claimants with reference to the below:

“The Indices of Multiple Deprivation is a measure of multiple deprivations taking deprivation measured and recognised separately then combining into an overall measure of deprivation, this is a national model developed by the DCLG. Leicester was ranked as the 20th most deprived local authority region out of 354 according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD 2007). In the 2010/11 Social Welfare Advice Review, data grouped by ward as follows:”

CLUSTER	Abbey	Aylestone	Beaumont Leys	Belgrave	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	Castle	Charwood	Coleman	Evington	Eyres Monsell	Fosse	Freemen	Humberstone and Hamilton	Knighiton	Latimer	New Parks	Rushley Mead	Sprinney Hills	Stonegate	Thurcroft	Westcotes	Western Park
FAMILY CLUSTER	H	M	S	M	S	M	H	H	L	H	M	M	H	M	M	S	M	S	H	M	L	L
HEALTH AND WELFARE	H	L	H	M	S	H	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M	H	S	H	S	S	M	L	L
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	H	M	S	M	S	M	H	H	L	H	M	M	H	M	M	S	M	S	H	M	L	L
HOMELESSNESS	H	L	H	M	S	H	H	M	L	H	M	M	M	M	M	S	M	S	S	M	L	L
OVERALL	H	L	S	M	S	M	H	H	L	H	M	M	M	M	M	S	M	S	H	M	L	L
RANK	6	19	4	15	2	11	8	9	20	7	18	14	12	16	12	3	10	1	5	17	21	22

KEY: S=SEVERE NEED (TOP 4 WARDS) ■ H=HIGH NEED (WARDS 5-9) ■
 MH=MODERATE HIGH NEED (wards 10-14) ■ ML=MODERATE LOW NEED (15-18) ■
 LOW NEED (19-22) ■

The above analysis was based on 2007 data, and used a number of measures relevant to welfare advice (such as proportion of welfare benefit claimants and lone parents) averaged out across ward boundaries. This data has subsequently been used to establish priority locations in adult social care information, advice and guidance, most notably in the contract awarded to the Citizens Advice Bureau in allocating outreach in the top 10 wards.



More up-to-date analysis has now been carried out based on 2011 Census data – the first to include a ‘deprivation measure’ operating at ward level. Dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on the four selected household characteristics:

2011 ward	All categories: Classification of household deprivation	Household is not deprived in any dimension	Household is deprived in 1 dimension	Household is deprived in 2 dimensions	Household is deprived in 3 dimensions	Household is deprived in 4 dimensions	Total household deprivation indicators
Spinney Hills	7,508	1,384	2,472	2,477	1,016	159	11110
New Parks	6,892	1,824	2,378	1,915	711	64	8597
Braunstone	6,893	1,908	2,292	1,854	759	80	8597
Castle	9,177	3,540	3,552	1,496	486	103	8414
Abbey	6,169	1,691	2,131	1,680	574	93	7585
Stoneygate	6,316	2,017	2,221	1,521	482	75	7009
Beaumont Leys	6,459	2,279	2,185	1,429	496	70	6811
Coleman	4,832	1,082	1,722	1,451	516	61	6416
Hum. & Hamilton	6,830	2,799	2,173	1,432	390	36	6351
Charnwood	4,490	915	1,550	1,374	565	86	6337
Rushey Mead	5,635	1,752	2,005	1,510	334	34	6163
Eyres Monsell	4,711	1,246	1,598	1,379	455	33	5853
Latimer	4,130	840	1,373	1,368	496	53	5809
Belgrave	3,922	896	1,301	1,216	446	63	5323
Fosse	5,564	2,186	1,928	1,092	328	30	5216
Thurncourt	4,189	1,210	1,443	1,159	344	33	4925
Freemen	4,222	1,379	1,346	989	469	39	4887
Knighton	6,792	3,588	2,093	904	179	28	4550
Westcotes	4,989	2,126	1,689	838	290	46	4419
Aylestone	4,839	1,979	1,642	980	225	13	4329
Evington	4,117	1,472	1,490	934	201	20	4041
Western Park	4,449	2,101	1,398	767	153	30	3511



3 The 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation

There has been an identification of the wards most in need of help regarding a deprivation index, health and wellbeing issues, cultural needs and employment and educational assistance. Initially, it is beneficial to refer to the map 'Rank of 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation', which demonstrates the areas most in need, against the provision of existing food bank facilities. According to the data, the areas in red represent the most need, while green represents the least deprived areas. The relative deprivation index refers to disadvantages that are linked to:

- **Employment**- Anyone not in full time education and out of work.
- **Education**- No member of the household between age 16 and 18 is a full time student, and no member of the household has at least level 2 qualifications.
- **Health and disability**- Any member of the household has a long term health issue or general health described as 'bad' or 'very bad'.
- **Housing**- The living accommodation is over-crowded, shared or has no central heating.

It should be observed however that grouping data output areas by ward is not a definitive measure of deprivation – not least because several wards contain pockets of deprivation and relative wealth. Mapping on the following page is conducted on a much smaller 'super output' scale and compared with the average weekly provision of food banks surveyed in late 2013. A further survey updating this is currently underway, although preliminary findings are that demand has remained appreciably static over the past twelve months.

Drawing from information from the 2010 Index, 2011 Census data, food bank research and Community Support Grant data amongst other sources, seven main wards were highlighted as a cause for concern. The reasons for the concern and an explanation for each of the seven wards will be provided.

Following a detailed qualitative analysis of each prospective site, three particularly vulnerable wards are identified in the summary for further consideration, for each of which advantages and disadvantages have been identified for selection.

More detailed mapping of other potential indicators of deprivation, for example disability, lone parent status and language for consideration are provided in Appendix C.

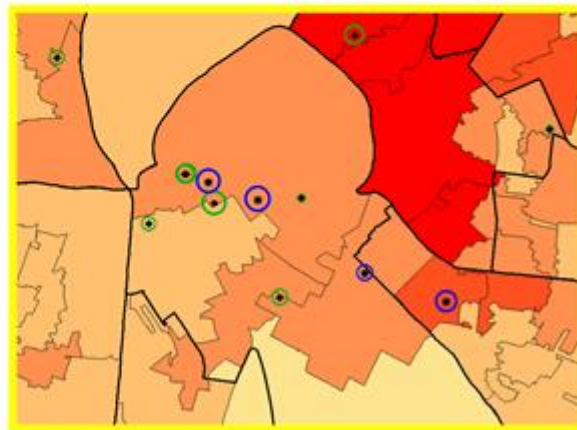
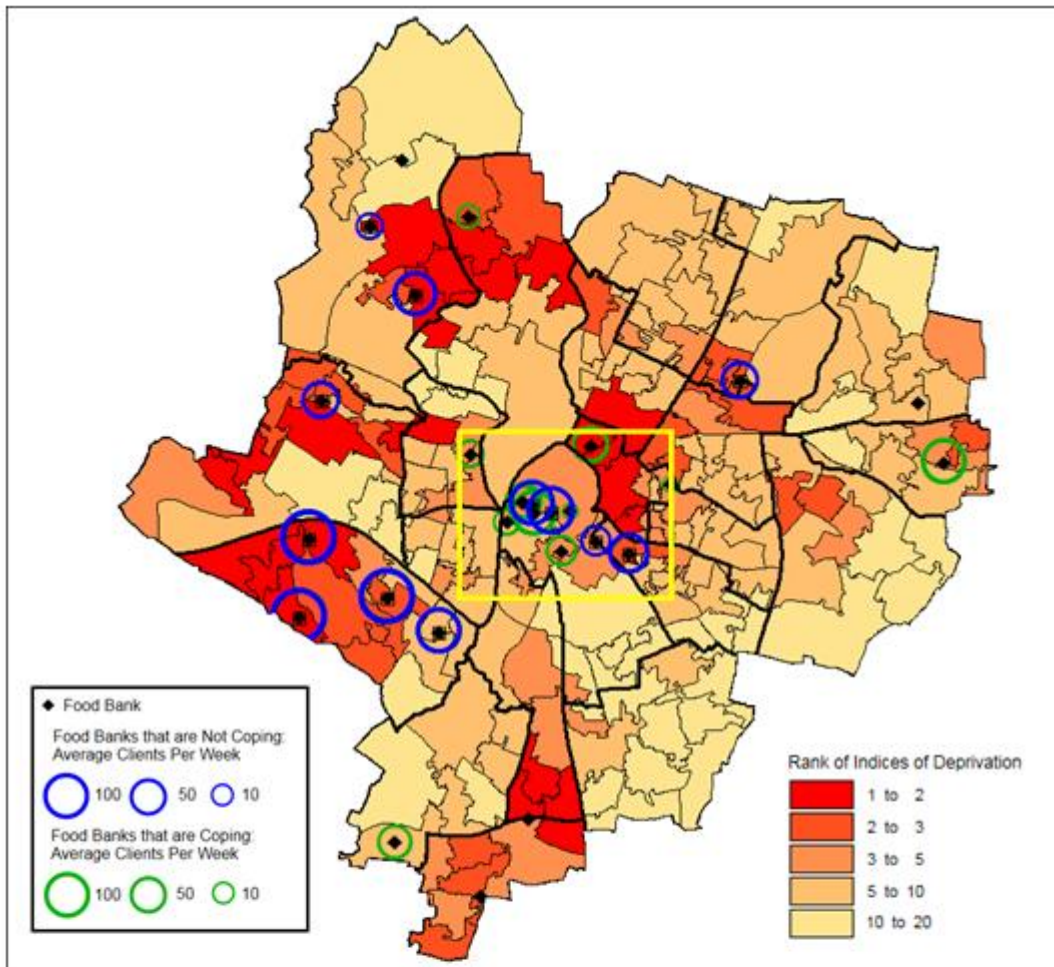


