



Meeting: Cabinet

Date/Time: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 at 2.00 pm

Location: Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield

Contact: Ms. J. Bailey (Tel. 0116 305 2583)

Email: jenny.bailey@leics.gov.uk

Membership

Mr. D. Harrison CC (Chairman)

Mr. C. Abbott CC	Mr. V. Richichi CC
Mr. K. Crook CC	Mr. M. Squires CC
Mr. H. Fowler CC	Mr. A. Tilbury CC
Mr. C. Pugsley CC	

Please note: this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's web site at [Cabinet meeting webcasts](#) - notices will be on display at the meeting explaining the arrangements.

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2025.		(Pages 3 - 8)
2. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.		
3. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.		
4. Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30.	Director of Corporate Resources	(Pages 9 - 12) Yes



<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>
5. School Places Strategy 2026 to 2031.	Director of Children and Family Services	(Pages 13 - 104) Yes
6. Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2026-2029.	Director of Children and Family Services	(Pages 105 - 110)
7. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 111 - 170)
8. Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution.	Director of Environment and Transport	(Pages 171 - 242)
9. Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.		
10. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.		



Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 16 December 2025.

PRESENT

Mr. D. Harrison CC (in the Chair)

Mr. C. Abbott CC
Mr. K. Crook CC
Mr. H. Fowler CC

Mr. V. Richichi CC
Mr. A. Tilbury CC

Apologies

Mr. C. Pugsley CC
Mr. M. Squires CC

In attendance

Mr. P. King CC (via Microsoft Teams)

75. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

76. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

77. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

78. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations were made.

79. Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30.

Members considered a report and supplementary report of the Director of Corporate Resources which set out the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026/27 to 2029/30 for consultation and scrutiny. A copy of the report and supplementary report marked 'Agenda Item 5' is filed with these minutes.

Mr. H. Fowler CC, the Cabinet Lead Member, welcomed the external Efficiency Review that was currently being undertaken and recognised that this would have an impact on the final proposals for the MTFS. He felt that the proposals in the draft MTFS for Council Tax were balanced between providing value for money for taxpayers and meeting the needs of service users. He encouraged residents to respond to the consultation.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), including the 2026/27 draft revenue budget and capital programme, be approved for consultation and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission for consideration;
- b) That the Director of Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources, be authorised to -
 - i. agree a response to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement;
 - ii. decide on the appropriate course of action with regard to the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Rates Pool in 2026/27 and, subject to agreement by all member authorities, to implement this;
- c) That each Chief Officer, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and following consultation with the relevant Lead Member(s), undertake preparatory work as considered appropriate to develop the savings set out in the draft MTFS and to identify additional savings in light of the financial gap in all four years of the MTFS, to enable the Cabinet and Council to consider further those savings to be taken forward as part of the MTFS and implemented in a timely manner;
- d) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on 3 February 2026.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To enable the County Council to meet its statutory requirements with respect to setting a balanced budget and Council Tax precept for 2026/27 and to provide a basis for the planning of services over the next four years.

To ensure that the County Council's views on the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement are made known to the Government.

To enable the County Council (alongside the pooling partners) to respond to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in respect of the Business Rates Pool within 28 days from the draft Local Government Finance Settlement.

To enable early work to be undertaken on the development of new savings to address the worsening financial position.

To consider feedback from consultation on the draft MTFS and the views of the Overview and Scrutiny bodies and the final recommendations to be made to the County Council.

80. Investing in Leicestershire Programme Rural Estate Strategy 2025-2035.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought approval to commence consultation on the draft Rural Estate Strategy, provided an outline of the draft Strategy and set out the planned approach to the proposed consultation with stakeholders. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 6' is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Rural Estate Strategy be approved for consultation.

(KEY DECISION)

REASONS FOR DECISION:

It is a legal requirement for public bodies such as local authorities to consult residents, service users, stakeholders and staff on key strategies which might affect them. Consultation will strengthen the Rural Estate Strategy by enabling stakeholders to contribute to the emerging strategy and ensure that a diverse range of views and ideas are incorporated, thereby reinforcing support for its implementation.

81. Procurement of Community Life Choices (Day Services and Personal Assistants).

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities which sought approval to progress with the procurement of a new Community Life Choices (CLC) framework, which included both day centres/services and individual personal assistants provided by organisations. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 7' is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the procurement of a new Community Life Choices (CLC) framework for the provision of day centres/services and individual personal assistants provided by organisations be approved;
- b) That the Director of Adults and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to enter into any contractual arrangements necessary to bring into effect the new CLC framework with effect from 31 August 2026.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The current CLC framework ends on 30 August 2026. It is proposed that the new CLC framework will be for the period 2026-2029, with the option to extend for a further two years if required.

The proposals for the future recommissioning of the CLC framework aim to promote sustainability, deliver care and support outcomes in line with the Care Act 2014 and the Council's Fair Outcomes Policy, strengthen carer support, enable progression, and ensure cost-effective care.

82. Strategic Spatial and Transport Planning.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport which set out the proposals for the preparation of a Spatial Development Strategy and sought approval for the Council to share initial evidence work it has developed as the Local Transport Authority with the district councils and developers and to undertake initial scheme feasibility and development work. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

Comments had been received from Mr. P. King CC and Mrs. R. Page CC (local members for the Gartree and Lutterworth divisions respectively) and a written submission had also been received from Dr. H. Winand on behalf of "Stop the New Town" which welcomed the Council's move towards long term strategic spatial planning but set out some concerns. These were circulated separately, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

With the permission of the Chairman, Mr. P. King CC in his capacity as Local Member spoke in support of his comments. He welcomed the acknowledgement in the report that there was no simple solution to the traffic issues on the A6 South Corridor, indicated his support for the more strategic approach being taken by the County Council but expressed concern that funding was not currently available to deliver a scheme.

Mr. H. Fowler CC agreed with the issues outlined by the Local Member. He hoped that Local Government Reorganisation, and the devolution of transport powers to a Strategic Mayoral Authority, would provide the means for a viable solution to be delivered.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Cabinet notes:
 - i The current strategic spatial planning and strategic transport planning issues and the concerns raised by local communities about the traffic impacts of new development;
 - ii That the Local Transport Authority (LTA) supports the principle of a Plan-led approach to development, and that should the LTA consider it cannot support a Local Plan
 - there will nonetheless continue to be a demand for new homes and jobs to meet the needs of Leicester and Leicestershire's growing population, and
 - in the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan there will be a risk of greater levels of unplanned, speculative growth that will present even more challenges for the provision of infrastructure and services;
 - iii That it is considered to be in the best overall interests of communities for the County Council to move towards a longer-term approach to strategic spatial and transport planning;
 - iv That the success of the proposals set out in the report rests on successful collaborative working with the district councils and commitments to that way of working being demonstrated by the district councils through Local Plan policies and narratives as appropriate;

- b) That, accordingly, the following actions be undertaken as detailed in the report:
 - i The preparation of a Spatial Development Strategy;
 - ii Identification and development of schemes to alleviate the transport impacts of growth, based on initial evidence work undertaken to date;
 - iii The sharing with the relevant authorities and developers of initial evidence work that has been undertaken by the LTA and, as it emerges, the outcomes of the further scheme identification and development work set out in b) ii above;
- c) That the Director of Environment and Transport be requested to explore any opportunities to streamline and align the strategic spatial and transport planning work in order to mitigate the traffic impacts of new development including new ways of working where appropriate.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To respond to increasing concerns expressed by local communities, Members, and MPs about the traffic impacts of new developments that are faced across the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area.

A number of new Local Plans are being prepared by district councils in Leicestershire, and the LTA is finding it increasingly difficult to support them. Concerns raised by the County Council about emerging Local Plans in terms of service and infrastructure provision are often not properly addressed, due to pressure on the local planning authorities from the Government to expedite production of their Local Plans and deliver new housing.

Sharing initial evidence work and of the outcomes as they emerge of the proposed scheme identification and development work with district councils will give the LTA the best opportunity to have a constructive influence on the content of Local Plans and establish a sound basis for seeking developer contributions towards the delivery of transport schemes.

The LTA is engaged in confidential pre-application discussions relating to strategic-scale sites proposed to be allocated in the Local Plans and, by sharing evidence with developers, has the opportunity to have a positive/ constructive influence on those developments.

A broader, holistic consideration of strategic spatial planning and transport planning issues on a wider geographical basis is needed in order for the County Council, with limited resources, to address the necessary support for and mitigation of future growth.

83. Response to the Charnwood Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule Consultation.

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport which advised of the County Council's proposed response to Charnwood Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule consultation and sought

approval for comments to be sent to the Borough Council as the views of the County Council. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these notes.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the proposed approach set out in paragraphs 25 to 35 of the report be approved as the basis for the County Council's formal response to the Charnwood Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule consultation;
- b) That the Director of Environment and Transport, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Lead Member, be authorised to submit the County Council's formal response to the Borough Council by 19 December 2025.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

The County Council's response will set out key comments for consideration by Charnwood BC in progressing its CIL Draft Charging Schedule. The expedient adoption of a CIL is considered the best way to mitigate the negative impacts of a lack of strategic transport investment needed to support growth in Charnwood.

84. Items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

There were no items referred from Overview and Scrutiny.

2.00 - 2.55 pm
16 December 2025

CHAIRMAN



CABINET - 3 FEBRUARY 2025

PROVISIONAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2026/27 TO 2029/30

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

Purpose of the Report

1. This purpose of this report is to present the County Council's proposed 2026/27 to 2029/30 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) following consideration of the draft MTFS by the Cabinet in December 2025 and by the Overview and Scrutiny bodies in January 2026, and receipt of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 17 December 2025.
2. A supplementary report setting out the detailed final MTFS proposals is being prepared and will be circulated to members and published on the County Council's website as soon as it is available.

Recommendations

3. The Cabinet is asked to note this and the supplementary report and approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 to 2029/30 for submission to full Council for consideration.

(KEY DECISION)

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The recommendations in the supplementary report will enable the County Council to meet its statutory requirements with respect to setting a balanced budget and Council Tax precept for 2026/27, to allow efficient financial administration during 2026/27 and to provide a basis for the planning of services over the next four years.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. On 16 December 2025, the Cabinet agreed the proposed MTFS, including the 2026/27 revenue budget and 2026/27 to 2029/30 capital programme, for consultation. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Commission considered the proposals at their meetings in January 2026 and their comments will be circulated separately.

6. The County Council meets on 18 February 2026 to consider the MTFS including the 2026/27 revenue budget and capital programme. This will enable the 2026/27 budget to be set before the statutory deadline of the end of February 2026.
7. There is a requirement for the precept to be approved by the Council and notified to the billing authorities (the district councils) by no later than 1 March 2026.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. The MTFS is a rolling financial plan that is updated annually. The current MTFS was approved by the County Council on 19 February 2025.
9. The County Council's Strategic Plan (agreed by the Council on 18 May 2022) summarises the Council's vision for Leicestershire through five strategic outcomes and a single line vision statement. The outcomes represent long-term aspirations for Leicestershire which may not be achieved in full during the four-year course of the Strategic Plan. Therefore, the Plan also includes specific aims for the Council to achieve by 2026 in order to progress towards each outcome. It also sets out some of the key actions which the Council will deliver to achieve these aims. The five outcomes are:
 - Clean, green future
 - Great communities
 - Improving opportunities
 - Strong economy, transport and infrastructure
 - Keeping people safe and well
10. The MTFS, along with other plans and strategies such as the Transformation Programme, the Capital Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy, the Corporate Asset Management Plan and the Risk Management Strategy, aligns with these aims and underpins the Strategic Plan's delivery.
11. The Cabinet at its meeting on 12 September 2025 inter alia noted the significant financial challenges faced by the Council and agreed the approach to updating the MTFS.

Legal Implications

12. The Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on this report.
13. The Council's Constitution provides that the budget setting is a function of the Council which is required to consider the budget calculation in accordance with the provisions set out in Local Government Finance Act 1992.
14. The Council is required to set a balanced budget each year following the processes set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Director of Corporate Resources as the Council's Section 151 Officer has a number of duties relating the Council's financial administration and resilience including to report on the robustness of the Council's budget estimates and the adequacy of its reserves. There is a further duty to issue a formal report if the s151 Officer

believes that the Council is unable to set or maintain a balanced budget. In addition, there is a requirement set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and relevant regulations for the Council when carrying out its duties to have regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

15. The Council is further charged with a duty to secure best value by making 'arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness'. This duty is supplemented by statutory guidance to which the Council must have regard.
16. The function of the County Council in setting its budget will engage the Public Sector Equality Duty and this will be addressed in the supplementary report.
17. The Council is required to consult representatives of business rate payers on the proposed MTFS. Proposals arising from the MTFS in relation to a change of provision/service may require public consultation before any final decision is made.
18. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies: a member [councillor] who has not paid an amount due in respect of Council Tax for at least two months after it has become payable is subject to various restrictions if they attend a meeting at which matters relating to the calculation of the precept are considered. The effect of the restriction means that a member in this position must declare this fact and they cannot vote. It is an offence to vote or to fail to make this declaration.

Resource Implications

19. The MTFS is the key financial plan for the County Council. The County Council's financial position has been challenging for a number of years due to over a decade of austerity combined with significant growth in spending pressures, particularly from social care and special education needs. This was exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and significant increases in inflation.
20. More detail on other issues affecting the Council's financial position will be set out in the supplementary report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

21. This and the supplementary report will be circulated to all Members of the County Council.

Equality Implications

22. There are no equality implications arising from this report. The supplementary report will detail the proposed MTFS and any equality implications arising from it.

Human Rights Implications

23. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

Officers to Contact

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Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 16 December 2025 - Medium Term Financial Strategy
2026/27 to 2029/30 - Proposals for Consultation.

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7882>

Report to the County Council on 19 February 2025: Medium Term Financial Strategy
2025/26 - 2028/29.

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=7391>

County Council Strategic Plan.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/the-strategic-plan>



CABINET - 3 FEBRUARY 2026

SCHOOL PLACES STRATEGY 2026–2031

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on Leicestershire County Council's draft School Places Strategy 2026–2031 and to seek approval of the Strategy, which is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - (a) Notes the outcome of consultation on the draft School Places Strategy 2026-2031;
 - (b) Approves the School Places Strategy 2026-2031;
 - (c) Notes that a School Places Delivery Plan will be developed to support the implementation of the Strategy.

(KEY DECISION)

Reasons for Recommendation

3. To note the feedback received from the consultation on the Strategy which has informed the final version.
4. The School Places Strategy sets out how the Council will meet its statutory duties to ensure that there are sufficient high quality school places in Leicestershire which are in the right place, at the right time. It outlines the background, principles and challenges of delivering school places in Leicestershire and how the Council will work with stakeholders to fund and deliver places between 2026 and 2031.

5. The School Places Delivery Plan will set out how the ambitions detailed in the Strategy will be achieved.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. A six-week consultation on the draft School Places Strategy was held from 20th November 2025 until 4th January 2026.
7. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report as part of the consultation process at its meeting on 20th January 2025 and its comments are set out in paragraph 48 and 49 below.
8. Following approval by the Cabinet, a School Places Delivery Plan, setting out priority areas of action by the Council, will be developed.
9. The Children and Family Services Capital Programme Board will oversee progress against the School Places Delivery Plan, including monitoring of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

10. Local authorities have a legal obligation to ensure that sufficient, high-quality school places are available for all children and young people in their area. This duty applies to both mainstream education and provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
11. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires that local authorities ensure that sufficient school places are available to provide primary and secondary education for children within the area. This includes planning for future demand, commissioning new provisions, and working with maintained schools and academies to ensure capacity and quality. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 further reinforce the requirement to promote high standards, fair access, and parental choice.
12. For children and young people with SEND, the statutory framework is provided by Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. This legislation requires local authorities to identify, assess, and secure appropriate provision for those aged 0–25 with SEND. The accompanying SEND Code of Practice emphasises the need for strategic planning to ensure sufficiency of specialist places and inclusive mainstream educational provision.
13. Together, these duties require local authorities to act as strategic commissioners, forecasting demand, planning capacity, and working collaboratively with schools, academy trusts, and other partners to ensure that every child and young person can access suitable, high-quality education.

14. The Academies Act of 2010 moved the education provision for children towards a more autonomous and diverse system, away from the traditional structure of schools under the direct control of the local authority.
15. In November 2014, the Cabinet agreed the previous strategy for the organisation of school and other educational places, "In the Right Place".
16. At its meeting on 7th February 2025, the Cabinet considered a report on the Council's Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which set out the Capital Programme for 2025-29. A number of schemes to expand existing schools and academies or establish new schools are included within the Capital Programme, along with funding for strategic capital maintenance of maintained schools.
17. The Cabinet agreed the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2025-2028 on 17th June 2025. Section 4 of the Strategy sets out the Leicestershire SEND and Inclusion Partnership's strategy for ensuring sufficient appropriate educational places for children and young people with SEND. These proposals have been further developed within the draft School Places Strategy.
18. The draft School Places Strategy is aligned with the ambitions set out in the Children and Family Services Department Plan 2026-2029 and the County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26.
19. The Cabinet agreed the draft School Places Strategy for consultation at its meeting on 18th November 2025.

Resource Implications

20. In order to deliver the school places set out in the Strategy, funding streams including Basic Need and High Needs capital grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE), developer contributions (through Section 106 agreements), and growth funding will be used. Schemes will be included within the Council's Capital Programme.
21. The capital requirements to support the increased need for school places through Basic Need funding are not fully met through existing grant allocations following changes to DfE methodology. Discussions are ongoing with DfE representatives to consider how this can be managed.
22. Developer contributions through Section 106 agreements are a key source of funding to meet growth needs for new school places. Historic agreements may not be sufficient for the actual cost of schemes which have experienced significant cost inflation in recent years and are reliant on the speed of building schemes to trigger funding from developers. The Strategy notes that close partnership working with Leicestershire's district councils, as the Local Planning

Authorities, will be needed to ensure continued robustness of negotiations around future developments and consideration given to Deeds of Variation for existing Section 106 funding where this is required.

23. A refresh of the County Council's Planning Obligations Policy will strengthen the need for school places to support new housing developments along with requests for full funding at the application stage to mitigate cost and delivery risks for future schemes.
24. Phased delivery of school builds will support cash flow and certainty of need, making more school places available in the right place at the right time while minimising additional pressure on available capital.
25. The Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

26. This report has been circulated to all Members of the County Council.

Officer(s) to Contact

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PART B

Background

- 27. The background to the Strategy was set out in the report to the Cabinet in November 2025. This included significant changes to Leicestershire's educational landscape since the previous Strategy was agreed and the change in the Council's primary role from a direct provider of school places to a commissioner.
- 28. In addition, the pattern of birth rates in the County has meant that there is currently increased need for Secondary School places, while the position is less consistent across primary schools, with some popular schools oversubscribed and others, typically in rural areas, significantly below capacity. However, major housing development is proposed across Leicestershire by 2036 which is expected to increase total pupil numbers by 26,000.
- 29. An increasing number of children and young people with SEND have been supported by Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in recent years. The number of specialist school places have struggled to keep up with demand, resulting in the use of more expensive independent specialist placements.

The School Places Strategy 2026-2031

- 30. The Council aims to provide high quality school places for children and young people within their communities, close to where they live, and to meet parental preferences as far as possible.
- 31. The School Places Strategy ensures Leicestershire meets its statutory duties by delivering the right number of school places, in the right place, at the right time, with sufficient funding and resources in place to deliver future growth needs. The Strategy sets out the Council's approach to planning, commissioning, and funding school places across all phases, including mainstream, SEND, and alternative provision. It is informed by robust data analysis incorporating demographic trends and predicted housing growth.
- 32. School places are planned through a robust, data-driven process that draws on birth data, GP registrations, school census numbers, admissions data and detailed housing trajectory information to forecast future need, supplemented by annual School Capacity Survey (SCAP) returns and ongoing analysis of migration and retention trends to ensure accuracy. When new housing creates demand, the Council seeks developer funding in line with its Planning Obligations Policy, calculating pupil yield for each development and securing contributions through Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) agreements; in some cases developers may construct new schools directly, but all provision must meet the Council's specifications and DfE requirements.

- 33. As the Council now acts primarily as a commissioner rather than a direct provider, it ensures sufficient special and other school places by working with a diverse range of Local Authority maintained schools, academies and Trusts, commissioning new provision, expanding existing schools, repurposing surplus accommodation, and using dedicated SEND forecasting and placement planning to deliver specialist places - including new special schools, expanded SEND units, and DfE-funded Free Schools - to meet growing needs across the system.
- 34. The Strategy provides an assessment of current school place provision across all phases of education in Leicestershire and forecasts what will be needed over the period to 2031. It sets out how these forecasts have been developed and the roles of the Council, stakeholders and partners in planning and delivering sufficient school places for the future.
- 35. With the scale of changes that have occurred in the educational landscape within Leicestershire since the last Strategy was written and taking into account current forecasts in pupil numbers and place requirements, the Strategy also sets out the Council's approach to the reorganisation of schools where this may be required. This will focus on long-term sustainability, ensuring high quality education, and community need. Reorganisation will only be considered where evidence shows that schools are no longer viable - such as persistently low demand, significant surplus places, financial non-viability, low educational standards, or buildings that cannot be improved cost-effectively. The Council aims to maintain strong local provision by encouraging collaboration, amalgamation, or joining Multi Academy Trusts, before closure is considered. The Strategy outlines a structured statutory process for all changes, including age-range adjustments, published admission number (PAN) changes, redesignation, expansion and, where necessary, closure. This process includes robust business-case development, meaningful consultation with stakeholders, transparent decision-making, and clear implementation planning to ensure any changes support good outcomes for children and remain sensitive to the needs of local communities.

SEND Market Position Sufficiency Statement (MPSS)

- 36. The Council has developed an MPSS which will build upon the School Places Strategy and consider the role of and opportunities for the external market to support the County Council to meet its SEND sufficiency needs through commissioning of specialist school places from the independent sector.

Consultation

- 37. A public consultation exercise on the draft Strategy took place between 20th November 2025 and 4th January 2026. This sought to confirm that the final Strategy reflects local needs and enabled stakeholder feedback to be considered before adoption. The full consultation report setting out both the

activity undertaken and the findings is attached at Appendix B and a summary is given below.

38. The consultation sought the views of local people, communities and partners including responsible bodies such as diocesan representatives and academy trusts, and local planning authorities. An online survey was available to all visitors to the Council's website during the consultation period on the 'Have Your Say' page. A paper copy of the survey was made available upon request to ensure all local people wishing to take part in the consultation were able to. The consultation was promoted through multiple media releases, via social media including posts on the Council's Facebook page and LinkedIn, and targeted communications to key stakeholders.
39. There were 252 views of the consultation web page during the consultation period. Following closure of the consultation, 36 responses had been submitted.
40. All responses were from Leicestershire residents, with 53% being a parent or carer of a child or young person aged 17 or under. Headteachers, teachers, governors, trustees, and other school staff were 31% of respondents. Of the remaining responses, 8% were from interested members of the public, and 3% each from academy trust representatives, representatives from Leicestershire councils and 'other' respondents.
41. The majority of respondents agreed that the Strategy clearly sets out local demographic trends and key challenges impacting school place sufficiency in Leicestershire (72% strongly agreed, tended to agree or neither agreed nor disagreed).
42. A majority of respondents also agreed with the approach to forecasting and school place planning set out in the Strategy (61% strongly agreed, tended to agree, or neither agreed nor disagreed).
43. Respondents generally agreed with the proposed approach to ensuring an adequate number of school places are available at the right time and in the right place (63% strongly agreed, tended to agree, or neither agreed nor disagreed).
44. More than half of respondents also agreed with the approach to commissioning of school places (59% strongly agreed, tended to agree, or neither agreed nor disagreed).
45. Respondents were less supportive of the proposed approach to reorganisation of schools within Leicestershire where this is necessary, with only 39% of respondents agreeing with the proposed approach.

46. Overall, 45% of respondents agreed with the School Places Strategy 2026-2031.
47. A range of comments were provided by respondents; key trends from this feedback have been reviewed and are included in the detailed consultation analysis available in Appendix B. Key themes included:
 - A need to balance sufficiency pressures and school sustainability with outcomes for communities.
 - A lack of clarity around evidence and forecasts for local areas and difficulty navigating the document.
 - A need for reassurance that existing school capacity will be used and strengthened before commissioning new schools.
 - Concerns around a lack of specialist school places to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

48. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report as part of the consultation process at its meeting on 20th January 2026. The Committee was keen to understand more around forecasting methodology, particularly in rural areas where concerns were expressed about pupil forecasts. Officers noted that detailed modelling for each planning area included considerations around births, inward migration, demand for school places and future expected housing growth.
49. In a discussion around the approach to reorganisation of schools set out in Section D of the Strategy, the Committee noted concerns around the potential impact of any need for school reorganisation on rural communities. Officers noted an intention to launch a review of the sustainability of Leicestershire schools in order to ensure the ambitions of the Strategy in delivering sufficient numbers of high-quality school places can be met. The Committee was keen to see a future item on the Scrutiny forward plan on the review of school sustainability as this progresses.

Proposed actions in response to consultation feedback

50. While responses to the majority of questions through the consultation were generally positive, several of the key themes identified in responses require additional action to ensure the Strategy is effective in ensuring the Council meets its statutory obligations to deliver sufficient high quality school places in the right place at the right time.
51. Local planning area data was not able to be shared at the time of the consultation due to sign-off processes by the DfE, which potentially led to misunderstandings around the detailed plans and sufficiency forecasts for

specific planning areas. The detailed planning area data sheets will be published alongside the final Strategy to enable interested parties to better understand local plans for their area. These sheets help to explain local forecasts including assumptions used and will form the basis for future decision making around the need for new school places and school sustainability against future pupil forecasts. Data sheets will be regularly updated and made available via the Council's website.

- 52. A School Places Delivery Plan will be developed following publication of the Strategy, setting out how the ambitions of the Strategy will be achieved. This will include clear actions, milestones and success measures which will ensure the Strategy drives school place sufficiency and school sustainability across the County, considering the impact of decisions on local communities. The Delivery Plan is intended to cover the period of the Strategy from 2026 to 2031 and will be updated at least annually in line with the annual Capital Programme as part of the MTFS refresh. A section of the Plan will set out how specialist SEND school places will be delivered, considering current and forecast demand and addressing concerns raised within the consultation around current availability.
- 53. The Delivery Plan will ensure that existing school place capacity is used before commissioning new builds, consider options for expansion of existing schools where this is practical to reinforce sustainability in terms of pupil numbers, and safeguard against unintended impacts of new schools on existing nearby schools and staffing.
- 54. A summary version of the Strategy will also be developed to ensure the document is more accessible.

Implementation of the School Places Strategy

- 55. The Children and Family Services Capital Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Education, Inclusion and Additional Needs and attended by key internal stakeholders from across Children and Family Services, Finance and Property Services will oversee progress against the School Places Delivery Plan, including monitoring of KPIs which ensure that there are sufficient high quality school places in Leicestershire which are in the right place, at the right time.

Equality Implications

- 56. The Strategy aims to ensure equity of access to high-quality education for all children and young people. There are no adverse equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 57. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed on the Strategy and consultation approach which can be found at Appendix C. It concluded that the

Strategy should have a neutral or positive impact for all protected groups and other communities which are of special interest to the Council.

Human Rights Implications

58. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Other Implications and Impact Assessments

59. Health implications: The Strategy supports access to education, which is a key determinant of health and wellbeing.
60. Environmental implications: The Strategy considers the location of new schools and travel arrangements to minimise environmental impact.
61. Partnership working: The Strategy has been developed in partnership with schools, academies, District councils, and other stakeholders.
62. Risk assessment: Risks associated with school place planning, funding, and delivery are identified and mitigated within the Strategy.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 18 November 2025 "School Places Strategy 2026-2031"
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7881&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 17 June 2025 "Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2025-2028"
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7877>

Report to the Cabinet on 7 February 2025 "Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29"
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7873>

Report to the County Council on 18 May 2022 "Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026"
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=6482>

Report to the Cabinet on 19 November 2014 "In the right place – A strategy for the organisation of school and other learning places in Leicestershire 2014 / 2018"
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=3995&Ver=4>

Appendices

- Appendix A: Draft School Places Strategy 2026–2031
- Appendix B: School Places Strategy Consultation Report
- Appendix C: Equality Impact Assessment

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School Places Strategy 2026 - 2031

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Welcome to the Leicestershire School Places Strategy 2026 to 2031.

In Leicestershire, we believe that children and their education should come first. We want our children and young people to enjoy learning, make good progress, and achieve high standards. This will provide them with a strong foundation to build their lives on. To do this, we want to ensure that Leicestershire offers a good choice and diversity of school places, providing excellent opportunities for all learners at schools within their own communities.

We are proud that children thrive in Leicestershire's schools and academies, and this strategy is about supporting their ongoing success. Our aim is to ensure that schools are the right size for their community, safe, accessible and inclusive, well maintained and provide a high-quality learning environment and facilities.

The School Places Strategy examines the duties placed upon the County Council by the Department for Education and provides an analysis of current school provision across all phases of education that exist across Leicestershire so that stakeholders and partners understand how places are planned and developed. The role of the Council is set within a legal framework of statutory duties to ensure that there are sufficient school places in its area. The Council's primary role is now a commissioner of school places rather than a direct provider.

Our statutory duty remains clear – to ensure that there are sufficient good school places. This strategy is about ensuring that we meet that duty by having the right number of school places in the right place, at the right time and secure sufficient funding and resources to this.

We will achieve this by working closely in partnership with our many stakeholders.

The strategy covers the background, principles and challenges of delivering school places in Leicestershire and how we will work collaboratively to fund and deliver places.

It is hoped that all stakeholders with an interest in the planning of school places will find this document useful, take the time to become familiar with its content, and actively engage and support the delivery of our vision to ensure that Leicestershire is the best place for all children, young people and families.

Jane Moore

Director

Children and Family Services

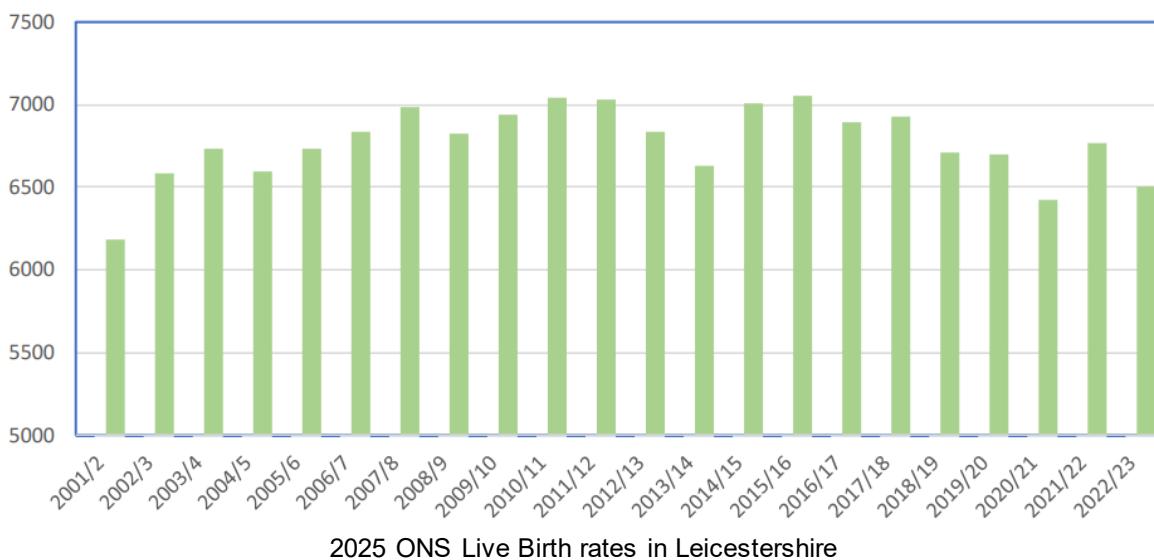
Councillor Charles Pugsley

Cabinet Lead Member

Children and Family Services

Pupil Forecasting

Leicestershire County Council has a strong record of actively planning school places to meet its statutory duty using forecast data to analyse need and inform solutions.



From 2007 to 2018 the birth rate peaked several times to around 7,000 per year and has since fallen in line with a fall in birth rate seen across the UK, despite population growth in some parts of Leicestershire. The larger cohorts, which have also increased because of inward migration, are now progressing through secondary schools and Post 16.

Trend-based pupil projections for individual schools across both primary and secondary phases are produced annually. The County Council provides detailed pupil forecasts for every school and academy. Leicestershire is experiencing high levels of new housing growth from the seven district councils. Housing gains from developments that have received planning permission are included in our forecasts. Health data is used to track the numbers of births and location of pre-school age children. In addition to this, like all County Councils, we complete a statutory annual return for the Department for Education of the net capacity of each school and academy in the county. Schools must inform the Council of any physical change to the buildings that might change building layout and capacity. This information is then reported through the annual statutory data collection which captures school capacities, pupil forecasts and details of future school places delivery.

The quality of data available for mainstream forecasting means the County Council can accurately predict need. The forecasting of SEND place

requirements is less predictable. Recently, detailed analysis of current and forecast will enable us to better understand and plan for SEND needs so that we can strategically plan the delivery of places.

Planning School Places

The County Council has a good record of actively planning school places so that parents are given the best possible chance of securing one of their preferences. Admissions and School Organisation services work closely together to achieve a high proportion of parents gaining one of their preferences at First Time Admissions (FTA) and Secondary Transfer. Where necessary they work with secondary schools to provide additional capacity in bulge years ahead of permanent provision.

Each autumn, the School Organisation Service analyses forecast data to decide what actions are needed to provide more school places for future years.

Key projects are added to the Capital Programme, and officers work with schools and academies to consider options for creating extra pupil places, undertaking site visits and feasibility studies to scope projects. Once a scheme is developed and briefed approval is sought from the Children and Family Services Capital Programme Board (CPB). Plans are developed in consultation with stakeholders and progressed in accordance with the timescales required, usually the start of academic year.

A review of admission applications is undertaken to identify the need for any unplanned need for expansions.

Statutory process must be followed when a school or academy is enlarged. For maintained schools a Statutory Notice must be published and for Academy Trusts a Significant Enlargement application must be submitted to the Regional Directorate of the Department for Education. Permanent increases in SEND provision at a maintained school or Academy also require a statutory process to be followed.

Places required because of housing developments are usually funded by developer contributions. The County Council works closely with all seven district councils, the Local Planning Authorities (LPA), in relation to Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions, sought on an individual development basis to meet CIL tests. Where it is forecast that local schools cannot meet increased demand education infrastructure contributions are based on the pupil yield from the housing development multiplied by the cost multiplier in the County Council's Planning Obligations Policy (LPOP).

Primary School Places

In response to housing growth and population increase over the past 10 years Leicestershire has delivered several new primary schools and expanded others. As the birth rate has now fallen some primary schools are experiencing falling rolls, especially in rural locations where no significant housing growth is planned.

In 2025/26 academic year there was a capacity of 61,064 places with a number on roll of 56,213 pupils resulting in a primary surplus of 4,831 places which equals 7.91% of the available capacity across Leicestershire.

- Some rural primary schools have a significant number of surplus places due to their location away from urban areas and housing development.
- There are pockets of localised pressure on primary places in the large urban centres throughout Leicestershire.
- The demand for additional places in high birth rate years has now moved into the secondary with the 2025/6 Year 6 cohort being the final year of the increased birth rate passing through.

The latest forecast suggests that further expansion of primary schools in areas with housing growth is needed. In addition, a number of new primary schools on housing developments are named on Section 106 agreements and Local Plan developments imply additional schools will be needed. The County Council is working with developers to secure contributions for school places at new and existing primary and secondary schools.

Increasing numbers of mid-term applications continue to prove difficult to address, especially at secondary schools. In 2024/25 22,624 mid-term applications were received with 18,646 children being allocated a place. This equates to 82% of all in-year applications that year. 49.4% of all applications are for primary school places and 50.6% for secondary school places. The County Council's statutory duty only applies to First Time Admissions (FTA), infant to junior and Year 7 for secondary transfer.

The 2022 Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HEN) for Leicestershire indicated that 52,160 homes will be required for Leicestershire by 2036. If Local Plans deliver this the pupil capacity needed in Leicestershire schools could see an increase from 110,485 school places to 136,963 school places. This is an increase of 26,478 (23.9%) school places across all phases and types of education. Whilst smaller pockets of development could be accommodated at existing schools through expansion, new primary schools and secondary schools will be needed.

Housing development in the towns of Oadby, Hinckley, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray, Coalville, Ashby and Market Harborough will increase the need for local primary places. Proposed developments of more than 4,000 homes in North West Leicestershire and Hinckley will require several new schools with multiple new forms of entry for primary.

Secondary school forecasts show an increasing number of places required from 2027 to manage growth caused by the historic higher birth rate and housing development. The 2025/26 capacity of 48,276 will be exceeded in 2027/28. Secondary school expansions are planned in the main urban centres to manage the demand for places. There will be pressure on places resulting from rising numbers in specific localities and in some areas current supply levels will not be sufficient. In-year applications across secondary schools are particularly difficult to manage in some areas and do result in some children having to travel outside their community to be educated. This pressure will ease as additional places come on board.

Secondary School Places

The County Council continues to explore options to increase capacity in the secondary sector, working closely with secondary schools (now all academies). Academy Trusts have been willing to take on bulge years to help manage demand until permanent places can be created. Expansion has helped grow some schools to a sustainable size, including former 11 – 14 high schools.

Several secondary schools have been or will be expanded to meet expected demand. Some former high schools have also needed significant investment to address shortfalls in infrastructure, such as sporting and dining facilities, to ensure they are fit for purpose and able to manage public examinations for large cohorts. If all of proposed housing development is delivered a range of 6FE to 9FE secondary schools in Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley and North-West Leicestershire will be needed.

Post 16 Places

Post 16 places are predominantly within local academy sixth forms or Further Education (FE) college provision. The number of Post 16 places being taken up has been low for several years but with the recent increased birth rate now passing through secondary schools and predicted housing growth, the numbers are rising again. Demand for Post 16 SEND places is also rising.

The demand for SEND provision continues to grow through increases in EHCPs and demand for specialist school places, which continues to rise faster than capacity. The number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has grown annually at a national and local level since the

introduction of the SEN Code of Practice changes in 2014. Based on the latest SEN2 published data, the number of EHCPs in England rose 149% between 2016 and 2025; Leicestershire saw a 140% increase from 2,995 to 7,196 EHCPs over the same time period.

SEND Places

Leicestershire has 9 state funded special schools and academies offering 1,856 places as of September 2025. There are also 786 places in SEND Units and Enhanced Resource Bases attached to mainstream schools. Demand for Special School places is exceeding capacity despite additional places being created.

Work to develop SEND provisions across the county is ongoing, including converting surplus primary capacity to Enhanced Resource Bases (ERB). Bowman Academy, a new SEMH provision opened in September 2024. In March 2023 Leicestershire was successful in a DfE bid for a new Communication and interaction school in Quorn., which is currently in development. Feasibility work is also in progress for an area special school in Market Harborough.