Fig. 1 –Rank of Deprivation Index against Existing Food Banks 2014



Food banks operating early 2015

1. Mowmacre Hill TARA
2. Christ the King Church
3. Barley Croft Community Centre
4. Northfields TARA
5. Peace Centre
6. Contact Project
7. Highfields Food Bank
8. Leicester Charity Link
9. Welcome Project
10. Open Hands Trust
11. Faith in People
12. The Centre Project
13. Leicester Aids Support Service (LASS)
14. New Futures Project
15. Gilmorton Development Group
16. Mosaic Church
17. Women's Welcome Project
18. B Connected
19. B Connected
20. B Connected
21. Vineyard Storehouse
22. New Parks STAR
23. Zinithiya Trust

Food banks ceased operation since 2013

1. Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood CIC
2. Beaumont Leys STAR
3. Healthy Living Centre
4. Emerald Centre
5. Leicester Progressive Spiritualist Church
6. Saffron Lane Resource Centre
7. Saffron Lane Children, Young People and Families Centre
8. The Linwood Centre
9. Eyres Monsell STAR
10. Eyres Monsell Community Centre
11. Eyres Monsell Children, Young People and Families Centre



Leicester Charity Link



Tackling Poverty - Changing Lives

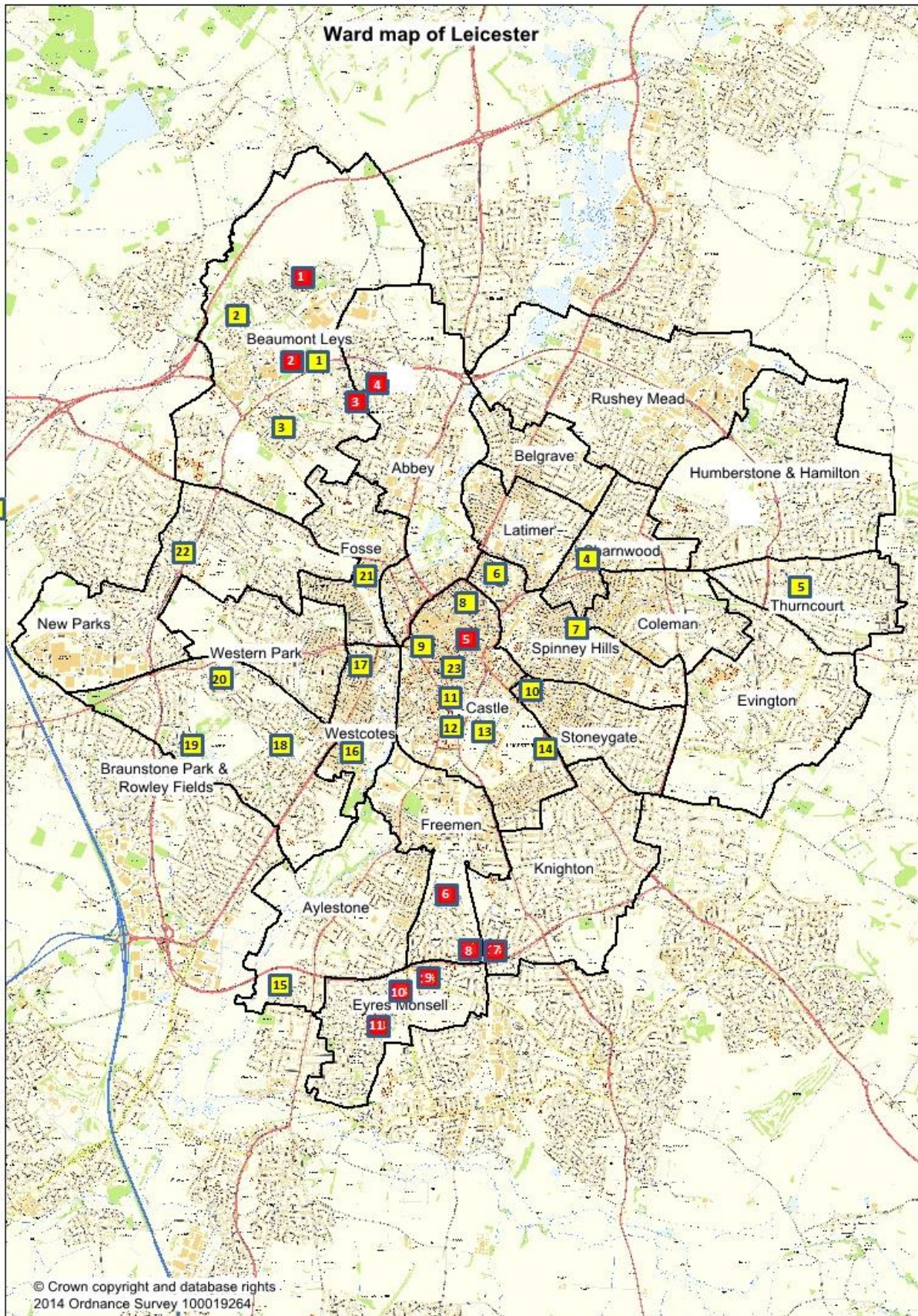




Fig. 2 –Food Bank Spread 2013-15

4 Priority Ward Analysis

4.1 Beaumont Leys (North-West)

Beaumont Leys is listed as number 4 on the comparative deprivation index list. This suggests that Beaumont Leys residents are typically the fourth most deprived in the city, with particular issues in the fields of family clustering and economic inactivity. It is worth noting that 1.1% of Beaumont Leys residents are thought to be deprived in all four facets of the deprivation index. The Beaumont Leys area also indicated a significant proportion of people with limitations in their daily activities; both a little (8.4%), and a lot (7.3%). Data from the 2011 census showed that 38.1% of households had dependent children, and 12.5% of households involved a single parent. Regarding unemployment, Beaumont Leys showed a significant number of people out of work (7.2%), and an even higher number of people that were absent from economic activity due to long term sickness, disability and other reasons (8.8%). Of those that were employed, Beaumont Leys census data showed that the majority (16.9%) were in elementary employment, which typically pays less.

Reviewing this information, it is clear that the Beaumont Leys area is facing potential risk zones including the disability of its residents, single parent families and child dependency, general unemployment and low payment for those in work. Regarding the aim of the potential new food banks, this fits into the focus area. There is sufficient evidence which suggests that the majority of food bank service users are benefits claimants (Troup Buchanan, 2014; Milligan, 2014; Trussell Trust, 2015; Dugan, 2013; Rayner, 2011), and so the profile of Beaumont Leys residents may be at risk of requiring help either at present or in the future. The high number of people with limited daily activities or disability, and the high number of people that are unemployed would presumably be on benefits. Also, research suggests that there are also a notable proportion of food bank users that are in either full or part time employment, but are in receipt of low wages (Trussell Trust, 2015; Andrew, 2014; Morris and Cooper, 2013). This could mean that the high proportion of Beaumont Leys residents in elementary employment, and typically low pay, might mean a higher demand for food bank resources.

It must be noted that the Beaumont Leys area currently has four active food banks (as of June 2015), although these are comparatively small-scale given the large area and disadvantaged population. Despite these food banks, Beaumont Leys remains an area that is experiencing multiple deprivations on a high level – and four more providers in the area were forced to either close or drastically scale back operations in the past 18 months due to funding concerns. The food banks that currently exist continue to provide a reasonable supply of food bank services – it may be that the facilities do not



operate frequently enough, or are not available to enough residents. There is a substantial area in the south east of Beaumont Leys that is not catered for in terms of food bank services.

4.2 Humberstone & Hamilton (North-East)

According to the deprivation index, Humberstone and Hamilton is the twelfth most deprived in the city. This would suggest that the residents are typically not as needy as those in other areas, although the 2011 census data does show a degree of deprivation concentrated in relatively small areas, such as the Netherhall estate. At the time of the 2015 survey, no food banks operated within this ward, although there was one close by in Thurncourt. Under a councillor's direction, a food bank was ultimately established in December 2014, although progress on the development of this project has been slow. It is worth analysing the situation to address whether further support would be required.

While Humberstone and Hamilton contain a small number of people that are deprived in all four areas of the deprivation index (0.5%), and among the seven wards compared here, the lowest number of community support grant applications and awards (82 and 44, respectively), there is still 6,351 people in the area experiencing at least one type of deprivation. It is likely that these people are not currently being adequately provided for, and there could be a potential opportunity to improve lives.