Reorganisation of School Places

Reorganisation of school places to ensure all schools are sustainable will need to be a key strategic focus for the County Council. Consistent secondary transfer age, the removal of a two-tier secondary phase and some infant and junior amalgamations have historically been achieved. A number of small schools are not able to balance their budgets and have low pupil numbers projected. This strategy discusses Leicestershire's approach to the reorganisation of schools in greater detail and how it will be achieved.

Risks associated with the delivery of school places have increased since the Covid-19 pandemic. The County Council has experienced significant cost increases due to inflation, global events and shortage of construction workers. Legacy Section 106 agreements, based on lower pupil yield rates and construction costs at the time have led to a significant shortfall in funding to deliver school places. Changes in DfE Basic Need funding methodology has reduced funding to address this. To avoid this the County Council now makes a full monetary ask from the developer at the time of consultation which is reviewed immediately prior to construction of a development. Leicestershire's primary school designs have been carefully value engineered to reduce costs whilst ensuring there is no negative impact on the learning environment and pupil outcomes.

In summary, over the next five years the County Council expects to see a slow increase in primary places needed, predominantly in urban areas, whilst demand

for primary school places will fall where there is no planned housing. There will be a continuing rise in secondary places needed and the Local Authority will continue to monitor pupil forecasts each year and increase availability of places at existing or new schools.

1 - Our Statutory Duty

Local Authorities have a legal obligation under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure that sufficient school places are available to provide primary and secondary education for children within the area. Effective school place planning is a fundamental element of the Local Authority's role as strategic commissioner of good school places across all phases and types of statutory education.

A core ambition is for all children and young people living in Leicestershire is that they have access to the highest quality education so that they can fulfil their potential. Through the commissioning of school places we will ensure we have the right supply of high-quality school places, in buildings that are fit for purpose and allow children to achieve the best outcomes possible. This strategy is about ensuring that we meet that duty by having the right number of school places in the right locations, at the time they are needed, and having sufficient capital and revenue funding in place to achieve this.

The Academies Act of 2010 moved the education provision for children towards a more autonomous and diverse system rather than the traditional structure of schools under the direct control of the Local Authority. In terms of educational provision, the Local Authority has embraced this change and has supported schools converting to academies, setting up of Multi Academy Trusts and seeking age range changes. Most Leicestershire children, across all phases and types of provision, are now taught within an academy.

This has meant that the Local Authority's role has moved significantly from provider to commissioner. We now work in a very different way by working with a diverse range of providers and models of delivery. The range of Leicestershire education providers offers parents choices when applying for school places. Providing for children with additional needs is at the forefront of national policy and a key driver in ensuring that Leicestershire children can be educated, thrive and belong within their own community.

In terms of schools, regardless of being Local Authority maintained or an academy, we have responsibility to:

- Help develop and promote a sustainable system of education.
- Ensure that all schools offer good choice for children and young people of all abilities, safe and secure environments, delivered through local solutions wherever possible.

- Ensure in respect of the above that we have effective admission arrangements, and fair access protocols in place.
- Ensuring the school estate is fit for purpose.

Under Section 14 of the 1996 Education Act, when planning for school places, we must, as the Local Authority, take into consideration a range of factors, including:

- Forecast pupil numbers.
- School capacity.
- Impact of housing growth.
- The need to promote diversity and increase parental choice.

The schools available within a Local Authority Planning area shall not be regarded as sufficient for the purposes of meeting need unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education that leads to positive outcomes for young people.

To meet our statutory duty, the Local Authority will consider:

- Expanding existing schools.
- Building new schools.
- Working with maintained schools and academy trusts to ensure sufficient places.
- Reducing capacity though a reduction in published admission numbers or closure
- Reorganising existing schools.
- Considering alternative solutions such as transporting children outside of their community.

As a Local Authority we will continue to adopt a flexible and innovative approach to delivering our statutory responsibilities and are confident that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead.

2 - Government Policy and Direction

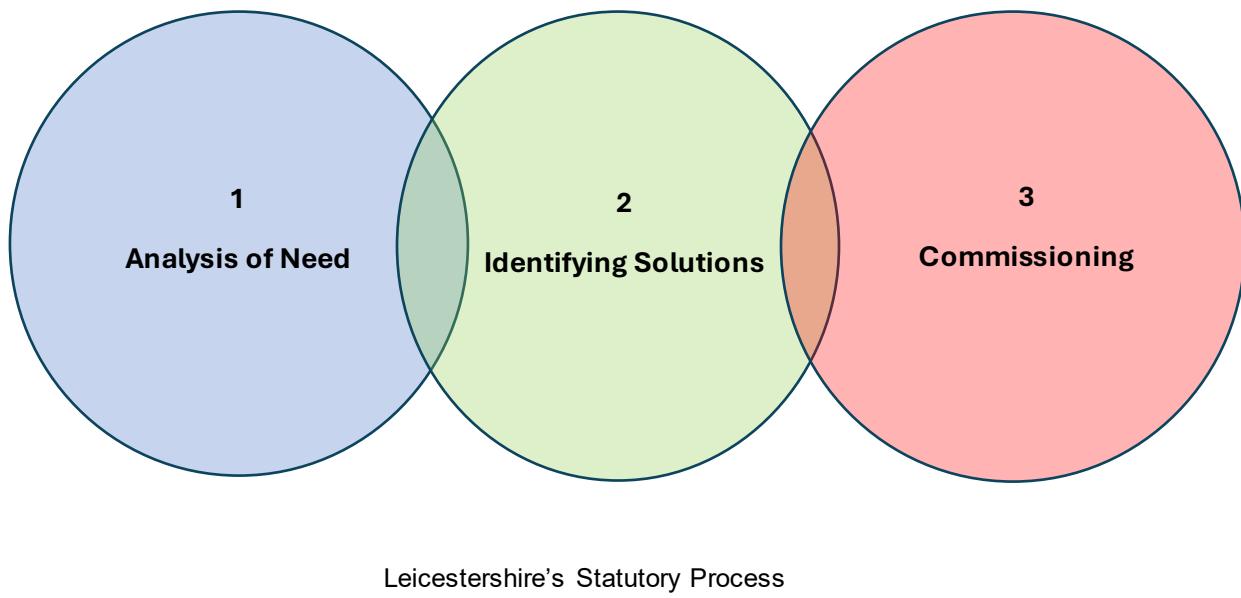
The Government has introduced the Schools' Bill and although it has not come into law yet and is working through due process. At this stage the implications for School Place Planning are unknown.

3 - Our Commissioning Role

To deliver school places we follow a three-step process that effectively and efficiently delivers places and allows the Local Authority to meet need. Our key commissioning activities involve:

- Analysis of the need for places using various sources of data identifying the number of places required and where they will be provided. Working with internal and external partners and stakeholders to negotiate the best possible solution to provide high quality places that support high quality education; Commissioning new providers and existing maintained schools and Academy Trusts to deliver additional school places through CFS's Capital Programme.

The diagram below captures the process behind the County Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient good school places. Although the process appears to be quite simple the work involved is often complex and relies on the knowledge and expertise of officers to ensure the final solution is successfully achieved. There can be significant overlap between each stage of the process, and no two projects are the same.



The School Organisation Service delivers school places by following a three-step process to deliver places where needed:

- Analysis of the need for school places using a range of information to identify the number and location of places required.
- Working with internal and external stakeholders to develop the best possible solution to provide high quality school places.
- Commissioning providers to deliver additional school places.

4 - Stakeholder Engagement

The Local Authority works collaboratively to ensure that its statutory responsibilities are met. The information below shows who the County Council's partners are and their involvement in delivering school places:

Schools and Academies: The School Organisation Service meets on a regular basis with Local Authority Maintained Schools, Single Academy Trusts (SATs) and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) to discuss sufficiency to create opportunities for the commissioning of pupil places. The Local Authority works positively in partnership with all providers to ensure there are sufficient high-quality places for children across the county. Regular sufficiency meetings are held to consider the current position and strategy for growth and reorganisation.

County Council Partners: The County Council's structure of its departments has evolved to continue to meet the needs of the people of Leicestershire. Changes in government legislation and the need for additional pupil places due to an increased birth rate and a significant increase in housing development has meant that work with colleagues has become broader, more complex and detailed. Strategy delivery is reliant on positive relationships with departments across the Council at the strategic planning and delivery stage. Key departments are:

- **Elected Members:** Regular briefings are provided to elected members regarding developments in the provision of school places across Leicestershire and within their own ward.
- **Property Services:** Support the work of the service through every stage of our process. They provide information to support analysis and input into the Section 106 process when requesting land for new schools. Property Services also support with providing technical advice prior to commissioning. Their main input into school places comes through the actual construction of additional places and the

maintenance of schools. Our work with them also includes framework contractors who we work closely with as part of the delivery of places.

- **School Admissions Service:** Both Admissions and School Organisation services rely on each other to be effective in their own service delivery. The provision and delivery of additional places, coupled with required changes in admission arrangements and school catchments, ensures that the County Councils' statutory responsibility is met.
- **Legal Services:** Work with Legal Services has increased due to the increase and complexity of Section 106 agreements. Since the academies agenda started there has also been a new area of legal work involving the passporting of capital funding to Trusts requiring a legal agreement.
- **Planning Obligations Team:** Education developer contributions are complex. The role of the team is to ensure that all requests for developer contributions are in line with the County Council's Planning Obligations Policy which ensures we meet planning legislation.
- **Business Intelligence Team:** The Business Intelligence Team are responsible with providing pupil forecast information to support the planning of pupil places and Section 106 contribution requests.
- **CFS Finance:** The service's work with this team involves the monitoring of income and expenditure for the Capital Programme and support for schools where Growth Funding may be required to supplement revenue budgets when additional pupil places are needed.
- **Planning and Highways:** Early discussions take place with planning and highway colleagues to ensure that the delivery of places is acceptable in planning terms and highways challenges with sites are understood. This is of particular importance when housing developers are offering new school sites and thorough due diligence takes place to ensure the site is suitable.

The School Organisation Service's work with partners, including colleagues in LCC teams, has become more complex, especially with district councils and Housing Developers. The School Organisation Service collaborates on Local Plans across all districts to ensure additional school places are provided where needed. Changes to planning legislation over the past ten years have made the work more detailed and challenging but has increased capital funding from Section 106 agreements, leading to the provision of several new schools built by housing developers.

- **District Councils:** The increase in housing developments has made the School Organisation Service's work with second tier councils more complex. They rely on the School Organisation Service's education provision knowledge when developing their Local Plans and responding to developer contribution requests.
- **Church of England and Catholic Dioceses:** The School Organisation Service meets regularly with the Dioceses regarding the provision of places at their schools and academy Trusts.
- **Department for Education:** The School Organisation Service meets regularly with the DfE Regional Director's Office on matters regarding pupil places, academy conversions, and the implementation of government education legislation.
- **Housing Developers:** The School Organisation Service's work with housing developers has increased dramatically and often involves the provision of new schools, requiring innovative solutions.
- **Education Building Development Officers Group (EBDOG):** This group, made up of School Place Planning officers from across the UK, provides useful benchmarking information that the School Organisation Service contributes to and uses for various purposes.
- **Neighbouring Local Authorities:** The School Organisation Service works with neighbouring local authorities on schools and education providers near the county border that receive pupils from more than one local authority.

5 - Population and Demographics

Leicestershire County Council covers an area of 202,880 hectares and contains a diverse range of communities living within several large urban settlements in the main market towns, or around the periphery of Leicester, and interspersed by many rural villages. The County of Leicestershire is currently a two-tier council. Within the County boundary there are seven District Council areas. Each district has its own unique demography and geography. Leicester City is in the centre of the County and is its own authority. The city is the largest settlement with a population of approximately half a million.



Leicestershire – Leicester City and District Councils

The 2021 Census records 712,300 people living within the County Council area, of which an estimated 143,063 are children and young people aged up to 19 years (including 36,154 0 to 5 year olds). There were 296,400 households within the county.

It indicates the usual resident population figure for Leicestershire increased by 9.5% since 2011. A further 10.2% growth is projected by 2031.

The table below shows expected growth in each of the second-tier councils based on the Office of National Statistics data.

District	2022 Population	2032 Projection	Population Change since 2022	Percentage Population Change since 2022
North-West	107,666	124,628	16,982	15.8
Harborough	100,550	115,044	14,494	14.4
Charnwood	185,266	204,246	18,980	10.2
Melton	52,404	55,116	2,712	5.2
Blaby	104,732	113,732	9,000	9.1
Oadby & Wigston	58,456	62,348	3,892	6.7
Hinckley & Bosworth	114,315	122,350	8,035	7.0
Total:	723,389	797,484	74,095	10.2

ONS Expected growth by District Across Leicestershire

An increase in the birth rate in Leicestershire led to an increase in the intake into primary schools over recent years and that birthrate is now passing through into our secondary schools. The changing dynamics of Leicestershire's population, influenced by changes in birth rate births, immigration, housing developments and economic migration, mean that the pattern of provision of school places must also change in order to keep pace with demand, whether through provision of additional places or through the reorganisation of existing places within the county.

6 - Local Authority Structure

The Government has made it clear it wants to move away from two-tier local government. The County Council is having constructive discussions with the City Council and there is joint agreement that the best option for Leicester and Leicestershire is a two unitary model, one City, one County, that both authorities must be financially sustainable with the capacity to enable strategic land use planning across City and County, providing the optimum structure for devolution of powers, responsibilities and funding.

Although proposals for local government reorganisation are being considered, at this stage, they do not impact on the County Council's School Places Strategy.

7 - Leicestershire's Education History

Prior to 2010, when the Academies Act was passed, Leicestershire was a three-tier education system with primary/infant/junior schools covering 4-11 years old, high schools covering 11-14 years old and upper schools covering 11-16/11-19 years old. Over the subsequent ten years high schools and upper schools converted to academy status and changed their age range, and Leicestershire established a consistent model of primary/infant/junior and secondary schools.

In addition to this some primary schools were 10+ where pupils left at the end of year 5 and then went up to high school. This was changed from 2008 as pupils who transferred to secondary a year early often had a detrimental impact on Key Stage 2 SAT outcomes. 8 high schools then changed their age range from 4 – 11 years old in a move to regularise secondary transfer across Leicestershire and improve Key Stage 2 outcomes for children.

8: Our Schools and Education Performance

There are 285 state-funded schools in Leicestershire, including:

- 231 primary schools
- 44 secondary schools
- 1 Post 16 school
- 9 special schools

The Local Authority has actively supported many schools to convert to academy status. There are 133 academies (44 secondary, 1 Post 16 school, 83 primary and 3 special schools) and further schools planning to convert.

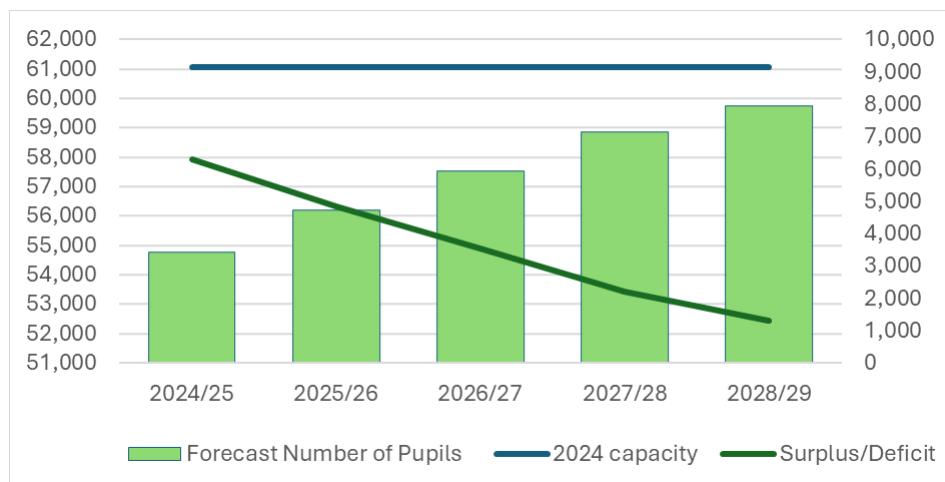
The details of the provision in Leicestershire schools can be found at www.leics.gov.uk/yourguides.htm

In total the 285 schools in Leicestershire have a collective capacity for 110,485 children and young people, comprising 61,064 in primary schools, 47,131 in secondary schools and 2,290 in special schools, units or Enhanced Resource Bases

In addition, there are approximately 27,759 young people in post-16 education.

Leicestershire schools vary in size, from primary schools with little more than 25 pupils on roll to secondary schools with large numbers on roll, the largest being 2,454 pupils.

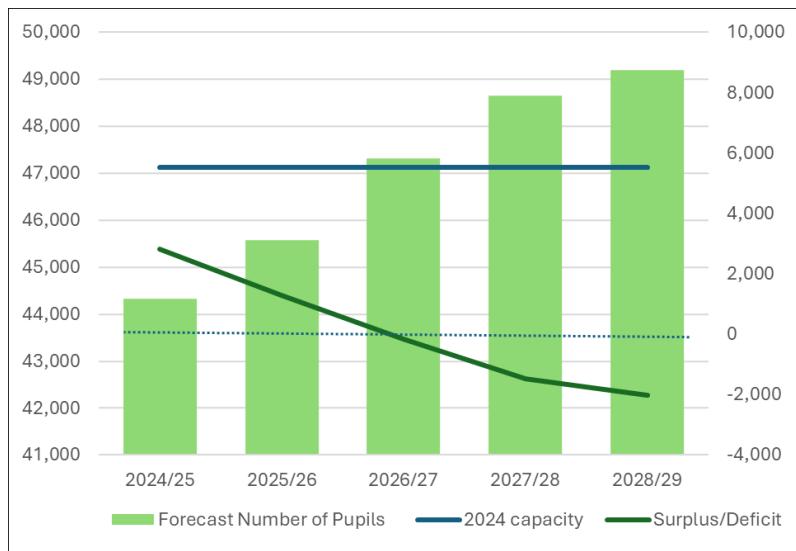
Primary Schools: Leicestershire's birthrate in 2024 had fallen to 1.41 children born per woman which was equal to the national average at the same time in England and Wales, which is the UK's lowest rate ever recorded. The usual replacement birth rate in the UK is 2.1 children per woman to sustain the population. The recent bulge in birth rate has almost worked its way through primary schools with the current Year 6 pupils being the final year of the bulge. The table below is the 2025 Primary DfE SCAP in full Forecast position which shows a rise in numbers over the coming years across all primary schools.



2025 Primary DfE SCAP Forecast (Leicestershire)

The effect on primary school occupancy is inconsistent. Some schools in popular areas are oversubscribed, whereas some small primary schools, typically in rural areas, are significantly below capacity. Some LA maintained schools and academies have consulted to reduce their Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) and/or reorganised classes to reduce staffing costs. In such schools the continuing effect of a low birth rate and consequently small numbers of children in catchment, means the risk of not remaining sustainable is increasing.

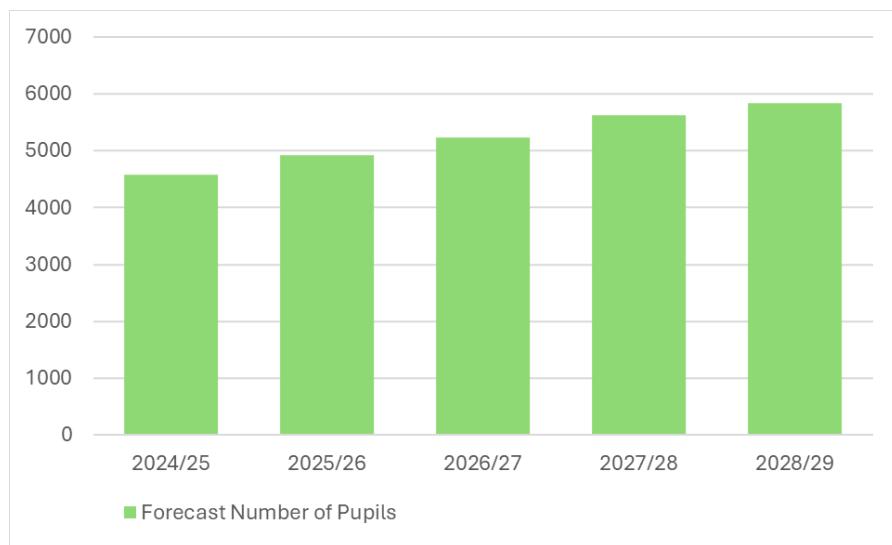
Secondary Schools: The County Council has seen the bulge in birth rate passing through into primary. Most of our expansion projects in secondary schools are connected to birth rate and housing growth. The table below is the 2025 Secondary DfE SCAP Forecast position which shows a rise in numbers over the coming years across all secondary schools.



2025 Secondary DfE SCAP Forecast (Leicestershire)

Although there are currently enough places within the County, the distribution of those places can make it difficult for mid-term applications throughout the year in some areas. Some schools have introduced operational capacities in some secondary year groups to help them manage pupil numbers within the resources they have to ensure they can meet the needs of their pupils.

Post 16: numbers are increasing due to the higher birth rate cohort moving from secondary into Post 16 and inward migration. All Leicestershire school-based Post 16 providers are showing an increase in forecast numbers, sometimes as a result of housing gains. We are expecting an increase in Post 16 places from 4,859 in 2025 to 5,891 in 2030, an increase of 28.4%. Post 16 provision and future requirements is underway. At Post 16 students are more likely to attend provision outside of their local community, including FE colleges outside Leicestershire.



2025 Forecast Pupils in School Sixth Forms and Sixth Form Colleges (Leicestershire)

SEND: The 2025 School Census, which includes all pupils on roll at a school within Leicestershire (aged 4 to 16 years), records 13,983 pupils at SEN Support and 7,196 with an Education, Health and Care Plan. SEND pupils account for 17.2% of the Leicestershire school population.

During recent years Leicestershire has faced significant challenges in responding to the increasing demand for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs) like many Local Authorities nationally. We know that within Leicestershire there is an increasing trend for requests for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs) resulting in Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) which increased 18% between 2022 and 2023 and a further 12% between 2023 and 2024. Growth in EHCPs issued slowed somewhat in comparison to national and regional trends over the last 5 years, however the number of EHCPs in January 2025 increased 13% on the previous year, with a further increase of 15% to the end of September 2025.

Area	Number of EHCPs as at January						Percentage Increase Over Past Five Years
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Sept 2025	
England	430,697	473,255	517,049	575,693	638,745		48%
East Midlands	30,500	33,402	36,950	41,806	47,444		56%
Leicestershire	5,288	5,813	6,201	6,377	7,196	8,311	36%

2025 EHCP Comparison

Alternative Provision: Leicestershire County Council has a duty to ensure that any child permanently excluded from school has access to full-time education through alternative provision.

In Leicestershire we have Oakfield, a Short Stay School, to meet this duty. Places are commissioned to meet the needs of excluded children and those at risk of exclusion alongside, in exceptional circumstances, for those whom no other maintained school provision can be secured.

Current data shows us that we *currently need 50 places at Primary and 400 places in secondary. The provisions operate over 7 satellites* consisting of 2 Primary and 5 Secondary, which ensures that pupils remain in their local area, but operates as one school and ensures pupils fulfil our statutory duties, to deliver an education that offers breadth and depth and at the quality that pupils would receive compared to their peers.

Education Performance: There are many strengths that should be recognised through the performance of Leicestershire schools, the quality of the people working within them and the relationship between schools, academies and the local authority. 90% of Leicestershire's schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding', this comprises 63 maintained schools and 193 academies.

9 - Encouraging Diversity

Leicestershire County Council is dedicated to equal, high-quality education for all children and young people, regardless of need. It values local community diversity and supports school management models that best serve local needs, including specialisation or federated/trust governance. The Council aims to maintain and expand diverse educational provision wherever possible.

10 - Responsible Bodies

Diocesan Schools: The current pattern of school provision across Leicestershire includes many schools with a religious foundation or background. The Catholic and Church of England Diocesan authorities work closely with the County Council in the planning of school places to provide opportunities for parents to express a preference for denominational education.

Independent Schools: In July 2024 there were 12 independent schools located in Leicestershire; two of these schools designated as primary, three as secondary schools and the remaining seven as all through (4-18). In total, the 12 schools had a registered capacity of 7,005 places, with 5,945 pupils registered on roll. The Local Authority does not hold records of independent school placements and the children attending may or may not live within Leicestershire. Children resident in Leicestershire may attend independent provision in other areas.

Academy Trusts: Academy Trusts are their own responsible body. For Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) they are the responsible body for all the schools within their Trust.

11 - Academisation

Since the introduction of the 2010 Academies Act Leicestershire has seen the majority of its schools converted to academy status as either a Single Academy Trust (SAT) or as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). There are 216 academies in Leicestershire: 165 primary, all 44 11-16 or 11-19 secondary schools, 1 Post 16 and 6 Special schools.

There are currently 29 MATs operating within Leicestershire of which 20 are Leicestershire based. In 2024 5 schools joined a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). In 2025, 4 schools are progressing with conversion into a MAT.

Currently 77% of schools in Leicestershire are academies. A summary of the 284 schools and academies can be seen below:

	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Post 16</i>	<i>Special</i>	<i>Total</i>
Local Authority Maintained	65	0	0	3	68
Academy Schools	166	44	1	6	217
	231	44	1	9	285

2025 Leicestershire Schools and Academies

12 - Housing Growth

To meet expected growth, major housing development is proposed in all of the districts with Local Plans being developed to deliver the required number of

houses. The 2020 Housing and Economic Needs Assessment carried out on behalf of the County and Leicestershire's District Councils stated that 52,160 homes were required by 2036. This would see pupil population increase by 26,278 pupils across all phases of education using current pupil yield rates per 100 dwellings.

	Primary	Secondary	Post 16	Primary Special	Secondary Special	Total
Pupil Yield	30.0	16.7	3.3	0.363	0.4	
Pupil Places	15,648	8,711	1,721	189	209	26,478

Leicestershire Projected Pupil Yield Due To Housing Growth

Patterns of population change will also affect Leicestershire's local communities. In some areas inward migration is a major factor, particularly where new development is planned, while in all areas there are some uncertainties about future birth rates.

Factors such as population shifts, age distribution and housing growth are all challenging to predict accurately.

The Department for Education's Rural School statistics shows Leicestershire has 38 schools designated as rural. New housing development in these areas may be less extensive than before, so population and pupil numbers are unlikely to increase significantly. This ongoing trend will continue to impact the viability of some schools.

13 - Place Planning Areas

Effective pupil place planning is a fundamental element of the County Council's role as strategic commissioner of good school places. It is underpinned by the use of local area knowledge and data to identify any early warning signs of insufficient numbers of school places in specific parts of the authority. Place Planning Areas are a group of schools within the Local Authority which is used for the purpose of assessing current and future pupil demand for school places.

Leicestershire has 99 Planning Areas, 74 primary and 25 secondary. The Place Planning Area structure was agreed with the DfE in 2012, in line with the prevailing guidance. Since then, Planning Areas have been adjusted to reflect changes to age range and from a 3-tier to 2-tier education structure as agreed in 2018/19.

As a largely rural county, Leicestershire has a significant number of small, relatively isolated, village schools with no other school within a 'reasonable' travel distance and as such operates 22 single school planning areas.

Section E of this strategy contains SCAP forecast data and narrative about each of our Planning Areas.

It is recognised that pupils benefit from high quality learning environments and equipment. Capital investment priorities are based on requirements to:

- Provide sufficient places to meet the needs of local communities.
- Provide healthy and safe environments.
- Meet curriculum and class organisational needs.
- Enhance physical access to buildings.
- Replace temporary accommodation with permanent buildings where possible
- Implement key strategic initiatives.

Leicestershire County Council uses condition surveys alongside net capacity assessments to determine investment priorities for the schools it remains responsible for. Capital resources are, however, becoming increasingly stretched. Building maintenance in academies is no longer the responsibility of the Local Authority and these schools receive capital funding direct from central government.

There are several sources of funding available to Local Authorities to support the delivery of school places and help them fulfil their statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places for children.

1 - DfE Funding

DfE Basic Need: The Basic Need allocations are based principally on data collected from Local Authorities in the School Capacity Survey (SCAP). This survey collects information on the capacities of schools in each planning area of each local authority, and local authorities' forecasts of pupil numbers for several years ahead.

DfE High Needs Funding: Is intended to support Local Authorities in their duty to provide suitable school placements for children and young people with SEND, or who require alternative provision (AP). The grant funding is intended for children and young people with complex needs, who have Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs), pupils with SEND without an EHCP and who require AP.

2 - Developer Contributions

Where additional school places are needed because of new housing development, as far as possible the costs should fall on the landowners and developers by way of developer contributions in line with the County Council's Planning Obligations Policy. Leicestershire's policy has an agreed methodology for calculating the infrastructure needs arising from new development, a robust

mechanism for requesting contributions from developers and how such funding is used for the delivery of places arising from housing development.

Developer contributions for education are secured by means of conditions attached to a planning obligation under Section 106 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and is part of planning permission being granted for a development. When a planning application for new housing development comes forward analysis takes place to determine the number of pupils that may be yielded from the development. If there is not enough space in existing schools the developer will be expected to make a financial contribution to the provision of the additional places required.

On occasions, a developer may choose to build a new school themselves rather than making a financial contribution towards the Local Authority delivering the places. In this situation the developer will work with the local authority to ensure the school meets the requirements of Build Bulletin 103, and Leicestershire's school land and building specifications. Once a site is proposed for a new school the Local Authority will conduct due diligence to ensure it meets the requirements for delivering a school and any subsequent conditions such as Highways and services access.

3 - Strategic Capital Maintenance

The Department for Education (DfE) allocates funding each year to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds.

School condition funding includes capital allocations for:

- Local Authorities and local-authority-maintained schools, including maintained nursery schools.
- Local voluntary-aided bodies and voluntary-aided schools.
- academies and large multi-academy trusts (MATs).
- Sixth-form colleges.
- Non-maintained special schools.
- Special post-16 institutions with eligible students.

Eligible schools and colleges can access funding through either:

- School Condition Allocations (SCA), with funds paid to eligible responsible bodies for maintaining school buildings. These include the local authority for maintained schools, Multi Academy Trusts for their academies and the Diocese for Voluntary Aided Schools.

- Single and smaller Multi Academy Trusts can apply to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) on an annual basis. If successful, funding is paid directly to the Trust to carry out the maintenance works.

In addition, Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) is allocated for individual schools and other eligible institutions to spend on capital projects.

4 - Growth Funding

Leicestershire Schools Forum has the responsibility to agree a policy for significant pupil growth to support the Local Authority's duty for delivering additional school places. This includes pre-opening and diseconomy of scale costs and agreeing the criteria for Local Authority maintained schools and academies to access this fund.

There are restrictions on what a Growth Fund can be used for. The regulations specify that a growth fund, subject to the locally adopted growth policy, can only be used to:

- Support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
- Support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.
- Meet the revenue costs of new schools.

Growth funding cannot be used to support:

- Schools in financial difficulty. No such contingency is held for Leicestershire Local Authority maintained schools.
- General growth due to increasing pupil numbers. This is managed through lagged funding. Growth Funding is currently applied to opening schools until they have reached their full capacity and it may also be considered for permanent expansions where appropriate.

5 - Other Funding Sources

Other sources of funding towards the delivery of additional school places are limited but may include:

- One-off grants from third party organisations such as Government, national bodies and charities.
- Personal donations from individual benefactors.
- Funding from Leicestershire County Council's own financial reserves.

Forecasting future demand for school places can never be absolutely accurate given the broad assumptions which have to be made about movements in and out of any given locality, the pace of individual housing developments, patterns of occupation and not least the parental preference for places at individual schools. This will be a function of geography, school reputation, past and present achievement levels and the availability of alternative provision, hence the need to review on an annual basis.

The analysis of need for school places in Leicestershire is identified through robust data analysis with pupil forecasting at the core of understanding where future provision is needed. The analysis of the data sources described below determines the need prior to identifying solutions.

Local Authorities can use different methods to forecast pupil numbers and take different factors into account. The Department for Education, for their annual School Capacity Survey (SCAP), require local authorities to provide a statement to accompany the forecast pupil numbers explaining the method by which the forecast is made. The forecasts produced cover both mainstream and SEND.

6 - Forecasting

Various data sources are used to produce our mainstream pupil forecasts and include:

Office of National Statistics (ONS) Local Authority Live Births by Postcode:

Birth data is usually provided by the ONS for us to identify children coming through the system. If birth data is not available at the time of completing the forecasting work, they are estimated based on an average of previous years and/or recent trends.

DfE GP Registration Data: This is captured in May each year and is based on the number of GP registrations that are captured on the first day of each month.

School Number on Roll (NoR) Data: Derived from the January School Census.

Admissions Data: First Time Admissions (FTA) and Secondary School transfer data captured in June for the following academic year.

Housing Data: Information on new housing developments from planning application data and, where available, Local Planning Authority housing trajectory information. Housing developments 'Under construction' progress is monitored twice a year in March and December to determine current levels of occupancy.

SEND Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) Data: In addition to the above data for SEND forecasting the latest SEND EHCP pupil level data is also used. In recent years the quality of data has improved greatly. Data dashboards have

been developed to show the type of SEND need by year group along with geographical location. This allows for greater strategic planning of places rather than reactive planning on a year-by-year basis.

7 - Data Processing

Our forecasts for the primary phase of education comprise of the following elements:

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Forecast: This is forecast by looking at the previous EYFS numbers compared to the births for each cohort. The reception numbers are analysed for each school in one of three ways:

- As an average percentage of the births cohort for that year group.
- Looking at the differences between births and EYFS cohorts if the school has very low birth rates.
- For schools that do not have a formal Local Authority catchment area, EYFS numbers are analysed in terms of the average intake at the school in recent years.

Forecasts for each school are usually averages or weighted averages based on 4 years' data. This can sometimes vary if there are good reasons to use a different calculation, such as a three-year average for example. If this is used assumptions are then taken regarding take-up figures to forecast intakes for the next five years.

Admissions allocations regarding intake for year of entry at the start of the academic year, including allocated places for pupils from neighbouring local authorities, is incorporated into the forecast and generally form the basis of year 1 figures. Generally, intake is not limited by the Admission Number (AN) listed for the school as the intention is to show the true pressure of demand for places.

Non-Intake Year Groups: Cohort numbers are rolled forward from the preceding academic year. An appropriate average percentage retention rate is applied to each non entry year group transition as appropriate.

Junior Schools: The forecast for intake at Year 3 is based on the percentage average from the feeder Infant schools. The percentage rate may be increased if the Junior school also makes small gains from other schools at this transfer point.

Secondary Schools: Each Secondary school has an allocated list of feeder Primary schools for 11+ transfer. These enable the local authority to calculate the size of potential intakes over the next ten years based on the seven years actual Primary school NOR data and three years Primary school forecast intake.

Secondary school intakes are calculated based on the 4-year average, or some close variant, of previous intakes relative to the potential feeder cohort sizes.

Non-intake groups are forecast in an equivalent way to primary schools with the average percentage retention rate applied to each non entry year group transition as appropriate.

Migration and Housing Developments: Potential gains from new housing are included for all sites either currently under construction or expected to start having been granted full planning permission. In addition, gains from other sites that currently have outline planning permission only have also been included if available information from district councils' housing trajectories has not indicated that construction is not expected to commence within the forecast period.

<i>Education Phase</i>	<i>Pupil Yield Per Dwelling</i>	<i>Pupil Yield Per Flat</i>
Primary	0.3	0.043
Infant	0.129	0.018
Junior	0.171	0.025
Secondary	0.167	0.02667
Post 16	0.033	0.00533

2025 Leicestershire Pupil Yield Rates

8 - In/Out Catchment Analysis

Parent preference causes movement between schools in neighbouring authorities and catchment schools. After every school census day, the movement for each school is monitored. Most schools gain or lose to and from other local schools. Depending on the numbers they gain minus the number they lose, they will be known as a net gainer or loser of pupils. This data factors into identifying future need for places, especially where housing development falls into a catchment of an existing school. Additional school places may not be needed if pupils over time can be pushed back to their original catchment as children in catchment, through the school's admissions policy, would gain a place over those from out of catchment.

9 - Forecast Accuracy

Pupil forecasts are checked annually against the autumn term School Census NOR. The checks are made against intake and total NOR as of October and variances above applied thresholds are investigated. However, where the above threshold variance against October NOR is identified, the subsequent January NOR figure is checked to determine whether the variance still applies, and potential adjustment justified.

The thresholds for variance investigation are:

Primary: Forecast intake of more than 2 pupils
 Forecast NOR 10 or more pupils (or >5% for small schools)

Secondary: Forecast intake of more than 10 pupils
 Forecast NOR 20 or more pupils

Investigation seeks to determine the reason for the variance and ascertain if there was a more accurate intake or retention rate option that could have been applied based on system generated averages or the latest year. This will then be considered during the next round of forecasting. Investigation of variance covers both forecasts with and without housing gains to determine the current impact of pupil yield from housing development under construction.

Intake variance is usually due to inaccuracy in First Time Admissions (FTA) and/or Secondary transfer data from the Schools Admissions Team. Where a pattern of variance emerges, the decision could be taken to increase or reduce Admissions Team data for certain schools to increase the accuracy of future forecasts.

Our comparable accuracy rates are calculated on Year 1 forecast compared to the previous years to monitor ongoing performance. The latest NOR is checked against previous years' forecasts relating to the current academic year to determine the ongoing accuracy of forecasts covering forecast years 2 to 5 for primary schools and forecast years 2 to 10 for secondary schools.

10 - Local Plans

The School Organisation Service works closely with housing developers and district councils to ensure that Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP) presented for examination during the Local Plan assessment will deliver the additional school places needed due to housing growth. Once potential sites are confirmed by the district council the local authority can propose educational solutions to accommodate the additional pupil yield. At this point the proposed pupil yield from Local Plan allocated sites can be factored into the strategic planning of additional school places alongside the forecast data.

Identifying solutions is the most complex part of the process for delivering school places. DfE guidance gives a strong emphasis towards the expansion of successful and popular schools where possible. Leicestershire County Council is committed to supporting ways of increasing parental choice in school admissions and ensuring places are located where parents want them, ideally serving the local community where children live.

As Leicestershire is a rural county, it can sometimes be difficult to provide diversity, when there is only one school serving a local community. However, as the population continues to grow the council will seek to meet the increasing demand wherever school places can be expanded or provided new in local communities. Working with a range of internal and external stakeholders effectively will ensure that this aim will be met with additional school places being delivered that allow children to achieve good outcomes throughout their time at school.

In this section we will look at the considerations behind identifying solutions, working with stakeholders and the various possible solutions that are available for delivery.

11 School Accommodation Analysis

This is the foundation for the development of a project brief. Once the number of school places is known, a detailed analysis of the DfE's Building Bulletin 103 is undertaken to determine the accommodation that will be needed.

This analysis may be for a whole new school, expansion of an existing school or the remodelling of an existing space. The analysis will identify the accommodation needed to support good teaching and learning outcomes.

12 - Working with Responsible Bodies

If the delivery of places involves an existing school, the School Organisation Service will seek early engagement to gain a full understanding of the school, its vision and values and the community it serves. This will ensure that the school places provided meet the needs of the school, support good outcomes for children and are in line with national and local education policies.