By far, the most pressing issue facing Humberstone and Hamilton is the inclusion of people that cannot speak English. There is a relatively large proportion of residents in the area with no English language skills (0.8%). This could explain the deprivation in some areas of Humberstone and Hamilton, in that language skills are crucial to progress in education, to enter the workplace legitimately, or to feel included in general society. Those in the area that cannot speak English may feel marginalised, isolated or may even have experienced racism or discrimination from others. Similarly to Beaumont Leys, a substantial amount of residents have some kind of disability, limiting their daily activities. 7.9% believe their activities are limited a little, and 7.7% say they are limited a lot. Again, these groups of people are likely to be benefits claimants, because of inability to work, or difficulty in language skills being a barrier to work, and so a food bank facility might be needed, given the profile of food bank users nationally.

Among the seven wards here, Humberstone and Hamilton have one of the highest numbers of households with dependent children. Although it has one of the lowest numbers of single-parent households, the large number of children living in the area is significant because they are vulnerable individuals and must be a priority. If they are not already living in poverty, changing family circumstances could mean that they might be at some point, and a food bank could provide help in these instances as a safety net.



4.3 New Parks (West)

The New Parks area is one of the most deprived of the seven wards discussed here, according to the comparative deprivation index. At number three, there is a high number of community support grant applications and awards (245, 166), and has one of the highest numbers of people in at least one mode of deprivation, among the seven (8,597). Although there is one food bank in the area that is quite large, the area to the left of this food bank is not catered for, and a very high level of deprivation remains in the area in which the food bank exists, meaning it may not be sufficient.

There are several areas of concern regarding the New Parks area in terms of disadvantage that could be helped by another food bank. The level of limitation of activity in the area is the highest among the analysed wards, with 10.2% limited a little and 10.4% limited a lot. Unemployment levels, as well as long-term unemployment and long-term sickness are one of the highest in the seven wards (7.9%, 3.7% and 11.1%). The people from these cohorts are typical of the food bank user profile. There is also a notable number of people in New Parks that are not educated to level 1 or above (40.8%), and that are employed in elementary occupations, paying little (22.1%). These people could be struggling with insufficient wages and short-term provision could be supplied in the form of food parcels in an attempt to alleviate deprivation.

There are a lot of people in New Parks that do not have access to a car or a van (42.9%), which means that they are at a disadvantage in the employment field, and also in terms of being able to get to other places for advice. This statistic could be a contributing factor in the unemployment rate of this ward, and so these people could be struggling to cope on benefits. It would be easier and more rational for food provisions to be situated nearer to these people, because they would be more likely to access them if they are nearby, as they do not have transport.

There are a lot of families in New Parks that have dependent children (37.6%), and the highest number of lone parent households among the seven wards being discussed (14.7%). These lone parent households are vulnerable because they are more likely to be living in poverty as a result of a single potential income-earner, the parent being unable to work due to child care facilities being unavailable or too expensive or a lack of adequate employment opportunities that can be worked around other responsibilities. A food bank here would be of benefit to these families, because it can help to alleviate their poverty short-term.



4.4 Castle (Central)

The Castle area of Leicester contains much diversity in terms of socioeconomic class. It appears at number 11 on the comparative deprivation index, suggesting that it is the eleventh most deprived area. Despite this, there is still a high volume of community support grant applications and awards (326, 223). In addition to this, Castle experiences a typically average amount of deprivation when comparing the seven wards. The area has the most food banks in close proximity, and so those in need are catered for to a degree.

There is a sizable number of people in this area that were not born in the UK (36.2%) and people whose main language is not English (25.8%). These numbers are high compared to other wards, and there is a possibility that these people could be vulnerable to racism and discrimination. However, as Leicester is generally celebrated as a culturally diverse city, those living in or near to the city centre may feel more socially included than those living outside the city, with cultural and language barriers. Some food banks in and around the Castle ward have reported a small number of University students accessing their services. These are usually mature students with children or those with problems relating to student finance. These cases are quite rare, and accumulatively food banks have had less than ten students visiting them for food. However, one city centre food bank confirmed that they do see some students that have recently finished their courses and are transitioning into work or benefits and are unprepared for the change.

In comparison to the other wards discussed here, the residents in Castle are more educated, less likely to have limitations in their activities, and have a higher rate of professional employment. These are all positive assets and show that there is some affluence in the area. In addition, Castle residents are far less likely to be unemployed, long-term sick and have dependent children. This could indicate that those in the area that are deprived are being catered for, because there are relatively few people here that are struggling. The existing food banks in the area and information services are rich sources that may be able to cope.

4.5 Eyres Monsell (South)

The Eyres Monsell area is in a southern location and is not supported by any food banks at all, except for a small one in close proximity. The deprivation index for this area is 7 and it has been noted that



issues facing the area include family clustering, economic inactivity and homelessness, with these rates being some of the highest in the city. There are relatively few community support grants being applied for and accepted in this area, and numbers are low for people considered to be experiencing four dimensions of deprivation. Despite this, there is data from the 2011 census that suggests there may be some disadvantaged residents that are vulnerable to deprivation that are not being catered for.

The main area, in which this is so, is when the data on limited activities is addressed. The number of people both limited a little (10.5%) and a lot (11.2%) are the highest in the seven wards. This is a concern, considering there is no existing food bank, as these people could benefit from help with food provision, according to national statistics on food bank users. These people may also be excluded from the workplace as a result of their activity restrictions, and so may be relying solely on benefits. If there were an active food bank in this area, it may be a useful resource for people struggling with money because they cannot work. However, any prospective food bank would need to be close to the residents of Eyres Monsell, because if they are restricted in their abilities, they may not be able to travel for this service.

Eyres Monsell residents are also typically less qualified than in some of the other wards. The amount of people that are qualified to at least level 1 is 59.2%, meaning that those that are working might be employed in low paying jobs. It can also signify that education is a barrier to employment for some people and they are unable to find employment because they do not have any qualifications. A food bank would be helpful to these people because if they are in low paid employment or not employed at all, they may not be receiving efficient funds and may be struggling to pay for bills and food. In addition, if a food bank was installed in this area, there may be potential to expand the services provided, with additional support provisions. A HUB facility would be beneficial for those wanting to advance their levels of qualification if computing facilities were available. This rules out digital exclusion and would provide tools to help individuals access and then take advantage of educational opportunities. As a result, this could mean that in the long term, people can advance economically and leave benefit provision.

It would be logical to implement a food bank location in this area because of the large amount of people it could potentially help short-term. Despite the low number of community support grants and data suggesting the area is not as deprived as others, the census contradicts this, and shows there are a proportion of people here that could genuinely benefit from better support.

4.6 Spinney Hills (East)

According to the comparative deprivation index, Spinney Hills in the central area of Leicester is the most deprived of all. At number one, it is recognised that the area is in severe need with regards to



the four components of the deprivation index, and 11,110 households experiencing deprivation in at least one dimension. This is clearly a substantial number of households, although the application and awards of community support grants rate is comparatively low. This area is marginally catered for in terms of food banks by one relatively large provider. In addition to this, the area is in close proximity to the city centre, where there are many more opportunities for food provision and helpful services.

Among the seven wards that are being analysed, the Spinney Hills area appears to have the most people born outside Britain (55.8%), the most people that do not refer to English as their main language (54.8%) and the most people that cannot speak English at all (4%). This could explain some of the severe deprivation, because cultural exclusion and a lack of social cohesion are possible for people that were born overseas and new to the country. In addition to this, these people might have experienced racism or a difficulty in adapting to life in Britain and may not be able to communicate with social institutions effectively. It is apparent that the food bank sites that are already located in this area do not offer specific support in terms of social adjustments for immigrants. The most accessible food bank in this area primarily targets young people and families. These services are valuable to the community, but are not necessarily helpful to the large immigrant population of Spinney Hills. However, previous research in the area has suggested that the food bank facilities are not exclusive of any group. Effectively, this food bank does not turn anyone away and is supportive of anyone presenting as in need, regardless of circumstances.

By far, Spinney Hills has the most households with dependent children (47.8%), and considering this, the fact that there is such a high degree of deprivation is a concern. If children in this area are living with severe disadvantage, they may not only be undernourished through a lack of healthy food, but they may be vulnerable to the cycle of deprivation. This is when individuals struggle to escape the constraints of poverty, and could grow up to be dependent on benefits themselves, having not had the opportunity to alleviate their difficult circumstances. If help was more readily available for these families while the children are young, it could help to break this cycle, so that the children can obtain a valuable education, enter the workplace and become self-sufficient in the future. Despite this, food bank outlets are generally targeted at reducing poverty short-term, and cannot alleviate deprivation long-term. It is a valuable support system, which many food banks have, that is needed to help these families beat poverty.