If a new school is needed, engagement will happen with the housing developers at the development master planning stage to ensure that any site coming forward for a new school is suitable, prior to a Section 106 agreement being agreed or planning permission being granted. The County Council's Highways and Property Services departments will support with due diligence to ensure the site is fit for purpose.

When a new school build is ready to be submitted to planning the Local Authority will work with the DfE, through the presumption process, to identify a Multi Academy Trust for the school. The Trust appointed can then be involved in the final stages of detailed design of the school ahead of construction.

13 - Solution Principles

The delivery of additional school places within Leicestershire County Council is focused on ensuring that they do not cause detriment to other schools and supports long term sustainability. Before the solution for school places is identified, the County Council will plan to provide school places in schools that are of a viable size and promote:

- Sufficient curriculum coverage and, where appropriate, adequate curriculum choice.
- Viable and sustainable schools which do not require disproportionate financial support and may attract DfE capital funding.
- Viable class organisation structures.
- Adequate non-contact time for staff.
- Supporting the needs of the local community.

Once it is established that solution principles can be met, the provision of school places can be delivered by using one or more of the following approaches:

- Remodelling existing space.
- Expansion of the school premises.
- Relocation of a school to an alternative site.
- Amalgamation with another school
- Off-site expansion by creating a satellite of the existing school.
- Delivery of a new school.

14 - School Sizes

Whilst the County Council does define optimum sizes for schools it recognises that there will be some schools falling outside this range which still provide an excellent education and deliver good outcomes for children. Factors that can affect the size of a school include the local population, site constraints, availability of funding and deployment of revenue resources. Our preferred school sizes for new and expanding schools are:

Primary School: The preferred size for new primary schools is within the range of 420 places to 630 places (2FE to 3FE) and Leicestershire County Council will

only seek to open new primary schools of full forms of entry in line with our standardised primary school designs which allow for phased delivery of places to support the availability of funding needed and to prevent the destabilisation of existing places in the area.

Where a new primary phase school is required, this will be built as an all through primary school, rather than separate infant or junior schools. The County Council will continue to seek opportunities to amalgamate separate infant and junior schools where the combined numbers are less than 420 and the sites lend themselves to a single becoming a single school.

Secondary Schools: The minimum size for an 11 to 16 secondary school is 900 (6FE) to 1,200 (9FE) pupils. However, Leicestershire County Council recognises that provision in some communities may fall outside the ideal size of secondary school and demand for additional places could be met either by expanding existing schools, if there is sufficient capacity on the site, or by new provision of a new school located within a substantial new housing development. The expansion of an existing secondary school to the optimum size is preferable to support sustainability and ensure children are receiving an education within an established setting.

Special Schools: These need to be of sufficient size to provide appropriate facilities and opportunities to meet the needs of the range of pupils they admit and to act as resource and to support SEND pupils at settings within maintained schools and academies. Their size will depend on the age range of pupils, locality and the type of SEND that they cater for. Work is currently ongoing to review SEND provision across Leicestershire to ensure future demand can be provided in one of the following ways:

- New SEND schools.
- Expansion of SEND Schools on site or at a satellite location.
- Enhanced Resource Bases and Units within mainstream schools and academies.

15 - Location of New Schools

Leicestershire County Council aims to provide school places within their communities, close to where children live and to meet parental preferences as far as possible.

Leicestershire's approach is that new primary schools should be provided, wherever possible, within major new housing developments where the pupil yield is sufficient to open a 2FE school. The site should ideally be within a 2-mile walking distance of most of the development. The School Organisation Service

works with the Highways Department through the development's master planning process to develop safe routes to school for pedestrians and cyclists. Sites should be of a suitable size to allow future expansion of the school if further housing development happens.

Where a new secondary school is planned, a site will be sought that provides safe pedestrian and cycling routes and good access for those pupils arriving by public and school transport from further afield. To discourage the use of private cars, schools are expected to prepare and maintain a School Travel Plan. Like new primary school sites, additional land may be sought to futureproof any future expansion of the housing development and additional pupil yield. On occasions, additional land may be required from a single developer to address the need for school places from cumulative developments in the area. Where this is required, and in line with the DfE's Securing Developer Contributions guidance, a land equalisation mechanism will be put in place between the developers to ensure the cost of land for providing the secondary school is shared on a fair and equitable basis between all developments feeding into the school.

16 - Home to School Travel

Leicestershire County Council recognises the importance of considering distance of travel from home to school when planning new developments to reduce dependence on subsidised bus travel and encourage safe walking and cycling to school.

Leicestershire County Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that children aged 4-16 can access compulsory school age education. Transport assistance for all students aged over 16 is a discretionary provision. Different arrangements are in place for children with SEND, where the nearest suitable school is stated in their Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).

To meet this requirement Leicestershire County Council will encourage the use of walking and cycling to school. Where this is not an option Leicestershire County Council's Mainstream Home to School Transport policy will provide transport to children who are attending their nearest maintained school or academy. Stakeholders should be aware there is no Council provision for school transport where children are not attending their nearest school.

The key challenges that Leicestershire County Council has in terms of providing access to compulsory education are summarised as follows:

- Providing flexible choices for young people is a challenge for the Council.
- Managing down the costs of school transport within the context of a growing population and increasing fuel costs.

- Ensuring new housing growth areas are well connected by walking and cycling routes to minimise demand on school services provided under statutory regulation.
- Encouraging young people to take up active modes where convenient as a substitute for car journeys through alternative methods of travel such as walking and cycling that will help foster positive lifetime travel habits.

17 - Project Brief

Leicestershire's School Organisation Service will write a detailed brief to enable project delivery, including details of:

- Main project requirements summarising the work to be delivered.
- Project background including evidence of need.
- Accommodation required based on analysis against the DfE's Building Bulletin 103.
- Site requirements including social space, sport provision and infrastructure such as car parking.
- Building specification requirements such as mechanical and electrical needs delivered to current building regulations.
- Room specification requirements to support delivery of teaching and learning.
- Stakeholder involvement required and project communication to ensure the project runs smoothly.
- Phasing of works required to ensure, particularly on existing school sites, that the education of children is not hindered during project delivery.

Where applicable for schools that are being expanded, the brief will be signed off by the school and Trust prior to release for Capital Programme Board approval and the commissioning of a suitable delivery method.

18 - Leicestershire's Approach

All school places' provision falls under the County Council's Capital Programme as part of its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This is reviewed throughout the year on a regular basis to make sure that adequate resources are provided for the County Council's place planning statutory duty to be discharged.

Leicestershire County Council has successfully used various commissioning methods for the delivery of school places. Prior to commissioning additional school places, the project must be approved by the Children and Family Services Capital Programme Board (CPB) to agree to the need, approve the funding required and provide an appropriate commissioning method. The School Organisation Service prepares Place Planning Papers (PPP) that summarise these three areas for members of the board to consider as part of their decision making.

19 - Market Position Sufficiency Statement (MPSS)

It is recognised that commissioning school places is not restricted to providing school places by funding them through capital investment alone. For SEND places where there is inadequate capital funding to provide the places needed to meet the growing demand alternative provision also needs to be considered. To meet this demand Leicestershire County Council has developed an Education, Inclusion and Additional Needs Placement Market Position Sufficiency Statement (MPSS). The purpose of the MPSS will be to consider current placement sufficiency across the SEND system in Leicestershire and indicate how the department will ensure sufficiency for SEND school places in the future outside of those places being provided directly by the County Council. The MPSS will therefore build upon this School Places Strategy and consider the role of and opportunities for the external market to support the County Council's SEND sufficiency needs.

20 - Commissioning Routes

The commissioning of school places must meet Procurement Regulations and the County Council's Procurement Team ensure compliance. Capital funded school places at existing schools and academies, or the delivery of a new school is usually delivered by one of the following routes:

Leicestershire County Council Property Services Department: This is the most traditional route of commissioning places. The procurement route to be

followed is dependent on the value of the work. Frameworks are used to deliver both minor and major projects. Projects are overseen by the department's team of building and quantity surveyors.

Responsible Bodies: Where an academy Trust has the capacity to manage the delivery of school places to Leicestershire County Council's building specifications, the passporting of funding may be agreed. A legal agreement will be drawn up to ensure that places will be delivered and where Section 106 funding is involved, the legal obligations of the Section 106 agreement will be passported to the academy Trust to also meet. The academy trust is then responsible for meeting procurement regulations and appointing an appropriately qualified contractor to deliver the places.

Developer Delivered: For new schools and major expansion within large housing developments, the Section 106 agreement provides the option for the developer to construct and deliver the additional school places. Again, they must be delivered to Leicestershire County Council's specification and officers from the County Council will work in partnership with the developer and academy trust to ensure that the project reaches a successful conclusion.

DfE Free School Delivery: The County Council has been successful in bidding for DfE Free Schools to meet our need for new SEND places. Bowman Academy opened in 2024, and Achieve Academy is in development. This delivery model is dependent on the DfE releasing funding to bid for new schools. Leicestershire County Council will continue to bid for this type of funding as and when the government releases any further funding waves.

1 - Need to Reorganise Schools

Leicestershire County Council recognises that reorganisation may be needed for more than one reason. Where these reasons impact on rural schools, we acknowledge the government's presumption against the closure of rural schools and will only bring forward proposals to close any school where it can be demonstrated through a robust business case that one or more of the following criteria can be met:

- There is only very limited demand for places at the school from children living within the immediate catchment area or wider planning area of the school.
- Surplus places at the school exceed 25%.
- Education standards are low and there is little confidence in the likelihood of improvement.
- The school is not financially viable and is in or has a long-term forecast budget deficit that cannot be recovered.
- Necessary improvements to the school accommodation are either not possible or not cost effective.

For all schools with fewer than 105 pupils on roll the County Council will actively encourage the governors of maintained schools and Trustees of academies to consider further collaboration with the amalgamation with one or more neighbouring schools or by joining a Multi Academy Trust to achieve sustainability.

2 - Types of Reorganisation

In addition to the above, the County Council may have to reorganise schools in the following situations:

- Where an age range change may be required, for example so schools can use existing space to set up an Early Years provision.
- A change in a school's PAN to allow for a reduction or increase in the number of pupils being admitted.
- The redesignation of an existing school to meet another educational need such as additional SEND places.
- Conversion of maintained schools into Multi Academy Trusts (MAT), the transfer of a Stand-Alone Trust (SAT) into a MAT and a MAT merging with another MAT.

Whilst the County Council does define optimum sizes for schools it recognises that there will be many schools falling outside this range which provide excellent

Section D – Approach to the Reorganisation of Schools *Need for Reorganisation*

education. Factors that can affect the size of a school include local population, site constraints, availability of funding and deployment of revenue resources.

Leicestershire County Council will plan to provide school places in schools of sizes which:

- Can offer a curriculum that allows pupils to achieve good outcomes.
- Are viable and sustainable schools which do not require disproportionate financial support and attract DFE capital funding.
- Have a viable staff structure that supports efficient class structures.
- Can offer a suitable amount of non-contact time for teaching and support staff.
- Are at the heart of their community.

To achieve this, Leicestershire County Council will initially consider opportunities to expand existing schools where possible. Where significant housing developments warrant new schools within their community our preference is to open schools of the following size:

- **Primary:** A range of 420 to 630 places (2FE to 3FE). New schools may be phased to open to whole forms of entry. The County Council will continue to seek opportunities to amalgamate separate infant and junior schools where the combined numbers are less than 420 and their sites allows them to exist as a single institution.
- **Secondary:** For an 11 to 16 secondary school the preferred range is 900 to 1,200 places (6FE to 9FE). However, the County Council recognises that some communities may not fit within our preferred range for a secondary school. Additional places may be met by expansion of existing schools if there is sufficient site capacity or by new provision located within a development for an existing school such as Sixth form provision.

3 - Consultation

Leicestershire County Council will always consider all possible options prior to proposing the reorganisation or closure of schools. A full business case will always be provided to relevant stakeholders which sets out the case and details the background, reasons, timeframe and benefits. This will be the basis for transparent decision making and allow stakeholders to comment through the process of meaningful consultation.

The change process for reorganisation will be detailed in the next section. It is the responsibility of the County Council and other responsible bodies to ensure that reorganisation is appropriately supported to ensure that change can be delivered to benefit children and the community where their family lives.

4 - Types of Change Process

The County Council have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their areas. There is an expectation from the Department for Education that Local Authorities manage their school estate efficiently and to reduce or find alternative uses for surplus capacity to avoid a negative impact on a school offering to its children, their families and the community it serves.

There are different change processes depending on the nature of the change and whether the school is maintained or an academy.

5 - Academy Conversion

There is a strong Multi Academy trust (MAT) sector in Leicestershire which works productively with the Local Authority in planning school places. The pace of conversion has slowed but the Local Authority continues to support schools wishing to convert. Leicestershire's School Organisation Service coordinates the process of academy conversion by liaising with the converting school, receiving Trust, teams across the authority and legal advisors to ensure a smooth process takes place. This ensures that we continue to maintain positive relationships with academies and MATs.

6 - School Expansion and Age Range Change

Change in age range or expansion of a school is covered by the statutory notice process for Local Authority maintained schools and the Department for Education's Significant Change Process for academies.

Statutory Proposal: For Local Authority maintained schools this must contain sufficient information and be accessible for all interested parties to decide on whether to support or challenge the proposed change.

Significant Change: For academies, they must follow the required significant change process in advance of the change being made. Failure to do so will constitute a breach of the academy trust's funding agreement.

7 - Local Authority Maintained School and Academy Closure Considerations

For school closures the following Department for Education guidance is followed:

- Maintained Schools: Opening and Closing Maintained Schools
- Academies: Closure of an Academy by Mutual Agreement

For maintained schools, the local authority can propose the closure of a community, foundation, voluntary, community special, foundation special or maintained nursery school; and the governing body of a voluntary, foundation or foundation special school may publish proposals to close its own school.

For academies it is important that the trust engages early with the relevant Regional Director and local authorities and involves them in planning and decision-making right from the outset.

Regardless of whether it is a maintained school or an academy where discussions are being held about possible closure, it is important to Leicestershire County Council that the process is delivered in a transparent and clear manner to ensure Leicestershire children, and their families are fully informed about the need for change.

8 – Presumption Against Closure

The County Council recognises the Government's Presumption Against the Closure of Rural Schools and will only bring forward proposals to close such a school where it can be demonstrated that the school is no longer sustainable:

Although the guidance for maintained schools and academies is different, Leicestershire County Council believe the same closure process should be followed regardless of school type.

To achieve the closure of any type of school, all parties involved must work in a collaborative manner, following the appropriate guidance, in a pragmatic, respectful and sensitive manner. This will involve the County Council's Schools' Sustainability Board (SSB) working closely with schools, responsible bodies,

academy trusts and the Department for Education. Alternative options to closure that could be considered are:

- Academisation by joining a MAT.
- Federation or amalgamation with another school.
- Relocating the school to a site on a new housing development where additional school places are needed.
- Extended school provision that provides viability such as a pre-school or wrap around care.
- SEND provision being provided by the school.
- Sharing school facilities with community groups.

All these options need to be thoroughly investigated with an appropriate level of due diligence being undertaken to ensure the long-term sustainability of the school.

9 – Maintained Schools and Academy Closure Process

The table below outlines the timeframe to be followed:

Item	Process Stage	Work Required
1	Prioritisation of schools for reorganisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of pupil forecast data. • School financial viability analysis. • Reorganisation modelling of school places. • Risk analysis and resources required. • Discussions with responsible bodies and leaders of affected schools.
2	Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of business case including detailed proposal for reorganisation. • Approval to proceed to consultation by responsible body ensuring their own decision-making process is adhered to. • Draft proposal.
3	Pre-Publication Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame to be determined by the proposer having regard to the proposer's own consultation guidance. Consultation must happen during term time. • Proposal to follow approved business case. • Arrange consultation meetings and write necessary communications for relevant stakeholders.

Section D – Approach to the Reorganisation of Schools**Change Processes**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up website for consultation, feedback forms and consultation FAQ.
4	Statutory Notice Publication and Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated proposal made available clearly identifying changes to the proposal consulted upon. Proposal sent to relevant bodies. Proposal requests sent out within 1 week of requests being made. Arrange consultation meetings and write necessary communications for relevant stakeholders. Compile representations to be provided to the decision maker and shared on the consultation website.
5	Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision and reasons to be published within one week of the decision being made. Relevant stakeholders informed. May be requests within 1 week to refer to the Schools Adjudicator.
6	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of detailed Implementation Plan. Communications and meetings coordinated to progress closure. Implementation of plan to redesignate vacated school site for schools and academies.

10 - Prioritisation of Schools for Reorganisation

A School Sustainability Board including officers from education, finance, HR, admissions, legal and property services will consider any school reorganisations and manage the process. Every reorganisation will be different due to the diversity of schools and communities involved. The following analysis will be undertaken:

- Pupil forecast data for the schools within the Planning Area.
- Cohort survival rate looking at progress from year of entry to leaving year.
- Financial viability looking at recent actuals and budget forecasting.
- Staff Headcount and possible HR reorganisation costs.
- Impact of future housing development and Local Plans.
- Designation of schools in the area include relation to third parties and rural designation.
- Condition and suitability of school sites and buildings.
- Stakeholders impacted by reorganisation.
- Potential alternatives to schools that may be considered for closure.

Section D – Approach to the Reorganisation of Schools	Change Processes
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- Potential time frame and audit trail for reorganisation including statutory procedures and County Council governance.
- Potential risks entered captured on a risk register and RAG rated.
- Appointment of officers to deal with the reorganisation with roles and responsibilities clearly identified.

Once the analysis is complete, a recommendation will be made by the SSB to seek approval to proceed with informal discussions with the appropriate responsible bodies and leaders of schools affected.

11 - Reorganisation Business Case

Following careful consideration of alternative options to closure, and prior to any consultation being approved by proposers, a detailed business case will be produced that sets out the following for every school impacted by a proposal. The business case will be shared with all relevant stakeholders, including schools and academies, that may be impacted by the potential reorganisation:

- Narrative explaining the reason for change.
- Affected stakeholders including people, schools and third parties.
- Pupil forecast data including places available at other schools for future parental preference.
- Financial projections and costs associated with reorganisation.
- Staffing implications including restructuring costs.
- Community considerations.
- How the change will impact all schools within the planning area, including their numbers of children, families, staff and community stakeholders.
- Future admission arrangements.
- Current and future transport and vehicular movements.
- Impact on curriculum knowledge, Ofsted ratings and resource availability.
- Considerations for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Possible rebranding of schools impacted by the reorganisation.
- Statement about future use of the site.
- Time frame for closure with clear milestones for decision making.
- Details of other statutory processes required to deliver the closure.
- Draft Statutory Notices and Significant Change documentation.

Once the business case is written it will be presented to the relevant board for a decision to be made regarding progressing to Pre-Publication Consultation.

12 - Pre-Publication Consultation

This is the stage at which the potential reorganisation will be published. Therefore, every consideration and detail of the reorganisation must be understood and prepared by the Schools Sustainability Board. This will include the impact of staff and children leaving the school prior to formal decisions being made. Communication will be key to the success of the reorganisation, and the following will be needed for the consultation:

- Appointed member of LCC Media team who has ownership of comms plan and communications.
- Consultation proposal to be published.
- Public meeting to formally launch consultation.
- Website for consultation information, responses and FAQ.
- A range of formats for consultation responses to be made by.
- Consideration of other resources that may be required to manage aspects such as public protests.
- The consultation report is to be written once closed, including key points raised, matters to be considered further and next steps.