Unemployment and long term sickness are other major issues facing the communities of Spinney Hills. They are the highest among the seven wards, with 7.9% unemployment in the area, and 12% long term sickness. These people are most likely to be struggling financially and could benefit from the use of a food bank. This needs to be addressed, and the reasons for this unemployment need to be uncovered. It could be that the people of Spinney Hills are being discriminated against in terms of their ethnicity, and this is hindering their opportunities in work. The food banks in this area, although stretched, are coping relatively better than those in some areas. In addition to this, the



area's close proximity to the town centre, where more food provision exists, means it might be easier for some people in this area to access emergency food than people in more isolated areas.

4.7 Braunstone & Rowley Fields (South-West)

Braunstone and Rowley fields currently have three of the largest food bank sites. It is considered to be the second most deprived area, with 8,597 people believed to be deprived in at least one dimension. Community Support grant applications and awards are relatively low here, with an unsubstantial number of people deprived in all four dimensions (1.2%). This could indicate that the three food bank provision sites are actually catering efficiently for the residents in need.

Braunstone and Rowley Fields have a large proportion of people either experiencing severe limitation of activities, or long term sick. The community also has a high number of lone parent families, which is an issue if the lone parent is unable to work because of child care issues. Lone parents that do work can also be in a relatively disadvantaged position because there is only one income coming into the household, and so they could still be struggling financially. However, the provisions of the three large food banks in the area could help to alleviate this. These groups can be vulnerable to food poverty, as previous food bank research indicates.

Among those that are working, the residents of Braunstone and Rowley Fields are much more likely to be employed in elementary positions, typically paying less. Elementary employment is among these residents is the highest of the seven wards at 22.2%. This means that households could be struggling financially, despite them working. However, the B-Connected organisation that operates in the area has a program for improving employment prospects and has been quite successful at this. In this respect, this cohort of people is also being adequately catered for. The food bank sites that are present in Braunstone and Rowley Fields seem quite established and rewarding to the community. They offer a wide range of facilities that reflect the need in the area.



5 Food Banks in 2014: Demand Analysis

When the food bank mapping research was originally undertaken, there were conversational indicators that demonstrated each food bank's ability to cope with the demand they were subject to. This question was asked specifically, but additional questions were asked in the repeat exercise in early 2015 to help establish a more thorough depiction of how well the supply is meeting demand in separate areas. After completing the follow-up study, the study is being repeated in 2015, with some slight alterations. As the study is ongoing, there is currently around a quarter of responses already obtained. These responses can be considered here, against the results from last year. It appears that the ability for food banks to cope with demand is improving. In 2014, food banks were compared that existed in 2014 and still exist in 2015. Those that have ceased to operate were not included because they could not be compared. In 2014, 78% of food banks were not coping with demand. However, in 2015, 48% of food banks from the same list were not coping. Food banks that are currently coping with the demand tend to be in the eastern and central areas of the city. Those that are struggling the most are in the northern and western areas of the city. Interestingly, 80% of the city centre food banks had progressed from a position in which they were not meeting demand, and in 2015 are coping well. Generally, food banks in the city are doing better than twelve months ago. This could be because the food bank phenomena is appearing increasingly frequently in the media, to which the public are becoming more aware of their presence. This could mean that there are more food bank donors, particularly in the city centre where there is substantially more footfall. The 2014 study showed that there is substantial number of food banks that were struggling with demand. Some were more concerned than others, and some had a strategic plan in place in order to increase their supplies. Some were keen to increase their supplies, although did not have the means to do so. The food banks that were struggling to cope with demand were not ward specific; they were dispersed across the city. However, the mapping of these food banks can be compared to the map of deprivation index, in order to determine the need of the area. The food banks in the western and eastern parts of the city were struggling the most, with the three outlets in the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields ward stating that they had ran out of food, and had to purchase more themselves to meet demand. The eastern part of the city had two food banks at the start of 2014, quite a distance apart, both of which were struggling to cope. One was maintaining a very limited service, and the other had used up their emergency stocks and were worried about further increasing demand.

However, after reviewing the index of deprivation for both of these areas, it is evident that the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields ward is considerably more deprived than the eastern wards of Humberstone and Hamilton and Thurncourt. However, the Charnwood ward, also in the east, is also



noticeably deprived. This food bank is also somewhat smaller than those in Braunstone and Rowley Fields. However, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2011) suggests that the Braunstone and Rowley Fields area is significantly more deprived than the Charnwood ward, because of the amount of combination cases of deprivation. It was found that Braunstone and Rowley Park are severely 'in need' in terms of all four categories; family cluster, health and welfare, economic activity and homelessness. For this reason, this ward was named the 2nd most deprived in the city. In comparison, the Charnwood ward was considered to be in high need for three of the criteria. This means that Charnwood is the 8th most deprived ward. Because of this, the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields area is likely to benefit the most from an additional food bank. In 2015, there was little change to the demand on services in the eastern and western parts of the city, and similarly little change to the food banks' abilities to cope.

The Beaumont Leys area had five food banks in early 2014, although sufficient data was gathered from only two of these, perhaps due to a reluctance to take part in the study. At the time of the 2015 study, two of the five food banks had ceased operation, as anticipated in 2014, although in recent weeks one has had a revival with some support from another food bank, whilst the other supports the surrounding food banks with food donations. This signifies that the supply for Beaumont Leys residents could have declined, and if Leicester is subject to national trends, demand may have risen. Principally, in 2014 one food bank reported an extremely high demand that was very difficult to accommodate. They stated that they had to turn large numbers of people away because their food supply was severely limited. When this information is analysed against the other food bank that offered a decent amount of data in the area, it is clear that although they were not expecting to close, there was a high demand on their services, too. One food bank in Beaumont Leys had no spare food when they received their Fareshare deliveries, and were looking at increasing the frequency of their deliveries to meet demand. Beaumont Leys appears at number 4 on the Multiple Deprivation Index, suggesting that the residents do experience relatively serious poverty. Again, this ward is more deprived than Charnwood, and would possibly benefit substantially from another food bank.

Food banks in the areas that were previously identified as most deprived appear to have been coping relatively well in 2014. The food bank in New Parks reported that while they were not coping every week, they were coping well in other weeks, as their Fareshare supplies and number of clients varied a lot. In addition, they were starting to develop a rationing strategy in 2014, which they hoped would make demand easier to cope with. However, by 2015 this food supplier was still finding it difficult to meet the demand on their services. The food bank in Eyres Monsell reported that they were coping very well with the demand of their services, and even had food left over in order to create an extra emergency bank of food. This unit was not concerned at all and did not anticipate any strain in the future, because they could cope with extra clients if demand increased. This does not reflect the outlook of deprivation in these wards, as there does not seem to be a desperate



need, according to these organisations. However, this food bank is open only fortnightly, for one day. This could mean that it is not a prominent service in the area, which is not advertised on the scale of some of the other food banks in the city, and so therefore, it may be little known. Perhaps if the service was run more regularly and a more outstanding feature in the community, the deprived individuals in the area may be referred to them. In addition to this, the food bank only supplies food for people in a small, deprived estate, not on a ward basis.

6 What does 2015 look like?

With the 2015 study now complete, it is worth looking at these results to assess how the situation in Leicester has changed, and if the need remains the same in the specified areas. In the western part of the city, the situation is very similar to last year. Food banks here are still struggling to maintain their supplies and although one food bank reported they were coping slightly better this year, another felt their circumstances had worsened. The New Parks food bank admits they have a large number of clients in the average week and are looking to expand their lunch club services. They are prepared for the Universal Credit rollout, and are not particularly concerned with the potential increase in demand. In 2015, the Beaumont Leys food bank that aimed to increase their Fareshare deliveries had done so, and they stated that they are able to manage their supplies much better now. As a result, they felt they are in a better position this year. At the time of the 2015 research, there were only three food banks operating. The other two were still not coping and were sometimes turning people away. However, one of these now receives valuable help from a city centre food bank, which has proved to be crucial in the maintenance of the project.

One Beaumont Leys food bank also runs a lunch club which is extremely popular, and they suspect that if they had the resources to increase the frequency and size of this activity, there would be even more of a take-up. Since the 2015 research, this organisation has been in contact with another social food project, which aims to utilise their café facility to maximise the help they can offer together. Christ the King say they have a number of large families approaching them, and that they cannot help them as much as they would like to. This suggests that if there are food banks in Beaumont Leys that have ceased to exist, this has put pressure on Christ the King particularly, and that they might be under threat if demand continues to increase. This means that today, both the Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields area, and Beaumont Leys, are not able to fulfil their potential and may benefit from more services in the area, particularly with the Universal Credit proposal.



In the south of the city, the food bank in Eyres Monsell has reported little change in 2015, and is also very content with their situation. They do not see a need for any additional support in the area. However, the as this food bank supplies only for a small area instead of the whole ward, means that people outside of the estate are essentially neglected.

In the east, food banks reported very little change and are generally coping with demand. One food bank, however, does run out of food on a regular basis and relies on the support of local faith groups to provide essential items. Food bank staff at this unit also admitted that they had purchased food themselves for clients when all other methods had been exhausted.

The situation of city centre food banks appears to have improved significantly. In 2014, the majority stated that they were not coping with demand. However, they are now able to provide much better for their clients. It appears that much of the city community has contributed towards this, with many faith groups and local businesses regularly donating food and money to food banks. The food provision in this area is generally stable at present.

7 Summary

It appears that the most relevant places for food banks include the Beaumont Leys area, New Parks, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, Eyres Monsell and Spinney Hills. Upon analysis, these areas present a diverse range of issues, with little on offer to ease these problems. The food banks in Beaumont Leys are somewhat scarce and a better dispersion of centres would be constructive. In Spinney Hills, there is serious and oppressive poverty that is not being addressed by the current locations. People here need help with integration in order to improve their lives. However, the position of the area is a small advantage, in that larger, more accommodating services are available nearby. It would be feasible for people here to travel into the city centre, which is much more equipped to help them. Ideally, the services in Spinney Hills would be more sensitive to immigration issues, but at present, there are areas that appear to be more overlooked.

The New Parks area should possibly be a site improved by a food bank facility. The western area of New Parks is particularly neglected, and with a large number of community support grant applications, the residents here clearly feel that they cannot cope financially. The facility available in New Parks is very diverse and professionals support many issues that reflect residents' needs, making it potentially very effective. However, the fact that the area remains very deprived despite the longevity of this facility could mean that it needs expanding. Perhaps there just isn't enough availability or enough resources for everyone. If this was to be expanded, it could reach more people in the area and ultimately increase support.



In Eyres Monsell, there is simply not enough in place to support those in need. The small food bank is not enough to support the deprived area that exists around it. This area is also distant from the city centre, so residents here that are struggling may feel rejected and isolated. There are also a lot of people that have limited activity, and so travel to the city centre may be difficult. Similarly to New Parks, the small food bank in the Eyres Monsell proximity has not been sufficient enough to relieve the severe deprivation in the area. An expansion on the services and food distribution from this site may be effective in reaching more people in the area and supporting them.

A productive idea would be to situate one of the proposed food banks in the area between Braunstone Park and New Parks. This way, the deprivation experienced in both wards could be addressed, the pressure on food banks struggling in Braunstone could potentially be relieved, with some of their clients perhaps moving onto the new site, and anyone in New Parks that is in food poverty, and not in a position to access the existing food bank in the area, may be more inclined to visit the new location. The other food bank may be best placed in the Eyres Monsell area, as the food bank there is not catering for the whole ward, but only a very small area. The area is deprived and there are no other food provision services for these people, out of the town centre. The Eyres Monsell area is situated a fair distance from the city centre, and the extremely high rates of activity limitation means that people may not be able to get into town in order to utilise services there.

The number of social food facilities in Beaumont Leys has declined significantly within the past year, at a time when potentially, need will be increasing. There are a lot of single parent households in Beaumont Leys, families with dependents and high unemployment. With the substantial imminent welfare reforms taking place in the coming weeks, these residents will be affected, and so any attempt to ease the transition and increase support for people experiencing these reforms would be invaluable to the community here.

There are a number of elements in all of the areas discussed that provide an argument for and against a proposed food bank. These elements should be addressed with regards to the areas identified here as ideal locations for a food bank, as there are only two planned units, and three areas that are suitable for them. The advantages and disadvantages of providing a food bank in each of the three areas are provided.

OPTION 1: Eyres Monsell / Saffron / Freeman area

Reasons for a food bank site in Eyres Monsell:

- The area includes significantly fewer food provision facilities than most of Leicester. The existing food bank in the area caters only for a limited space, and any other area outside of this estate is neglected.



- There are a relatively high number of people regarded as homeless in the area, and so these people may struggle to not only purchase their own food, but also to cook food.
- The numbers of people limited a little and a lot in their daily activities is very high in Eyres Monsell, and these people may not be able to work and may be living on a meagre income.
- These people that have limited daily activities are living a fair distance from the city centre, where they could receive help outside their ward. If they are limited in activity, they may not be able to get into the town centre to use these provisions.
- There is a large area around Eyres Monsell, spanning four wards, that has little or no food provision facilities. There is nowhere in close proximity for needy people here to go to.
- There is a high proportion of individuals without level 1 qualifications or above, and so these people are more likely to be employed in low-paying jobs, with little prospect of social mobility
- The 2011 census suggests that Eyres Monsell is more deprived than it appears in other reports.
- In the last 2 years, there has been a closure of 6 food bank outlet points all over Eyres Monsell, which suggests a valuable resource could have been removed from a large number of people that genuinely need it.
- Elementary occupations are very common in the area for those that are employed, and are the most common in the wards discussed here. This means that there are a significant number of people receiving a low wage. Research suggests that this is one of the rising categories of people that are using food banks.
- The food bank in the Eyres Monsell area operates on a referral only basis, and so if someone is genuinely in need, but does not have access to support services they may be excluded. The food bank close to the area is only operational on a fortnightly basis for two hours. This means it does not have a good presence in the area and there may be some residents eligible to use their services that are unaware it exists.

Reasons against a food bank in Eyres Monsell:

- Despite the census, data from 2014 shows that Eyres Monsell is only the 7th most deprived area in Leicester, and so according to this, there are areas that are more in need.
- There is a very low number of Community Support Grant applications and rewards, and so this could suggest that the deprivation the census suggests is not being experienced to its fullest extent.
- The number of people in the area that are experiencing at least one dimension of deprivation is very low in comparison to the other wards.
- The unemployment rates in Eyres Monsell are high, but no higher than the other wards being considered.

OPTION 2: New Parks

Reasons for a food bank site in New Parks:



- New Parks appears at number three on the comparative Deprivation Index, suggesting it is the third most deprived in the whole city.
- There is a very high amount of Community Support Grant applications and awards in New Parks, which suggests the residents, feel deprived and the council recognises this deprivation.
- Although there is one food bank, it is situated in such a way that the south, east and west of the ward are quite distanced from provision.
- Despite this one food bank in the ward, there still remains very high deprivation, suggesting the one food bank may not be sufficient.
- There is a very high number of people with limited activity in New Parks, and so could be unable to work, and living on a low income which may not be sufficient for their needs.
- This high number of people with limited activities may not be in close proximity to the existing food bank, and may be unable to travel to the site, or into the town centre.
- The three large food bank outlets in neighbouring deprived area Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields are struggling to meet the high demand from clients, and so if there was another unit nearby in New Parks, this could help alleviate the pressure on the struggling sites.
- The number of people without level 1 qualifications or above is amongst the highest in the city, and these people are likely to be employed in low paying jobs, with little career progression, which means they are less likely to escape the poverty trap.
- There is a high number of lone parents in the area. These parents may be unable to work, because of childcare restraints, or may only be able to partake in part time work, which may not generate enough funds to be self-sufficient.
- The number of households without access to a car or van is high in New Parks. This can be an issue for people wanting to work, because they may be limited in the jobs they can do if they are not geographically mobile. These people could be living on unemployment benefits for long periods of time, which may be insufficient for a satisfactory living standard. In addition to this, long term and short term unemployment rates are high in this ward.
- There is a sizable proportion of people in employment working in elementary positions in New Parks. This means they may be subject to low pay and little career progression.
- The food bank in New Parks is likely to be changing location in the future, and they are unsure of how this might affect their clientele.
- The food bank in the area reports that they are getting a lot of new referrals recently, and so this could indicate a rise in demand that they may struggle with in the future.

Reasons against a food bank in New Parks:

- The southern area of New Parks, which is the furthest away from the operating food bank, is relatively affluent, and so this area that is neglected in terms of food provision may not need a food bank.
- The New Parks food bank is open for four days a week, and so there is a lot of time availability for residents to use the facilities.



- The food bank accepts self-referrals, and so an individual desperately in need can access the services immediately when they need to, as opposed to waiting for referral.
- In addition to this, those excluded from support services that might be in need can access the service.
- The unit in this area has a lot of food traffic, and a lot of support from local businesses and organisations such as local shops, faith groups and schools, as well as public donations. They have got a lot of food to distribute and are not currently struggling to cater to all their clients.

OPTION 3: Beaumont Leys

Reasons for a food bank site in Beaumont Leys:

- Beaumont Leys is considered to be the fourth most deprived ward in the city.
- In the last 2 years, Beaumont Leys has experienced the closure of four of its food banks, meaning vulnerable people that need food may have had their supply stopped.
- The increase in demand on the existing Beaumont Leys food banks in recent weeks has been reported, and they also say that the demand is still increasing.
- The food banks in Beaumont Leys are not positioned efficiently. There is food provision in an area considered quite affluent, and a smaller provision of food in the southern part of Beaumont Leys, which is very deprived. There is a need for more food provision in the southern area of the ward.
- One food bank in the deprived area of Beaumont Leys has stated that the demand of cultural foods, such as halal meat is not being met, with many ethnic minorities going without enough food because they are unable to access it for them.
- One food bank in the area said they were getting high numbers of large families needing food parcels, and this has an impact on their food supply, as there are more mouths to feed. This is a particular concern because children could be at risk of going hungry.
- Beaumont Leys has a relatively high number of households that are deprived in all four dimensions, which suggests a severe degree of poverty.
- Existing food banks state that there is a demand for growth, but while they are not capable to extend their services at present, an extra service may be appreciated by the residents.
- Although there is a decent number of existing food banks, these are all very small in comparison to others in the city, which could distort the perception of provision.
- One of the food banks reports that they get a very high number of people referred to them as a result of a benefit sanction. This number is likely to increase with the forthcoming introduction of Universal Credit, because of the various alterations in frequency and nature of payments proposed.