13 - Statutory Notice Publication and Representation

Once a consultation report is written and considered, a formal decision needs to be made to progress Statutory Notice Publication by Cabinet within 12 months of the consultation being completed. For academies, this decision will be proposed by the academy Trustees to the Secretary of State for a decision. Representations that are made must be passed on to the decision makers for consideration. The publication of the notice must be for a minimum of four weeks during term time and include details of:

- Where copies of the proposal can be obtained, including the consultation website.
- How representations can be made to decision makers.
- Clear timeframe for representations to be made.

14 – Decision

For maintained schools the final decision is made by Cabinet as the decision makers. They must decide within two months of the end of the representation period and the outcome of the decision must confirm the decision made and the reasons for doing so. The decision can be referred to the Schools Adjudicator and must be referred within 1 week of the decision being made. For academies the decision is made by the Secretary of State for Education.

15 - Reorganisation Implementation

Once the final decision is made the process of implementing a reorganisation must happen within three years of the decision being made and a detailed plan for the implementation must be followed. Where the reorganisation of schools involves school closure, the date of closure must be considered carefully and be at least one academic year after the decision is taken. This will set out the major milestones for completing the reorganisation including how vacated sites and buildings will be used, ensuring any land trust issues as stipulated in the 1841 School Sites Act are addressed.

The implementation of the reorganisation will be reported to the Schools' Sustainability Board with copies being shared with relevant responsible bodies. Where the reorganisation is being implemented by another responsible body, relevant officers from the County Council will work with them to support the reorganisation and ensure a smooth transition for Leicestershire children and families affected by the reorganisation.

There are 74 Primary School Planning Areas with Leicestershire. Please click on the relevant Planning Area below which will take you to the County Council's School Organisation Service website where the data is stored:

- Schools within the Planning Area.
- Planning Area map.
- Admission Number (AN).
- Capacity.
- Five-year pupil forecast.
- Current Overview.
- Future actions.

The SCAP Data will be updated on an annual basis once the SCAP return is signed off with the Department for Education.

Number	Name	District	Schools Included
855019	Braunstone LFE Primary	Blaby	Fossebrook Primary School Lubbesthorpe Primary School Kingsway Primary School Millfield L.E.A.D. Academy Ravenhurst Primary School Stafford Leys Community Primary School
8550160	Narborough Enderby Croft Thurlaston Primary	Blaby	Croft Church of England Primary School Enderby Danemill Primary School Greystoke Primary School Huncote Primary School Red Hill Field Primary School The Pastures Primary School Thurlaston Church of England Primary School
8550206	Glenfield Primary	Blaby	Glenfield Primary School The Hall School
8550235	Countesthorpe Arnesby Kilby Primary	Blaby	Arnesby Church of England Primary School Greenfield Primary School

Section E – Leicestershire Data

Primary Schools

			Kilby St Mary's Church of England Primary School
8550321	Stoney Sapcote Sharnford Primary	Blaby	All Saints Church of England Primary School Manorfield Church of England Primary School Sharnford Church of England Primary School
8550335	Blaby Whetstone Cosby Primary	Blaby	Badgerbrook Primary School Blaby Stokes Church of England Primary School Blaby Thistly Meadow Primary School Cosby Primary School St Peter's Church of England Primary School
8550004	Thurmaston Primary	Charnwood	Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School Church Hill Church of England Junior School Church Hill Infant School Eastfield Primary School
8550005	Burton Wymeswold Primary	Charnwood	Burton-on-the-Wolds Primary School Wymeswold Church of England Primary School
8550006	Anstey Primary	Charnwood	The Latimer Primary School Woolden Hill Primary School
8550009	Loughborough North Primary	Charnwood	Hathern Church of England Primary School Robert Bakewell Primary School Stonebow Primary School Loughborough Thorpe Acre Infant School Thorpe Acre Junior School
8550204	Barkby Syston Queniborough Primary	Charnwood	St Peter and St Paul Church of England Academy Queniborough Church of England Primary School The Merton Primary School The Pochin School
8550205	Cossington Sileby Primary	Charnwood	Cossington Church of England Primary School Sileby Highgate Community Primary School Sileby Redlands Community Primary School
8550208	Shepshed Belton Primary	Charnwood	Belton Church of England Primary School Newcroft Primary Academy Oxley Primary School Shepshed Saint Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Academy

			St Botolph's Church of England Primary School
8550209	Loughborough South Primary	Charnwood	Beacon Academy Booth Wood Primary School Cobden Primary School & Community Centre Holywell Primary School Loughborough Church of England Primary School Mountfields Lodge School Outwoods Edge Primary School Rendell Primary School Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School
8550304	Rearsby East Goscote Primary	Charnwood	Broomfield Community Primary School St Michael & All Angels Church of England Primary School
8550305	Quorn Barrow Mountsorrel Seagrave Primary	Charnwood	Barrow Hall Orchard Church of England Primary School Christ Church & Saint Peter's CofE Primary School Seagrave Village Primary School St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School
8550306	Birstall Primary	Charnwood	Hallam Fields Birstall Highcliffe Primary School and Community Centre Riverside Community Primary School
8550405	Swithland Woodhouse Primary	Charnwood	Swithland St Leonard's Church of England Primary School Woodhouse Eaves St Paul's CofE Primary School
8550406	Rothley Thurcaston Primary	Charnwood	Richard Hill Church of England Primary School Rothley Church of England Primary School
8550704	Thrushington Primary	Charnwood	Thrushington Primary
8550021	Hinckley & Burbage Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Battling Brook Primary School Burbage Church of England Infant School Burbage Junior School Hinckley Parks Primary School Richmond Primary School Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School A Voluntary Academy Sketchley Hill Primary School Burbage St Mary's Church of England Primary School Hinckley Hollycroft Primary School

			Westfield Infant School Westfield Junior School
8550200	Desford Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Desford Community Primary School
8550220	Barlestone Verdon Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Barlestone Church of England Primary School Newbold Verdon Primary School
8550221	Barwell & Earl Shilton Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Barwell Church of England Academy Barwell Infant School Newlands Community Primary School Saint Peters Catholic Voluntary Academy Townlands Church of England Primary School St Simon and St Jude CofE Primary School
8550230	Congerstone Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Congerstone Primary School
8550240	Sheepy Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Sheepy Magna Church of England Primary School
8550250	Linford Groby Kirby Ratby Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Elizabeth Woodville Primary School Kirby Muxloe Primary School Lady Jane Grey Primary School Martinshaw Primary School Newtown Linford Primary School Ratby Primary School
8550260	Markfield Stanton Thornton Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Mercenfeld Primary School Stanton Under Bardon Community Primary School Thornton Primary School
8550270	Market Bosworth Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy
8550280	Witherley Primary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Witherley Church of England Primary School
8550421	Higham Stoke Golding Primar	Hinckley and Bosworth	Higham-on-the-Hill Church of England Primary School St Margaret's Church of England Primary School
8550015	Market Harborough Primary	Market Harborough	Farndon Fields Primary School Foxton Primary School

Section E – Leicestershire Data

Primary Schools

			Wellington Place Primary School Great Bowden Academy A CofE Primary School Little Bowden School Lubenham All Saints Church of England Primary School Market Harborough Church of England Academy Meadowdale Primary School Ridgeway Primary Academy St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
8550135	Broughton Astley Dunton Bassett Primary	Market Harborough	Dunton Bassett Primary School Hallbrook Primary School Old Mill Primary School Orchard Church of England Primary School
8550165	Lutterworth & South Harborough Primary	Market Harborough	Claybrooke Primary School Gilmorton Chandler Church of England Primary School Husbands Bosworth Church of England Primary School John Wycliffe Primary School Sherrier Church of England Primary School South Kilworth Church of England Primary School St Andrew's Church of England Primary School St Mary's Church of England Primary School Swinford Church of England Primary School Ullesthorpe Church of England Primary School
8550214	Thurnby Primary	Market Harborough	Fernvale Primary School Thurnby St Luke's Church of England Primary School
8550215	Fleckney Kibworth Primary	Market Harborough	Fleckney Church of England Primary School Kibworth Church of England Primary School
8550314	Houghton Primary	Market Harborough	Houghton-on-the-Hill Church of England Primary School
8550315	Billesdon Primary	Market Harborough	Billesdon Church of England Primary School
8550415	Bringhurst Primary	Market Harborough	Bringhurst Primary School
8550515	Church Langton Primary	Market Harborough	Church Langton Church of England Primary School
8550615	Great Glen Primary	Market Harborough	Great Glen St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School

Section E – Leicestershire Data

Primary Schools

8550715	Hallaton Primary	Market Harborough	Hallaton Church of England Primary School
8550815	Tugby Primary	Market Harborough	Tugby Church of England Primary School
8550007	Melton Town Primary	Melton	Brownlow Primary School Saint Francis Catholic Primary School Sherard Primary School St Mary's Church of England Primary School Swallowdale Primary School and Community Centre The Grove Primary School
8550070	Asfordby Frisby Primary	Melton	Asfordby Hill Primary School Captains Close Primary School Frisby Church of England Primary School
8550075	Bottesford Redmile Primary	Melton	Bottesford Church of England Primary School Redmile Church of England Primary School
8550275	Clawson Hose Harby Stathern Primary	Melton	Harby Church of England Primary School Hose Church of England Primary School Long Clawson Church of England Primary School Stathern Primary School
8550370	Ab Kettleby Primary	Melton	Ab Kettleby School
8550375	Croxton Waltham Primary	Melton	Croxton Kerrial Church of England Primary School Waltham on the Wolds Church of England Primary School
8550404	Gaddesby Primary	Melton	Gaddesby Primary School
8550470	Buckminster Primary	Melton	Buckminster Primary School
8550570	Great Dalby Primary	Melton	Great Dalby School
8550670	Old Dalby Primary	Melton	Old Dalby Church of England Primary School
8550770	Scalford Primary	Melton	Scalford Church of England Primary School
8550870	Somerby Primary	Melton	Somerby Primary School
8550970	Wymondham Primary	Melton	St Peter's Church of England Primary School
8550008	Kegworth Donington Diseworth Whatton Primary	North-West	Diseworth Church of England Primary School Hemington Primary School Kegworth Primary School Long Whatton Church of England Primary School Foxbridge Primary School Orchard Community Primary School

Section E – Leicestershire Data

Primary Schools

			St Edward's Church of England Primary School
8550022	Coalville Hugglescote Woodstone Primary	North-West	All Saints Church of England Primary School Greenstone Primary School Woodstone Community Primary School Belvoirdale Community Primary School Broom Leys School Hugglescote Community Primary School Saint Clare's Primary School Voluntary Academy Warren Hills Community Primary School
8550023	Ashby Coleorton Packington Primary	North-West	Ashby Hill Top Primary School Ashby Willesley Primary School Ashby-de-la-Zouch Church of England Primary School Packington Church of England Primary School Viscount Beaumont's Church of England Primary School Hastings Primary School Woodcote Primary School
8550024	Ibstock Heather Ellistown Nailstone Primary	North-West	Dove Bank Primary School Ellistown Community Primary School Heather Primary School Ibstock Junior School St Denys Church of England Infant School Ibstock
8550222	Whitwick Thringstone Swannington Primary	North-West	Holy Cross School A Catholic Voluntary Academy New Swannington Primary School Swannington Church of England Primary School Thringstone Primary School Whitwick St John The Baptist Church of England Primary School
8550223	Albert Village Primary	North-West	Albert Village Primary School
8550224	Measham Snarestone Primary	North-West	Measham Church of England Primary School St Charles Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy Snarestone Church of England Primary School
8550308	Breedon Primary	North-West	St Hardulph's Church of England Primary School
8550324	Newton Burgoland Primary	North-West	Newton Burgoland Primary School
8550423	Donisthorpe Oakthorpe Primary	North-West	Donisthorpe Primary School Oakthorpe Primary School

Section E – Leicestershire Data

Primary Schools

8550424	Appleby Magna Primary	North-West	Sir John Moore Church of England Primary School
8550523	Griffydam Primary	North-West	Griffydam Primary School
8550323	Blackfordby Moira Primary	North-West	Moira Primary School Blackfordby St Margaret's Church of England Primary School
8550723	Newbold Church of England Primary School	North-West	Newbold Church of England Primary School
8550923	Worthington Primary	North-West	Worthington School
8550013	Wigston Primary	Oadby and Wigston	All Saints Church of England Primary School Glenmere Community Primary School Little Hill Primary Saint John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy Wigston Leicestershire The Meadow Community Primary School Thythorn Field Community Primary School Water Leys Primary School
8550014	<u>Oadby Primary</u>	Oadby and Wigston	Brocks Hill Primary School Brookside Primary School Langmoor Primary School Oadby Launde Primary School Woodland Grange Primary School
8550136	Glen Parva South Wigston Primary	Oadby and Wigston	Fairfield Community Primary School Glen Hills Primary School Parkland Primary School South Wigston

There are 25 Secondary School Planning Areas with Leicestershire. Please click on the relevant Planning Area below which will take you to the County Council's School Organisation Service website where the data is stored:

- Schools within the Planning Area.
- Planning Area map.
- Admission Number (AN).
- Capacity.
- Five-year pupil forecast.
- Current Overview.
- Future actions.

The SCAP Data will be updated on an annual basis once the SCAP return is signed off with the Department for Education.

Number	Name	District	Schools Included
8551019	Braunstone Town Secondary	Blaby	The Winstanley School
8551135	Countesthorpe Secondary	Blaby	Countesthorpe Academy
8551160	Enderby Secondary	Blaby	Brockington College
8551004	Syston Secondary	Charnwood	The Roundhill Academy Wreake Valley Academy
8551005	Barrow & Quorn Secondary	Charnwood	Humphrey Perkins School Rawlins Academy
8551006	Birstall Secondary	Charnwood	The Cedars Academy
8551009	Loughborough Secondary	Charnwood	Charnwood College De Lisle College Loughborough Leicestershire Limehurst Academy Woodbrook Vale School
8551025	Shepshed Secondary	Charnwood	Iveshead School
8551270	Anstey Secondary	Charnwood	The Martin High School Anstey

8551021	Hinckley & Earl Shilton Secondary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Hastings High School Heath Lane Academy The Hinckley School Redmoor Academy Saint Martin's Catholic Voluntary Academy
8551200	Market Bosworth Secondary	Hinckley and Bosworth	The Market Bosworth School
8551201	Desford Secondary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Bosworth Academy
8551250	Groby Secondary	Hinckley and Bosworth	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus
8551260	Markfield Secondary	Hinckley and Bosworth	South Charnwood High School
8551136	Broughton Astley Secondary	Market Harborough	Thomas Estley Community College
8551150	Market Harborough Secondary	Market Harborough	The Robert Smyth Academy Welland Park Academy
8551155	Kibworth Secondary	Market Harborough	Kibworth Mead Academy
8551165	Lutterworth Secondary	Market Harborough	Lutterworth College Lutterworth High School
8551070	Melton Secondary	Melton	John Ferneley College Long Field Spencer Academy
8551075	Belvoir Secondary	Melton	The Priory Belvoir Academy
8551008	Castle Donington Secondary	North-West	Castle Donington College
8551022	Coalville Secondary	North-West	The Castle Rock School The Newbridge School
8551023	Ashby Secondary	North-West	Ashby School Ivanhoe School
8551024	Ibstock Secondary	North-West	Ibstock Community College
8551014	Oadby Secondary	Oadby and Wigston	Gartree High School Manor High School Beauchamp College

8551130	Wigston Secondary	Oadby and Wigston	South Wigston High School Wigston Academy
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Section F – Appendix: Guidance, Legislation, Policies, Reports and Strategy			
Guidance:			
Basic need Funding	DfE	2025	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67e2ce356e54ea5b2b8ee251/Capital_funding_for_school_places_needed_by_2028_explanatory_note_on_methodology.pdf
Building Bulletin 103	DfE	2014	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f23ec238fa8f57acac33720/BB103_Area_Guidelines_for_Mainstream_Schools.pdf
Closure of an Academy by Mutual Agreement	DfE	2024	http://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66fd1134a31f45a9c765efaa/Closure_of_an_academy_by_mutual_agreement_2024.pdf
Convert to an academy: guide for schools	DfE	2025	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools
Establishing a new academy: the free school presumption route	DfE	2024	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/663dfcab993111924d9d324a/Free_school_presumption_guidance.pdf
High Needs Capital Funding	DfE	2025	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67e2d2025698d84e39cfda/HNPCA_2025-26_Grant_Spend_Guidance.pdf
Making Significant Changes to an Academy	DfE	2024	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/670f97de3b919067bb48325b/Making_significant_changes_to_an_academy_October_2024.pdf
Making Significant Changes to Maintained School	DfE	2025	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c0397d68a61757838d2026/Making_significant_changes_prescribed_alterations_to_maintained_schools-2025.pdf
Opening and Closing Maintained Schools	DfE	2024	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66fd4f0a080bdf716392eccf/Opening_and_closing_maintained_schools_2024.pdf
Securing Developer Contributions	DfE	2023	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64d0f70d7a5708001314485f/Securing_Developer_Contributions_for_Education.pdf
Strategic Capital Maintenance	DfE	2025	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding#overview
Legislation:			
Academies Act 2010	Government	2018	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/32/contents
School Sites Act 1841	Government	1841	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/4-5/38/introduction
Section 14 Education Act 1996	Government	2022	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/14
Policies:			

Basic Need Growth Funding Policy	LCC	2023	https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s179825/05%20-%20School%20Growth%20Policy.pdf
Mainstream Home to School Transport Policy	LCC	2025	https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Mainstream-home-to-school-transport-policy-2025-26.pdf
Planning Obligations Policy	LCC	2019	https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2019/8/16/Planning-Obligations-Policy.pdf
SEND Home to School/College Transport Policy	LCC	2025	https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/SEN-home-to-school-college-transport-policy-2025-26.pdf
Reports:			
Housing Needs Assessment	LCC	2022	https://www.llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Housing-Distribution-Paper-June-2022.pdf
Population Data	Office of National Statistics	2025	https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based
Strategy:			
SEND and Inclusion Strategy	LCC	2025	https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/SEND-and-Inclusion-Strategy-2025-2028.pdf

School Places Strategy – Consultation Report

January 2026

Purpose of the Report

To share the results and feedback from the School Places Strategy consultation.

Contents

1. Purpose of the consultation
2. Method of engagement
3. Findings from engagement

Purpose of the consultation

To engage with local people, communities and partners to understand their views on the draft School Places Strategy for 2026-31, and to consider these views in finalising the Strategy. This included ensuring the Strategy clearly sets out local demographic trends and key challenges impacting school place sufficiency in Leicestershire, and our proposed approach to forecasting, commissioning and reorganisation of schools where this is necessary which will together help us to ensure an adequate number of school places are available in the right place at the right time.

Method of engagement

Who

The consultation aimed to seek the views of local people, communities and partners including responsible bodies such as diocesan representatives and academy trusts, and local planning authorities.

How

Online: All visitors to the council's website during the consultation period were invited to complete the consultation survey which was visible on the 'have your say' page of the Council's website.

Paper: A paper copy of the survey was made available upon request to ensure all local people wishing to take part in the consultation were able to.

The media: Multiple media releases were sent out which were picked up by a number of media outlets to encourage local people to provide their views.

Social media: Messages encouraging people to take part in the consultation were sent out via the Council's Facebook pages and via LinkedIn

Targeted communications were sent to:

- Head Teachers across Leicestershire for onward circulation to parents and carers via school newsletters
- Elected Members. All elected members received the press release advising them of the start of the consultation. In addition the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee received a report as part of the consultation exercise at its meeting on 20 January 2026 inviting them to comment on the Strategy.
- Local Planning Authorities, Diocesan representatives and CEOs of Leicestershire's Academy Trusts and Multi Academy Trusts were contacted directly and invited to respond to the consultation.
- Internal staff. Employees of the County Council were made aware of the consultation through All Staff meetings within Children and Family Services
- All were invited to comment on the Strategy via the survey link or to request a paper copy of the survey.

Questions asked within the survey:

Q1 In what role are you responding to this consultation? (list of options)

Q2 Are you providing your organisations official response to the consultation?

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the strategy clearly sets out local demographic trends and key challenges impacting school place sufficiency in Leicestershire?

Q3a Why do you say this?

Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach to forecasting and school place planning set out in the Strategy?

Q4a Why do you say this?

Q5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to ensuring an adequate number of school places are available at the right time and in the right place?

Q5a Why do you say this?

Q6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with Leicestershire's approach to commissioning of school places?

Q6a Why do you say this?

Q7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to reorganisation of schools within Leicestershire set out in the Strategy?

Q7a Why do you say this?

Q8 Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft School Places Strategy 2026-2031?

Q8a Why do you say this?

Q9 Do you have any other comments about the draft School Places Strategy 2026-2031?

Q10 What is your gender?

Q11 Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? If you're aged under 16, please skip this question.

Q12 What was your age on your last birthday?

Q13 In which local authority area do you live?

Q14 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

Q15 What is your ethnic group?

Q16 What is your religion?

Q17 Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

Q18 What is your sexual orientation? If you're aged under 16, please skip this question.

When

The opportunity for local people, communities and partners to share their views on the School Places Strategy was available between 20th November 2025 and 4th January 2026, via the method outlined above.

Findings from the Consultation

36 surveys were returned during the consultation period. All were submitted online. During the consultation period, there were no requests for paper versions of the survey.

About respondents

The majority of respondents were:

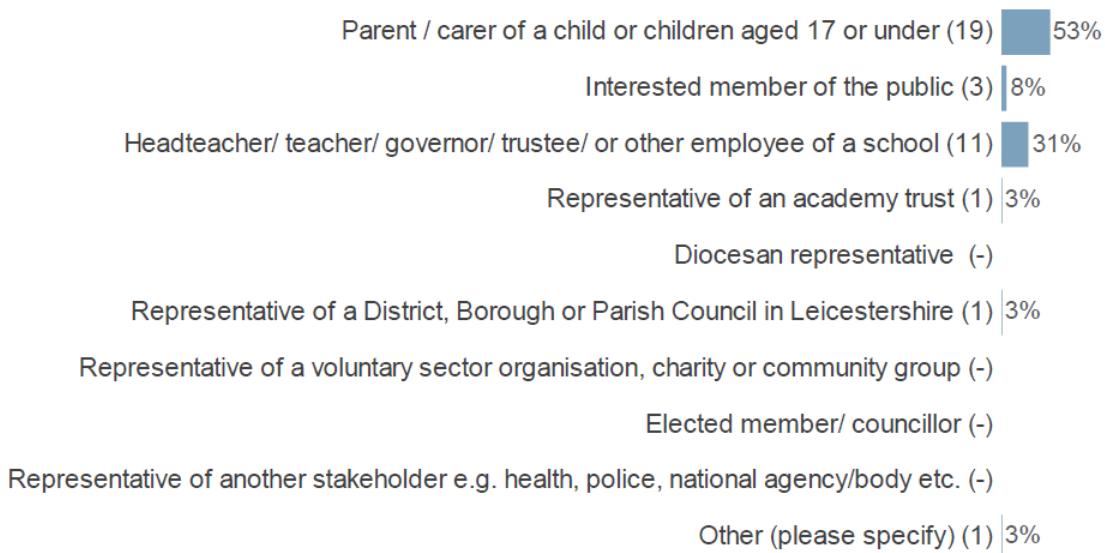
- Female (82%)
- Aged 25-64 (90%)
- A Leicestershire resident (100%)
- A parent or carer of a child or young person aged 18 or under (53%)
- Did not have a long-standing illness or disability (100%)
- White ethnicity (100%)
- No religion (62%)
- Straight/heterosexual (100%)

8 respondents provided their organisation's official response to the consultation.

Responses to 'Your role' questions

Question 1:

In what role are you responding to this consultation? Please select one option only.

**Question 2:**

Are you providing your organisations official response to the consultation?



Responses to 'About you' questions – categories with zero responses removed

			No. of responses	% of total responses to question
Q10	Gender	Female	18	82%
		Male	4	18%
Q11	Gender identified with the same as sex registered at birth	Yes	22	100%
Q12	Age	Under 15	1	5%
		15-24	1	5%
		25 - 34	2	10%
		35 - 44	10	48%
		45 - 54	4	44%
		55 - 64	3	14%
Q13		Blaby District Council	2	9%

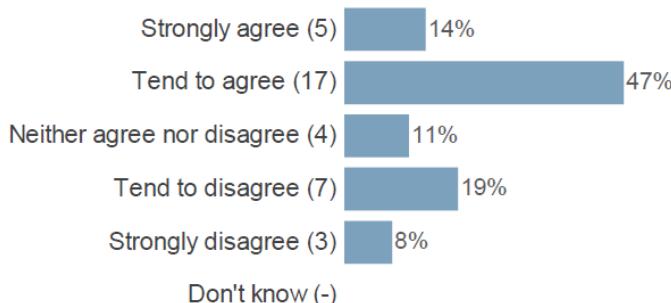
	Local authority area	Charnwood Borough Council	4	18%
		Hinckley and Bosworth District Council	1	5%
		Melton Borough Council	14	64%
		North West Leicestershire District Council	1	5%
Q14	Illness or disability	No	21	100%
Q15	Ethnic group	White	22	100%
Q16	Religion	Christian (all denominations)	8	38%
		No religion	13	62%
Q17	Council employee	Yes	3	14%
		No	19	86%
Q18	Sexual orientation	Straight/ Heterosexual	19	100%

Responses to questions around the draft Strategy

Insufficient responses to the consultation were received to include responses by respondent profile to avoid identification of individual responses. Overall responses to each question are shown below.

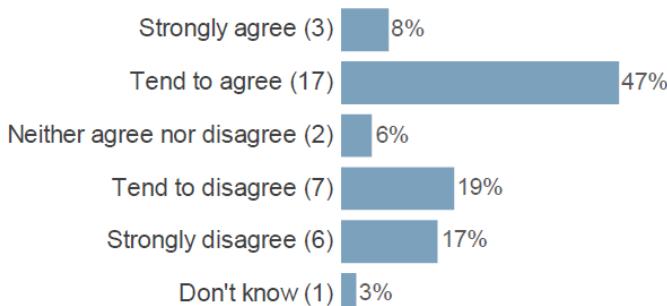
Question 3:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the strategy clearly sets out local demographic trends and key challenges impacting school place sufficiency in Leicestershire?



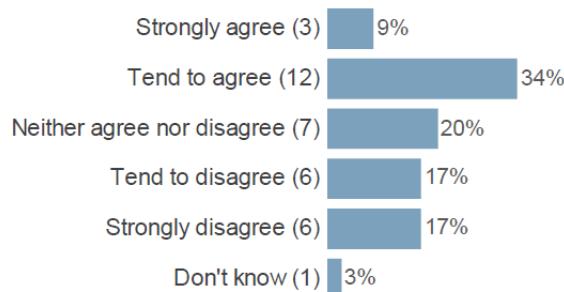
Question 4:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach to forecasting and school place planning set out in the Strategy?



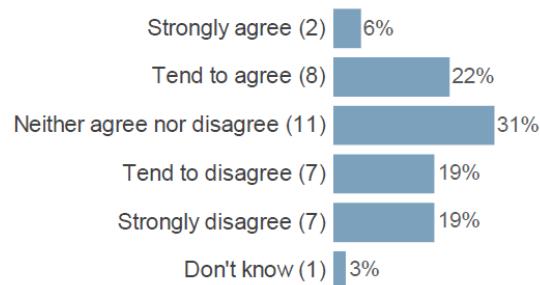
Question 5:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to ensuring an adequate number of school places are available at the right time and in the right place?



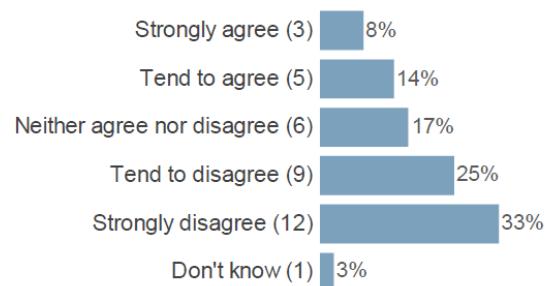
Question 6:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with Leicestershire's approach to commissioning of school places?



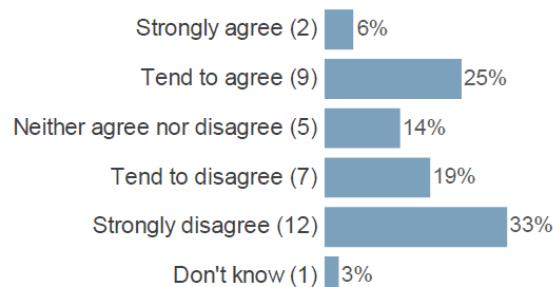
Question 7:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to reorganisation of schools within Leicestershire set out in the Strategy?



Question 8:

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft School Places Strategy 2026-2031?



Summary of themes from open comment questions

Below is a summary of themes observed from responses to open comment questions within the survey.

Q3a To what extent do you agree or disagree that the strategy clearly sets out local demographic trends and key challenges impacting school place sufficiency in Leicestershire? Why do you say this?

14 responses

- Respondents who agreed felt the strategy was clearly written, logically structured, and easy to understand. They noted that the information sources were transparent and the rationale behind proposals was well presented.
- Respondents questioned whether the strategy adequately considers the role, sustainability, and future of rural or small schools within local communities.
- Some expressed concern that although housing growth has been significant over time, school provision has not kept pace.
- Some responses showed partial agreement with the approach but signalled doubts about whether forecasts fully capture localised effects—such as developments, migration patterns, or community-level changes.

Q4a To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach to forecasting and school place planning set out in the Strategy? Why do you say this?

16 responses

- Insufficient SEND school places within the current system were noted, along with concerns around long-term proactive planning for SEND capacity.
- Several respondents stated that schools—particularly small ones—are not funded appropriately, and this impacts their ability to deliver quality education and accommodate needs effectively.
- Some responses agreed that the principles of forecasting “make sense,” but felt the approach does not fully account for local housing developments, the impact of internal migration and how many additional children new developments may bring.
- Respondents emphasised that rural schools provide vital community value and strong SEND support. They expressed concerns that strategic changes may overlook their importance and unique context.
- A few respondents described the strategy document as too long or difficult to read, which affected their ability to fully engage with it.

Q5a To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to ensuring an adequate number of school places are available at the right time and in the right place? Why do you say this?

20 responses

- Several respondents agreed in principle with ensuring places are available, but stressed that new builds should follow full utilisation of current provision to avoid unnecessary expansion and avoid destabilisation of existing neighbouring schools.

- A prominent theme is the number of specialist SEND places not meeting need. Comments highlight long waits, shortfalls in local provision, and the importance of approaches that reduce out-of-area placements.
- Respondents underlined the community value of rural/smaller schools and their ability to offer personalised support, warning that reorganisation or closures could undermine access, especially where families have limited transport options.
- Practicalities matter: some comments focus on catchment boundaries, walking distances and unreliable buses, arguing that these realities should shape sufficiency decisions so pupils can safely access a local school.
- While the methodology is acknowledged, respondents worry that it doesn't fully capture local housing developments or population fluctuations (e.g., a birth-rate dip), which may lead to mismatches between provision and demand over time.
- A small number of comments supported the proposals in principle but noted that the success of the strategy will depend on how plans are implemented.

Q6a To what extent do you agree or disagree with Leicestershire's approach to commissioning of school places? Why do you say this?

13 responses

- Respondents noted that in some areas there are not enough school places and that class sizes are already too large, particularly in primary schools. This raised concerns about whether the proposed approach can realistically meet need.
- Some comments suggested that the approach set out in the strategy is reactive, lacking forward planning and failing to integrate parental views meaningfully.
- Many respondents stressed the emotional and practical impact of potential rural school closures.
- Some respondents questioned the logic of building new schools in areas where existing schools are not yet full, suggesting that upgrades or improvements might be more appropriate than new builds.
- Concerns about inclusivity and long-term thinking around commissioning. Comments also noted tension between national and local commissioning policy, with national expectations around academisation for example limiting local flexibility and reducing school-level influence and governance

Q7a To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to reorganisation of schools within Leicestershire set out in the Strategy? Why do you say this?

21 Responses

- Those who agreed with the proposed approach considered it to be important to ensure the sustainability of schools, noting that some schools may not be viable where there are very low numbers of children on roll and the challenges this presents in providing a quality education

- Responses noted the importance of small and rural schools, particularly emphasising their importance in community identity, ability to provide nurturing, personalised support, and SEND-friendly environments. Some responses expressed concerns around closures or weakening these schools and urged that reorganisation must not erode rural provision.
- Several respondents stressed that SEND places are urgently needed and noted that maintaining SEND-supportive rural schools is essential for stability and wellbeing.
- A number of responses suggested that existing capacity should be filled before creating new schools in order to avoid the need for reorganisation
- Some comments highlighted real-world challenges for families where there are not sufficient local places, particularly when siblings are placed in different schools or when catchments split communities.
- Respondents valued the distinctiveness of individual schools—their character, culture and relationships—and felt reorganisations risk homogenising or undermining these strengths.
- Some responses expressed frustration that decisions appear to be made without sufficient engagement with school-level practitioners, stating that those “on the coal face” understand local realities better than central planners.
- A minority noted that while the strategy outlines principles, it must become more proactive, strategic, and responsive to local circumstances rather than reactive or financially driven.

Q8a Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with our draft School Places Strategy 2026-2031? Why do you say this?

16 responses

- Some respondents provided comments which strongly emphasised protecting small and rural schools
- Respondents asked for clearer, more specific local plans for each area
- Visible mechanisms for regular consultation with schools, parents and community stakeholders and assurance that those “on the ground” (e.g., school leaders) will be genuine partners in decision-making.
- Some respondents expressed uncertainty about how the sustainability of small schools will be judged, particularly how issues like deficits, fluctuating pupil numbers, and SEND funding pressures will be taken into account. They queried whether reorganisation criteria could unintentionally disadvantage smaller settings
- Mixed perceptions of the strategy’s completeness. Comments reflected a recognition of positives, but also highlighted omissions, particularly around plans for delivery.
- Some respondents argued that their local area already has sufficient capacity, with no evidence of future pressure and proposed that existing schools can absorb additional demand.
- A number of comments drew attention to underfunded SEND provision and the strain on school budgets, the need to consider SEND implications carefully before reorganising provision.
- Some respondents expressed concerns around commissioning through academy trusts and the focus on finances over education quality

- A few responses emphasised that children should attend schools rooted in their communities, highlighting that local schooling supports wellbeing and community identity.
- A minority of respondents noted the length and complexity of the document, suggesting the need for clearer communication and accessibility.

Q9 Do you have any other comments about the draft School Places Strategy 2026-2031?

15 responses

- Some respondents emphasised the need for the LA to respond to shifting demographics, avoid investing in unsustainable schools, and ensure decisions are pragmatic rather than politically driven.
- Mixed views on whether additional provision is needed, with several responses focused on the current sufficiency of schools in specific local areas
- Strong emphasis on protecting siblings' access to the same school
- Respondents noted that any changes should not undermine stability for children with additional needs.
- A number of respondents criticised the current approach to SEND, describing it as insufficiently collaborative with parents and failing to adequately meet young people's needs. They emphasised that improvements must be embedded in any future strategy.
- Rural schooling was described as vital, both educationally and socially. Respondents noted that it was essential for maintaining community identity and providing a valued alternative to urban schooling. Respondents warned that closures would undermine community sustainability and reduce parental choice. Deeper community impact assessments were proposed as part of any reorganisation considerations and consideration of sparsity funding if rural schools close.
- Some viewed the document as a starting point rather than a strategy, lacking clear targets, actions and specifics on where provision would increase or reduce. This created uncertainty about whether sufficiency could be achieved.
- Individual concerns highlighted about specific planning areas including split, inconsistent catchments across new estates, long, unsafe, or impractical travel distances and unreliable public transport affecting punctuality and attendance
- Some comments noted inconsistency between housing growth and Section 106 and planning issues that may undermine local sufficiency.

Equality Impact Assessment Form

1- Policy details	
Name of policy	School Places Strategy
Department and service	Children and Family Services, School Organisation
Who has been involved in completing the Equality Impact Assessment?	Renata Chantrill, Head of Service - Education Sufficiency
Contact numbers	01163050356
Date of completion	28 th November 2025

2- Objectives and background of policy or practice change	
What is the proposal?	A new School Places Strategy for Leicestershire covering the period from 2026-2031.
What change and impact is intended by the proposal?	The Strategy will aim to ensure Leicestershire meets its statutory duties by delivering the right number of school places, in the right place, at the right time, with sufficient funding and resources in place to deliver future growth needs. The Strategy sets out the Council's approach to planning, commissioning, and funding school places across all phases, including mainstream, SEND, and alternative provision. The Strategy will clearly set out to stakeholders the processes and mechanisms the Council and partners will use to understand and deliver the required school capacity and ensure sustainable schools for the future.
What is the rationale for this proposal?	Local authorities have a legal obligation to ensure that sufficient, high-quality school places are available for all children and young people in their area. This duty applies to both mainstream education and provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Local authorities are

required to act as strategic commissioners, forecasting demand, planning capacity, and working collaboratively with schools, academy trusts, and other partners to ensure that every child and young person can access suitable, high-quality education.

Since the publication of the previous strategy, significant changes to the Leicestershire educational landscape have been experienced which have led to the need for a new School Places Strategy for 2026-2031. This includes increasing academisation of schools, changes in birth rates and the impact on school place requirements and school sustainability, housing growth areas, and an increasing need for specialist school places for pupils with additional needs.

3- Evidence gathered on equality implications - Data and engagement

What equalities information or data has been gathered so far?	The School Places Strategy itself contains a summary of the key demographic and equalities information around children and young people in Leicestershire. Additional points are set out below;
What does it show?	<p>Leicestershire's population was 712,336 at the latest census in 2021, a 9.5% increase to the county's population over the last 10 years. This makes Leicestershire one of the fastest growing areas in the country in terms of population (national average 6.6%). Understandably, this has placed added pressures on services for Children and Young People in the County. The County has approx. 143,063 children and young people aged up to 19 years (including 36,154 0 to 5 year olds). There were 296,400 households within the county. A further 10.2% growth in population is projected by 2031.</p> <p>There are 101,247 children and young people educated in Leicestershire schools (aged 3-18) during the Autumn term census for 2025/26. This includes 54,454 Primary aged pupils, 44,722 Secondary aged pupils and 1,992 pupils in Special Schools. Children and Young People from minority ethnic groups account for 43.6% of all children living in Leicestershire, compared with 38% in the country as a whole. The largest minority ethnic groups are Asian or Asian British and Mixed.</p>

<p>From our School Census in Spring 2025, we know that</p>	
Percentage of Black, Asian and other ethnic communities of the total school population (excluding unclassified)	24.6%
Pupils eligible for free school meals	17.2%
Pupils needing SEN support	13.4%
Pupils with EHCPs	4.7%

The latest School Census, which includes all pupils on roll at a school within Leicestershire (aged 4 to 16 years), reports that there are now 13,983 pupils on a SEN Support plan and 7,196 with an Education, Health and Care Plan. SEND pupils account for 18.1% of the Leicestershire school population. Leicestershire has a proportion of children and young people with SEND (identified through EHCPs and SEN support) broadly in line with the English average.

In 2025, the annual school census (Spring term) reported that 13.4% of children and young people were identified at SEN Support level in the County, just below the England average. Previous longer-term trends had indicated a lower-than-average level in Leicestershire, but this gap has now largely closed.