Reasons against a food bank in Beaumont Leys:

- Between them, the food banks in the area are open every week day, and so there is a lot of availability to enquire about help.



- Compared to the other wards, Beaumont Leys has a decent number of people with a level 1 qualification or above, and this is advantageous because they may have more chance of find employment than people in other wards that do not have this.
- Many Beaumont Leys residents have access to a car or van, which, again increases their chances of employment, and means they have a better earning potential than others.
- People claiming sickness benefits long term, as well as people with limited activities are low for Beaumont Leys. This means that there are less people that cannot work due to health issues, and so are less vulnerable to poverty.
- Beaumont Leys has a high proportion of residents employed in professional occupations, which equates to higher earnings. This means there is a sizable amount of people in Beaumont Leys that do not need another food bank.



Food banks currently in operation as per diagram on p5:

- 1 – Mowmacre TARA
- 2 – B-Connected Brite Centre
- 3 – B – Connected St. Peters Church
- 4 – B – Connected United Reform Church
- 5 – STAR New Parks
- 6 – Morton / Northfields TARA
- 7 – Welcome Project – St. Martin’s House
- 8 – Women’s Welcome Project - Church of the Martyr
- 9 – The Contact Project – St Matthew’s House
- 10 – The New Futures Project
- 11 – The Open Hands Trust
- 12 – Social Services DAS, GreyFriars Centre
- 13 – Beaumont Leys STAR
- 14 – The Centre Project
- 15 – Faith in People with HIV
- 16 – Kirton Lodge (defunct 2013)
- 17 – Healthy Living Centre (defunct 2013)
- 18 – Saffron Lane Resource Centre (via Linwood, ending March 2014)
- 19 – Saffron Lane Children’s Centre (via Linwood, ending March 2014)
- 20 – Saffron Neighbourhood Management Board (via Linwood, ending March 2014)
- 21 – Eyres Monsell Children’s Centre (via Linwood, ending March 2014)
- 22 – Eyres Monsell Community Centre (via Linwood, ending March 2014)
- 23 – Eyres Monsell STAR (via Linwood, ending March 2014)
- 24 – The Mosaic Church
- 25 – City Vineyard Storehouse
- 26 – Gilmorton Development Group
- 27 – CharityLink – St Martin’s House
- 28 – CharityLink – St Andrew’s Centre
- 29 – New Parks Library
- 30 – Barleycroft Community Centre
- 31 – The Emerald Centre (from September to December 2013)
- 32 – Spiritualist Progressive Church
- 33 – Highfields Food Bank
- 34 – Peace Centre Food Bank



Neighbourhood Centres currently available as sites:

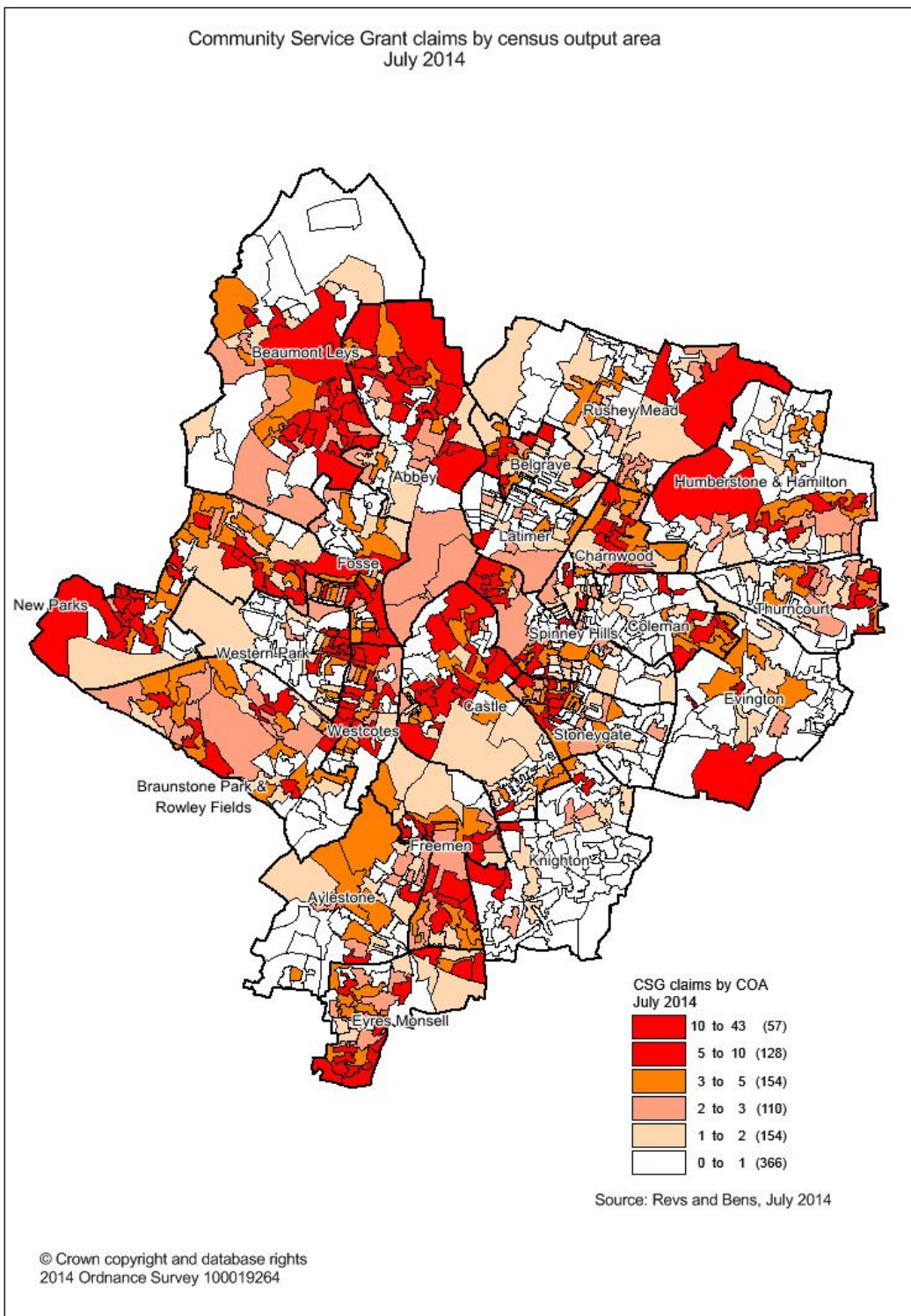
	Centre	Opening Hours
1	Tudor Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
2	Stocking Farm Youth & CC	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
3	Home Farm Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
27	Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
28	New Parks Community Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
4	Rushey Mead Recreation Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
5	Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 8:30am – 10pm, Sat 10am – 8:30pm, Sun 8am – 6pm
6	Northfields Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
7	Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
8	Ocean Road Recreation Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
9	Coleman Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
10	Thurnby Lodge Youth & CC	Mon-Fri 8am-10pm W'kends on request
11	Coleman Lodge	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
12	St Matthews Community Centre	Mon-Fri 8:30am-10pm Sat-Sun 9:30am – 4pm
13	African Caribbean Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
14	Linwood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
15	Southfields Drive CC / Southfields Sports Hall	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request (both sites)



	Centre	Opening Hours
16	Eyres Monsell Community Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
17	Gilmorton Community Rooms	As and when required
18	Manor House Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
19	BRITE Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
20	Braunstone Oak Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
21	Cort Crescent Community Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
22	Braunstone Grove	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
23	Winstanley Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
24	West End Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
25	Fosse Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request
26	Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre	Mon-Fri 9am-10pm W'kends on request



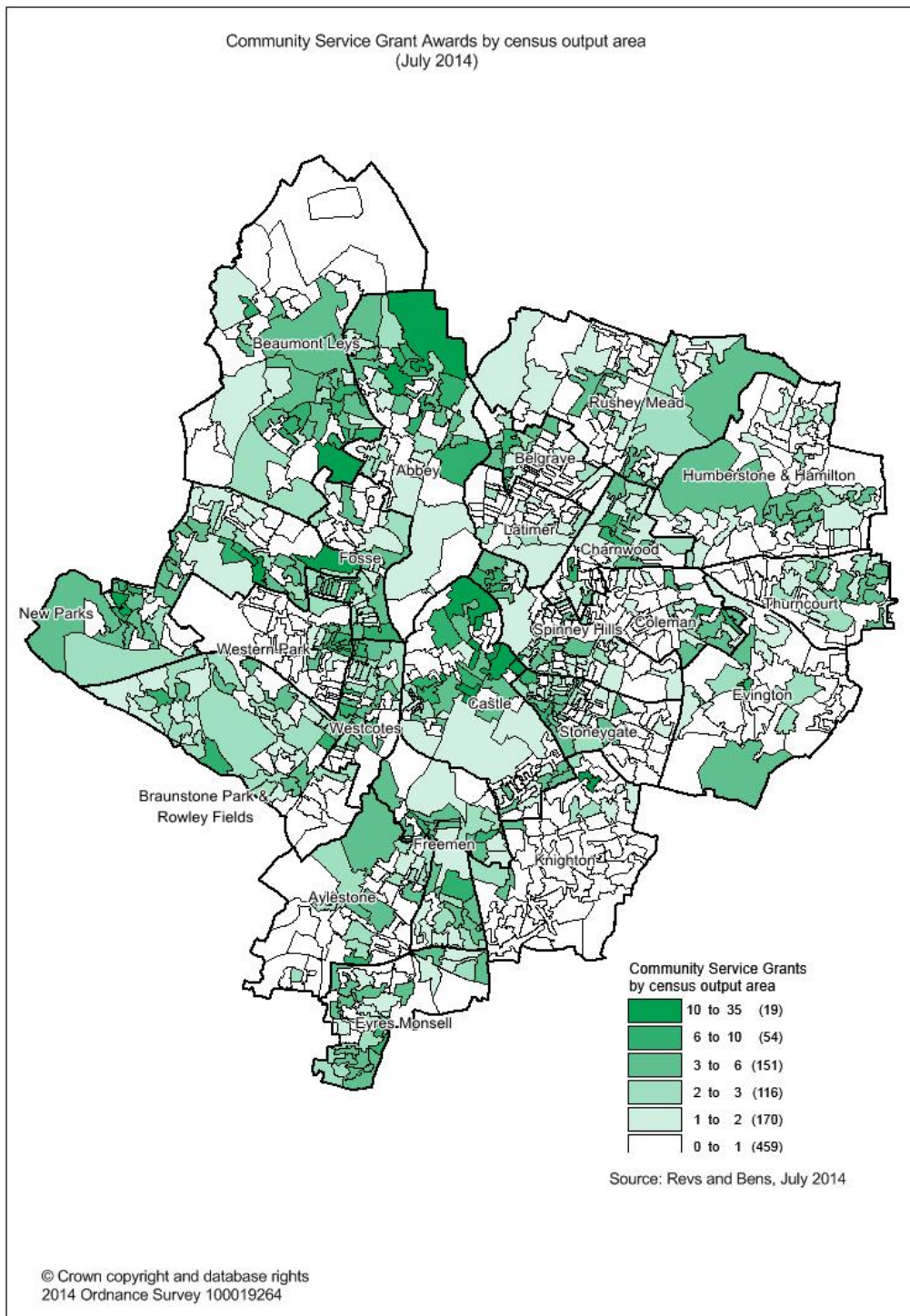
Community Service Grant claims by census output area
July 2014





CSG CLAIMS BY WARD AND TENURE

WARD	Council	Friends	Hostel	Owner Occupier	Private rented	Relatives	Social Landlord	Grand Total - all CSG claims
Castle	95		21	1	123	3	83	326
New Parks	195			4	28	2	16	245
Abbey	131	2	4	3	42	1	15	198
Beaumont Leys	138	1	3	3	33		15	193
Spinney Hills	116	3		5	30		10	164
Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	92		2	2	35		6	137
Freemen	55	3	3	3	55	4	7	130
Eyres Monsell	86	1		1	30	2	2	122
Westcotes	37	2	7	2	64		10	122
Charnwood	72	1	2	1	38		3	117
Fosse	37	1	1	5	53		5	102
Stoneygate	39		2	2	46	1	11	101
Humberstone & Hamilton	40			5	28	3	6	82
Knighton	17		26	2	22	1	11	79
Western Park	12		8		54		5	79
Belgrave	24		7	3	28	1	14	77
Coleman	42		3		21	2	7	75
Thurncourt	39			1	19			59
Aylestone	29	1		3	19		3	55
Rushey Mead	14				28		4	46
Evington	25	1		3	14			43
Latimer	11				10		5	26
Grand Total	1346	16	89	49	820	20	238	2,578

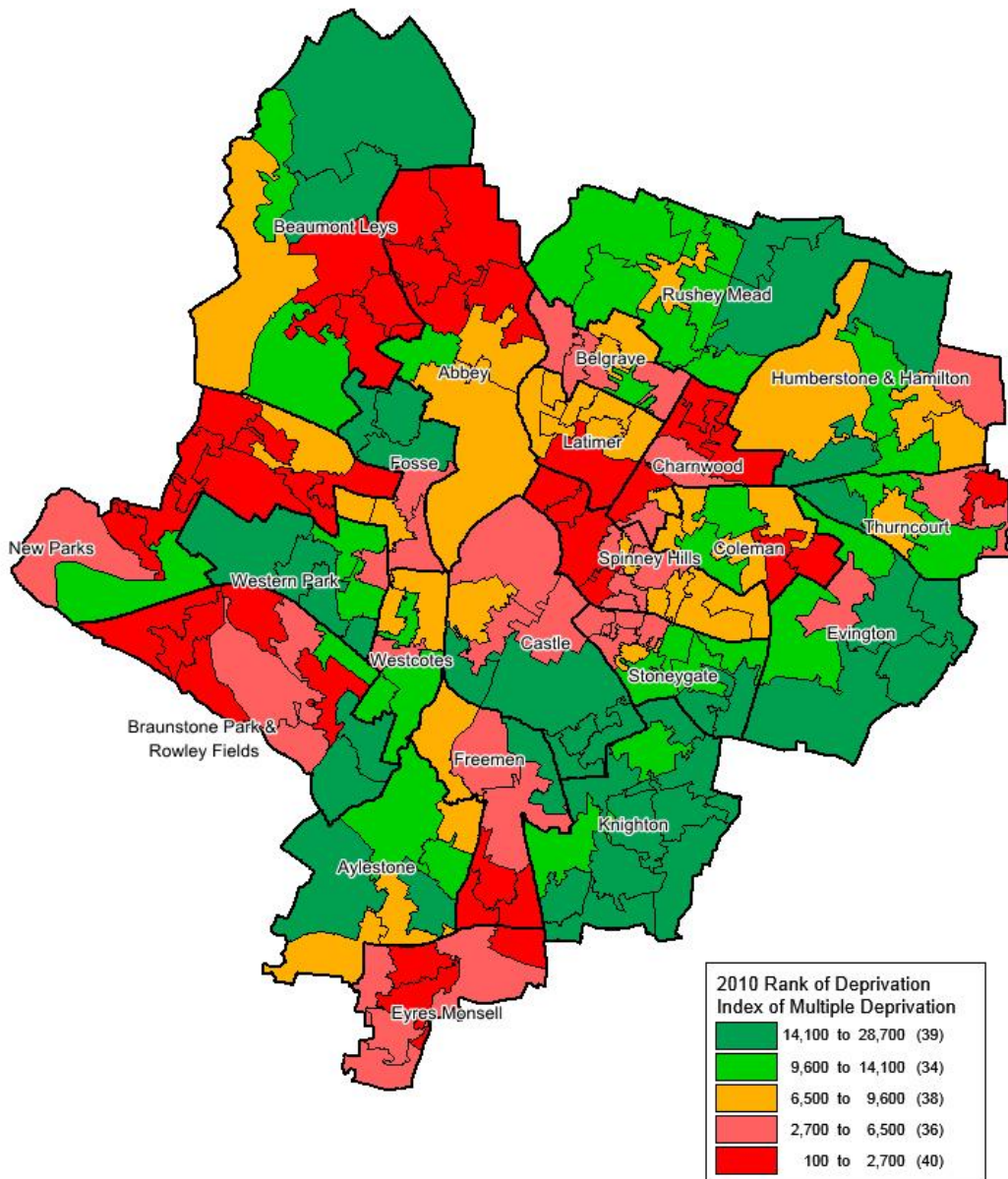




WARD	Count of CSG awards (July 2014)
Castle	223
New Parks	166
Abbey	134
Beaumont Leys	128
Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	93
Freemen	83
Spinney Hills	81
Eyres Monsell	79
Westcotes	76
Fosse	67
Stoneygate	66
Charnwood	61
Knighton	50
Coleman	46
Humberstone & Hamilton	44
Western Park	42
Thurncourt	40
Aylestone	39
Belgrave	38
Rushey Mead	34
Evington	30
Latimer	14
Total CSG awards (with an address)	1,634



Rank of 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation



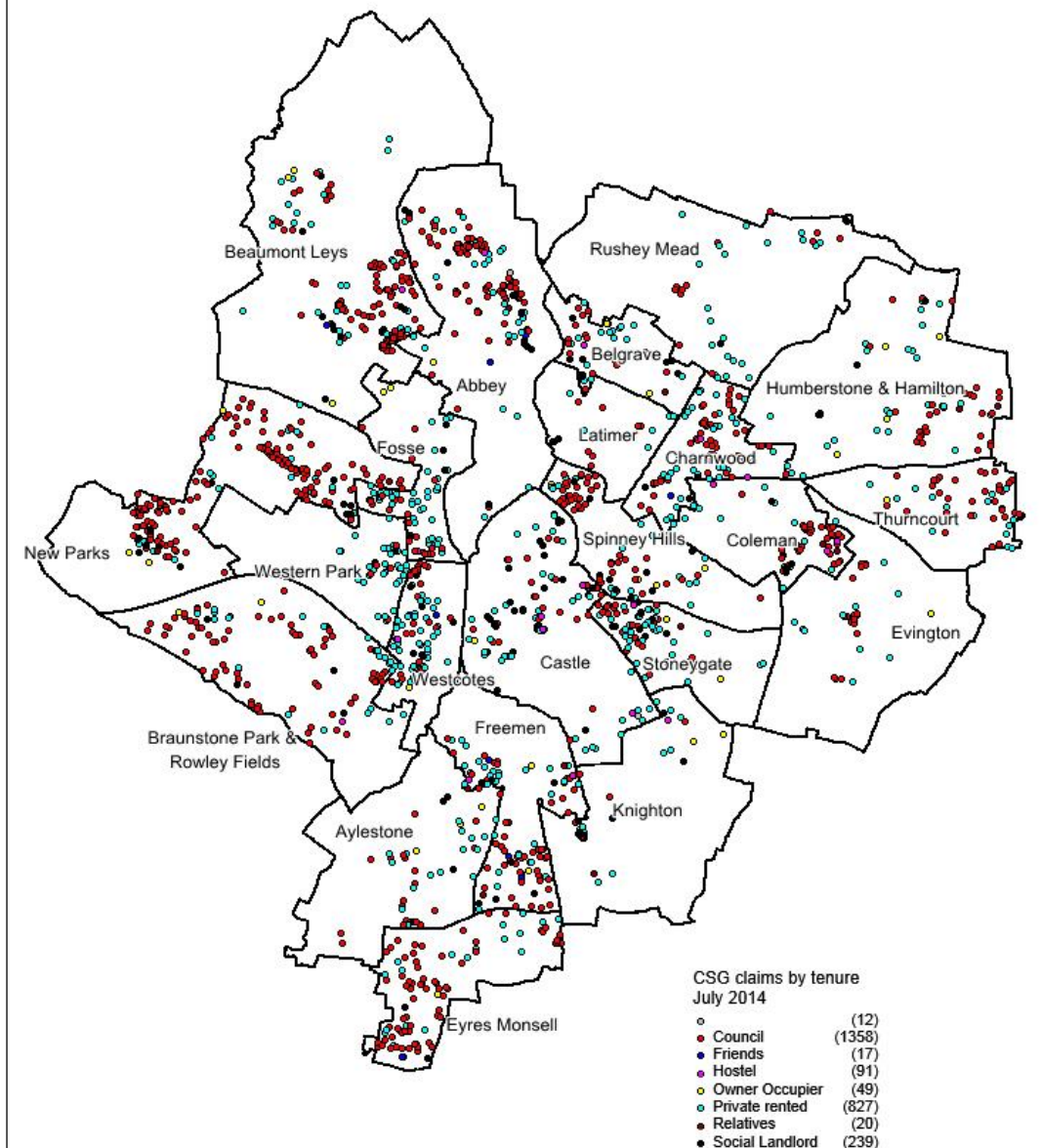
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2011 ward	All categories: Classification of household deprivation	Household is not deprived in any dimension	Household is deprived in 1 dimension	Household is deprived in 2 dimensions	Household is deprived in 3 dimensions	Household is deprived in 4 dimensions	% of all households deprived in 4 dimensions
Abbey	6,169	1,691	2,131	1,680	574	93	1.5
Aylestone	4,839	1,979	1,642	980	225	13	0.3
Beaumont Leys	6,459	2,279	2,185	1,429	496	70	1.1
Belgrave	3,922	896	1,301	1,216	446	63	1.6
Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	6,893	1,908	2,292	1,854	759	80	1.2
Castle	9,177	3,540	3,552	1,496	486	103	1.1
Charnwood	4,490	915	1,550	1,374	565	86	1.9
Coleman	4,832	1,082	1,722	1,451	516	61	1.3
Evington	4,117	1,472	1,490	934	201	20	0.5
Eyres Monsell	4,711	1,246	1,598	1,379	455	33	0.7
Fosse	5,564	2,186	1,928	1,092	328	30	0.5
Freemen	4,222	1,379	1,346	989	469	39	0.9
Humberstone and Hamilton	6,830	2,799	2,173	1,432	390	36	0.5
Knighton	6,792	3,588	2,093	904	179	28	0.4
Latimer	4,130	840	1,373	1,368	496	53	1.3
New Parks	6,892	1,824	2,378	1,915	711	64	0.9
Rushey Mead	5,635	1,752	2,005	1,510	334	34	0.6
Spinney Hills	7,508	1,384	2,472	2,477	1,016	159	2.1
Stoneygate	6,316	2,017	2,221	1,521	482	75	1.2
Thurncourt	4,189	1,210	1,443	1,159	344	33	0.8
Westcotes	4,989	2,126	1,689	838	290	46	0.9
Western Park	4,449	2,101	1,398	767	153	30	0.7



Community Service Grant Claims by tenure
July, 2014

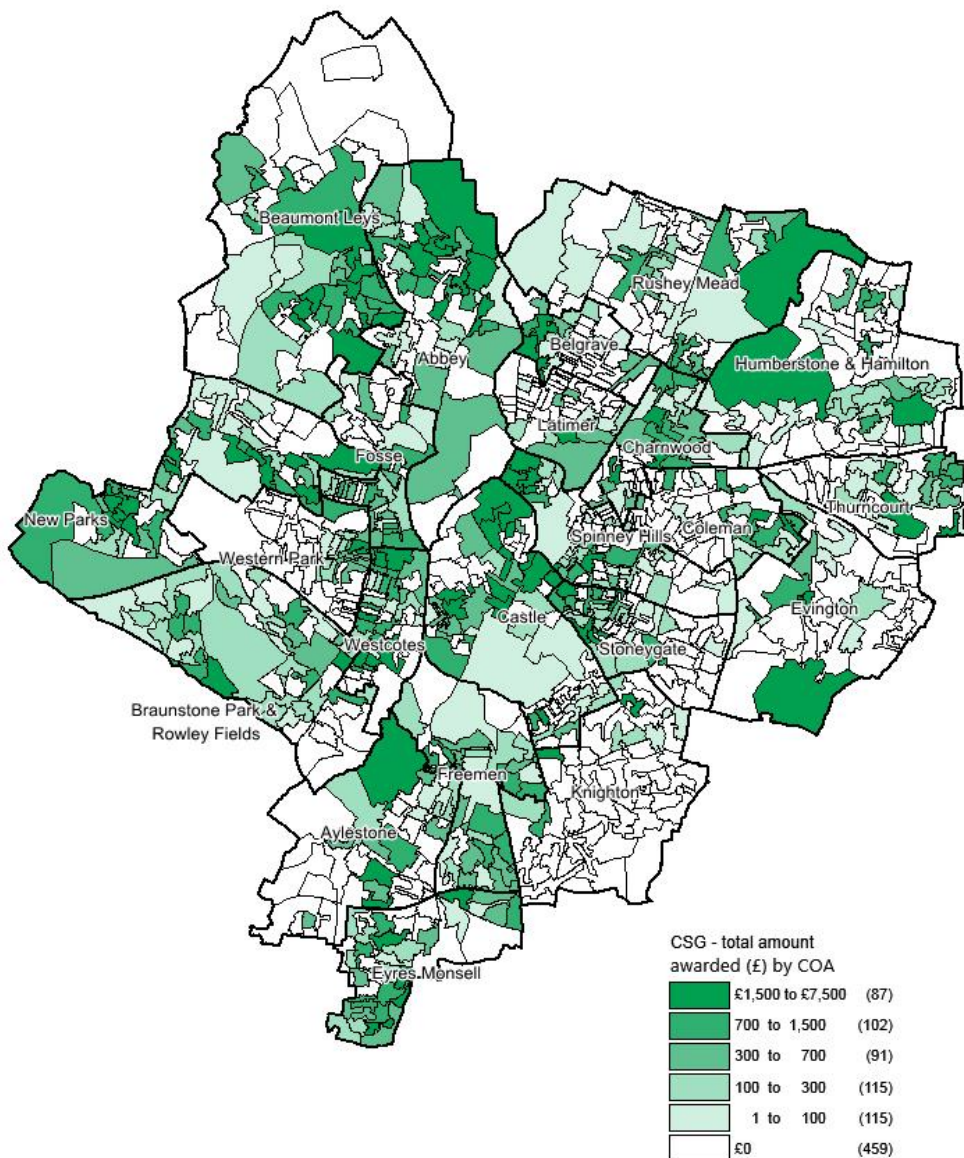


Source: Revs and Bens, July 2014

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Community Service Grants - total value of award by census output area
(July 2014)



Source: Revs and Bens, July 2014

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