As with the previous strategy, the School Places Strategy will ensure all children and young people in Leicestershire have access to a high-quality education, with places delivered in the right parts of the County at the right time.

| **What engagement has been undertaken so far?** **What does it show?** | The strategy has been developed in conjunction with key stakeholders and responsible bodies. We have used their feedback to help us to shape the strategy, ensuring it reflects shared priorities and processes and is aligned with the current educational landscape. |

4- Benefits, concerns and mitigating action

Group	What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?	What are the concerns identified and how will these affect those from the following groups?	How will the known concerns be mitigated?
Age	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire.	None identified.	Not required.
Disability	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire. The strategy sets out additional special school places to be created to meet the growing need within Leicestershire, ensuring that appropriate spaces are available to support those children and young people whose needs are not able to be met in mainstream schools.	None identified.	Not required.
Race	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people	None identified.	Not required.

	to access high quality education in Leicestershire.		
Sex	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire.	None identified.	Not required.
Gender Reassignment	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire.	None identified.	Not required.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No direct impact identified.	None identified.	Not required.
Sexual Orientation	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire.	None identified.	Not required.
Pregnancy and Maternity	No direct impact identified.	None identified.	Not required.
Religion or Belief	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire.	None identified.	Not required.
Armed Forces (including veterans)	No direct impact identified.	None identified.	Not required.
People with lived care experience	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people	None identified.	Not required.

	to access high quality education in Leicestershire.		
Other groups: e.g., rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities	Improvements to school place availability will support all children and young people to access high quality education in Leicestershire. The Strategy sets out how the Council will ensure that schools are sustainable for the future.	None identified.	Not required.

5- Action Plan			
Produce a framework to outline how identified risks/concerns identified in section 4 will be mitigated.			
What action is planned?	Who is responsible for the action?	Timescale	Expected outcome
Seek approval to consult on the School Places Strategy	Education Sufficiency	Cabinet – 18/11/25	Ensuring the Strategy is agreed with elected members prior to wider consultation.
Public consultation on the SEND and Inclusion Strategy following approval to consult by Cabinet	Education Sufficiency	C&FS Scrutiny Committee – 20/1/26 November 2025-January 2026	Feedback on proposed strategy to ensure feedback is fully considered before Strategy is agreed.

6- Approval Process



Departmental Equalities Group	
Corporate Policy Team	
Sign off by the Senior Responsible Officer for the Project.	

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CABINET – 3 FEBRUARY 2026

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2026 - 2029

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Children and Family Services Departmental Plan for 2026 to 2029 which is appended to this report. The Plan sets out the high-level priorities for the Department for the next three years.

Recommendation

2. The Cabinet is recommended to approve the Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2026 to 2029.

Reason for Recommendation

3. The Plan has been developed to fulfil statutory duties and provide a basis for the Children and Family Services' vision, planning, commissioning and delivery of services until 2029. The Plan and associated actions provide a vehicle for Children and Family Services to work together on shared priorities, maximise resources and expertise, and avoid duplication. Service delivery plans will be developed for each service area and progress will be monitored and reported to the Department Management Team on a quarterly basis.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Plan on 20 January 2026 and its comments are set out at paragraph 14 below.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. The Cabinet at its meeting on 9 February 2024 approved the Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2024-2026.

6. The Children and Family Service Departmental Plan 2026-2029 is aligned to the County Council's Strategic Plan and aims to set out how the Department will contribute to the delivery and achievement of the Council's Safe and Well and Improved Opportunities strategic outcomes.
7. The Plan also aligns to partnership plans including Leicestershire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Best Start In Life commitments and the priorities of Leicestershire's Children and Families Partnership plan, including Best Start in Life (Early Years), Safe from Harm, Early Help, Coordinated Support for Vulnerable Children and Emotional and Mental Health.

Resource Implications

8. There are no resource implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The Plan will provide the context within which Children and Family Services budgets are produced and will continue to ensure that the County Council makes best possible use of its resources. Delivery of the Plan will require the Department to maintain effective working relationships with a range of partners, including but not limited to colleagues across all other County Council departments, District Councils, Health, Police, Leicester City and Rutland Councils and the voluntary and community sector.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

9. None.

Officers to Contact

Sharon Cooke
Interim Director of Children and Family Services
Tel: 0116 305 2649
Email: sharon.cooke@leics.gov.uk

PART B**Background**

10. The Children and Family Service Departmental Plan 2026 to 2029 is for all the children and young people living in Leicestershire and their families and sets out high-level priorities for the County Council's Children and Family Services Department for the next three years. The Plan builds on the work undertaken under the previous Departmental Plan 2024 to 2026 rather than being a material change to the existing Plan, and has been informed by feedback from children, young people and families on their needs and experiences. It is intended to formally launch the new Plan in April 2026.
11. Progress against the Plan will be monitored closely by the Children and Family Services Departmental Management Team which will continue to formally review through monitoring of actions set out in Service Delivery Plans on a quarterly basis and report to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure it remains relevant, dynamic, and aligned with local and national priorities.

The Plan

12. The Department has identified three ambitions, continued from the current plan, and nine updated associated priorities, which will drive improved outcomes for the children, young people and families of Leicestershire, supporting them to -

Build Strong Foundations

- Focus on development, readiness for learning and learning as a driver of wellbeing for all children and young people.
- Work in partnership to offer support and opportunities to children in their own communities, to help them reach their full potential, and transition well into adulthood.
- Work in partnership to identify those children and young people who would benefit from support and provide a shared response to them.

Be Safe and Belong:

- Work with families to ensure risk is understood and reduced, and targeted support is provided at the right time, in the right place by the right service and agency.
- Develop and use partnerships to prioritise safety for children and young people and to ensure it is understood that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Create an understanding of "belonging" across partnerships so that children feel they matter and can maximise positive opportunities and links in their families, early learning and education settings and communities.
- Empower families to build positive relationships and support systems to create safety for children to live within their family or family network.

- Enjoy and Achieve:
 - Ensure children and young people have access within their communities to good quality early learning and education that enables them to achieve their full potential.
 - Develop a shared understanding of the impact of inequalities and trauma across partnerships, and a shared approach to supporting vulnerable children.

Consultation

13. Formal consultation has not been undertaken specifically on the Departmental Plan as the Children and Family Service actively and continually seeks feedback from children, young people and families across Leicestershire as part of any direct work and group work undertaken with children and families, through specific engagement activity, through transformation activity and through children's forums. The new Plan has been informed by this feedback and input has also been sought from the Children's Youth Council for Leicestershire (CYCLE), SEND CYCLE, Young Carers CYCLE, Children in Care Council, and Family Hub parent/carer groups.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Plan at its meeting on 20 January 2026. Members were pleased to see the voice of children and families evident throughout the document and supported the Plan.

Equality Implications

15. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report. An equality screening assessment was undertaken and it was confirmed that a full equality impact assessment was not needed.

Human Rights Implications

16. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Appendix

Children and Family Services Departmental Plan 2026 to 2029

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 9 February 2024 "Children and Family Services Departmental Plan for 2024 to 2026" -

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7503>

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 20 January 2026

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1043&MId=8410>

Leicestershire Children and Family Services

Departmental Plan 2026 - 2029

This plan sets out our vision, ambitions for children and our high-level priorities for Leicestershire County Council's Children and Family Services Department for the next three years.

The plan is shaped by the voices of children, young people, and families, reflecting their needs and experiences. Their input will continue to guide our priorities, services, and success measures

What Children, Young People and Families have told us

“ Take time to understand me and get to know me before asking me difficult questions

“ Keep me involved in the decisions being made, I am nearly an adult myself and I do understand things.

“ Don't rush from one thing to another, let me have time to think and explain it to me

“ (my worker) was just so understanding and empathetic, and she listened when I needed to rant

“ Because at hard times in life it's sometimes difficult to talk to people, but (my worker) made me feel valued and heard

“ Being trained to be on an interview panel and doing mystery shop feels like I'm being heard and I can make a change. It's helped my confidence

“ The way everything was planned out ... it gave me my own voice

“ Don't talk down to me, make the relationship feel equal

“ The worker that ran our group was really nice and I didn't feel that she judged me at all. This made me talk more openly about my problems I was having about my low mood and my history with domestic abuse. Things got better for me and my children

“ My worker has been fantastic in helping my family and finding a provision for my son to attend, she has not given up in her quest to do this, I feel she has gone above and beyond, not only in finding us support for our son, but also listening to me

“ I've never felt judged and my children always felt really safe and comfortable around the worker

What we will do

One Vision

Leicestershire is a place where all children can build strong foundations, be safe and belong, and enjoy and achieve



Three Ambitions

We want to support all children and young people to:

Build Strong Foundations

Be Safe and Belong

Enjoy and Achieve



Nine priorities

To support children and young people to Build Strong Foundations we will:

Focus on development, readiness for learning and learning as a driver of wellbeing for all children and young people

Work in partnership to offer support and opportunities to children in their own communities, to help them reach their full potential, and transition well into adulthood

Work in partnership to identify those children and young people who would benefit from support and provide a shared response to them

To support children and young people to Be Safe and Belong we will:

Work with families to ensure risk is understood and reduced, and targeted support is provided at the right time, in the right place by the right service and agency

Develop and use partnerships to prioritise safety for children and young people and to ensure it is understood that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Create an understanding of “belonging” across partnerships so that children feel they matter and can maximise positive opportunities and links in their families, early learning and education settings and communities

Empower families to build positive relationships and support systems to create safety for children to live within their family or family network

To support children and young people to Enjoy and Achieve we will:

Ensure children and young people have access within their communities to good quality early learning and education that enables them to achieve their full potential

Develop a shared understanding of the impact of inequalities and trauma across partnerships, and a shared approach to supporting vulnerable children

How we will work with children and families

Voice:

- Putting children and young people at the heart of all our activities by involving them, hearing them and ensuring their voice is influencing the planning, design and delivery of our services



Belonging:

- Supporting children and young people to feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in their school, social and wider environment so they can "Live Their Best Life"
- Enabling all children to grow up with a sense of belonging, with at least one adult who provides unconditional care/love



Purposeful Leadership:

- Leading with integrity and purpose and being clear in our expectations
- Leading with empathy, innovation, creativity and with high support, high challenge, high expectations
- Leading by valuing others, being meaningfully inclusive, being an ally to those around you and challenging barriers
- Leading with a clear vision that demonstrates ambition for children, families, the workforce and services
- Leading across the Department, taking accountability for making and being the difference



Developing and retaining an excellent workforce:

- Creating an environment that enables good practice to flourish by equipping our workforce with the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to best support improved outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire
- Creating an inclusive culture that nurtures talent and allows every individual to flourish and reach their potential
- Recognising and valuing the differences in each of our members of staff and believing that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect



Being Responsive:

- Providing a safe, compassionate and inclusive environment that recognises the pervasiveness and potential impact of trauma on our children and families, our staff, our organisation and our communities
- Ensuring that this understanding is incorporated into every aspect of our administration, culture, environment and service delivery and acknowledge that every interaction is an intervention and that relationships are at the core of our work



Robust Commissioning, Planning and Management of Resources

- Having processes, tool and skills in place that ensure innovation, best value and quality, market engagement and support sufficiency needs
- Exploring opportunities for joint commissioning across partners to ensure collaboration and partnership working where it is appropriate
- Using value for money interventions that make a difference
- Having detailed service plans in place that outline how each ambition will be achieved and how progress will be monitored



Data and Performance:

- Informing planning and driving performance by ensuring the right data and business intelligence is available to the right people, at the right time and in an accessible form



Underpinning Values

- Ensuring that Flexibility, Trust and Respect, Openness and Transparency and Positivity underpin our delivery of services for children and their families
- Being Aspirational - achieving the best outcomes for children and families
- Being Curious – by digging for detail using purposeful practice
- Being Collaborative - building relationships built on respect, valuing others and a focus on solutions



How we will measure success

- Children and families tell us we have made a positive difference
- Children and families are involved in service design
- Performance indicators show improving outcomes
- Interventions are timely and avoid delay
- Decision making is evidence-based, supported by robust management oversight
- Early help is effective in reducing the number of children requiring social work intervention
- Audit tells us our interventions are robust and measure impact

Strategies that will underpin delivery of the Plan

- Alternative Provision Strategy
- Business Intelligence Strategy
- Care Placements Strategy
- CFS Placement Sufficiency and Market Position Statement
- Community Safety Strategy
- Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Early Help Strategy
- Education Belonging Strategy
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy
- Maternity and Early Years Strategy
- Permanence and Adoption Strategy
- Recruitment and Retention Strategy
- Road to Excellence: Achieving Excellence via Purposeful Practice
- School Places Strategy
- Transforming SEND and Inclusion in Leicestershire
- Voice and Influence Strategy
- We Care Strategy
- Youth Justice Plan



CABINET – 3 FEBRUARY 2026

CLIMATE RESILIENCE DELIVERY PLAN

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval of the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan (Delivery Plan) which is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan (Delivery Plan).

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Delivery Plan (previously the Net Zero Action Plans) has been produced in accordance with the Cabinet's decision from July 2025 to change the focus of activities from carbon reduction to climate adaptation and respond to severe weather events and projects that deliver financial savings or additional social, economic or environmental benefits.
4. The Delivery Plan includes actions reflecting the programme of flood mitigation and climate adaptation and resilience, as agreed by the Cabinet in October 2025.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. The Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider a Climate Resilience Delivery Plan report on 26 January 2026, and the Committee's comments will be reported to the Cabinet.
6. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, the final Delivery Plan will then be published on the Council's website.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

7. The Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the Environment Strategy 2018-2030 which was approved by the Cabinet on 6 July 2018.
8. A revised Environment Strategy was subsequently adopted by the County Council on 8 July 2020, to account for the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in May 2019. The vision of the revised Environment Strategy is 'Leicestershire County Council will minimise the environmental impact of its activities and will improve the wider environment through local action. We will play our full part to protect the environment of Leicestershire. We will tackle climate change and embed environmental sustainability into what we do.'
9. The Delivery Plan supports the delivery of the County Council's Strategic Plan which was adopted in March 2022. Clean and Green is one of its five Strategic Outcomes, a priority of which is to tackle a changing climate.
10. In December 2022, the County Council adopted the 2030 Net Zero Council Action Plan and the 2045 Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action Plan.
11. Since these commitments were made, the Council has been subjected to an increasingly constrained financial position with a significant deficit forecast. In February 2024, in light of this and the estimated increased resources required to reach net zero, the Cabinet resolved to extend the net zero targets to 2035 for Council operations and to 2050 for Countywide emissions, in line with the national target.
12. In February 2025, the Cabinet approved revised versions of the Net Zero Action Plans which were updated as a result of the change to the associated targets.
13. On 15 July 2025 (the Council being under a new Administration following the elections in May 2025), the Cabinet reallocated £2m from the reserves which had previously been earmarked for carbon reduction work, to flooding mitigation initiatives and adapting Council services to the impacts of severe weather events. The Cabinet also approved a change to the focus of the activities delivered under the Net Zero Action Plans, as requested by the Leader of the Council. At the same time, it was decided that the existing targets surrounding net zero carbon be retained but with a shift in focus outlined within the July Cabinet report.
14. Subsequently, in October 2025, the Cabinet reviewed and approved the proposed £2m programme of flood mitigation and climate adaptation and resilience measures.

Resource Implications

15. The Delivery Plan has been produced assuming that existing levels of revenue resource will continue to be available.

16. This additionally includes £0.3m of the £2m reallocated funding approved by the Cabinet in October 2025 and proposed for inclusion in the 2026-30 Medium Term Financial Strategy process. This will be spent mainly on employing a staff resource to update the climate risk register, identify measures that can form a realistic action plan and to work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to identify and implement mitigation measures to protect assets, save reactive spend and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.
17. The remainder of the reallocated £2m funding will be spent on working with communities (£0.4m) and effective management and investment in highways drainage assets (£1.3m).
18. The Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

19. This report will be circulated to all Members.

Officers to Contact

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PART B

Background

20. As agreed by the Cabinet in July 2025, there has been a change of focus in the activities included in the Delivery Plan (previously the Net Zero Action Plan) from carbon reduction to:
 - i. climate adaptation and responding to severe weather events;
 - ii. projects that deliver financial savings; and
 - iii. projects that deliver additional social, economic or environmental benefits, in support of the Council's Strategic Outcomes.
21. Actions reflecting the programme of flood mitigation and climate adaptation and resilience actions, as agreed by the Cabinet in October 2025, have been added to the Delivery Plan.

Delivery Plan

22. Following this change, a number of actions now refer directly to the financial and health benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation. To support this change in approach, a new column and associated key have been added in which the co-benefits of each action are identified in abbreviated form (e.g. FE for financial efficiency, NB for nature and biodiversity and HW for health and wellbeing).
23. The timeframe has also been updated. Previously, action implementation was identified over a 5-year period, but this has been changed to a 3-year period. This is to align with the programme of flood mitigation, climate resilience and adaptation measures agreed by the Cabinet in October 2025.

Monitoring and Reporting

24. Annual reporting regarding progress on the Delivery Plan will be included within the Environmental Performance and Progress Report, presented to the Environment, Flooding and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis, which will report by exception and summarise the highlights from that year's delivery period.

Equality Implications

25. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) were undertaken in full when the original Net Zero Action Plans were developed and subsequently adopted by the Cabinet. Therefore, as the Delivery Plan has not been substantively altered in scope, it has been agreed with departmental equality officers that additional EIAs will not be required; however, minor changes have been made to the existing EIA (Appendix B) to reflect the changes made to the Delivery Plan.

26. However, it should be noted that the statutorily established Climate Change Committee (the Government's advisory body on climate change science, targets and impacts) recognises that climate change can have a disproportionate impact on groups with different protected characteristics.
27. Decision makers should therefore take account of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Although not climate specific, this duty requires authorities to consider how their policies affect different groups which can intersect with climate justice concerns.
28. Compliance with the PSED places the County Council (or a third-party exercising function on its behalf) under a duty to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

Human Rights Implications

29. No human right implications were found when the original Net Zero Action Plans were developed and subsequently adopted by the Cabinet. There are no changes in the Delivery Plan that would have human rights implications.

Environmental Implications

30. There are likely to be both positive and negative environmental implications linked to the shift in focus of the Delivery Plan. The move away from emissions reduction work may increase risk for the Council in the future.

Health Implications

31. A full Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken in 2024 when the Net Zero Action Plans were revised and subsequently adopted by the Cabinet. It was therefore agreed with Public Health officers that an additional HIA will not be required subject to minor changes being made to the existing HIA to reflect the changes made to the Delivery Plan (Appendix C).
32. The HIA describes how many actions of the Delivery Plan could make a positive contribution to health in relation to the priority thematic areas identified within the tool. The broadening of the Delivery Plan to include actions relating to climate change adaptation has additional health benefits by alleviating the impacts of severe weather on Council services and assets that Leicestershire residents and businesses rely upon.

Background Papers

Environment Strategy 2018-2030

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/7/13/Environment-Strategy-2018-2030-delivering-a-better-future.pdf>

2035 Net Zero Council Action Plan (2025)

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/net-zero-council-action-plan-2035.pdf>

2050 Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan (2025)

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/2050-Net-Zero-Leicestershire-Action-Plan.pdf>

Cabinet report - 15 July 2025

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s190761/FINAL%20Net%20Zero%20Reprioritised%20Cabinet%2020150725%20v2.pdf>

Cabinet report – 28 October 2025

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s192485/FINAL%20Flooding%20and%20Climate%20Adaptation%20Cabinet%2020281025.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix A: Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

Appendix B: Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix C: Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

Key	
AQ	Air Quality
BR	Business Resilience
CAF	Climate Adaptation and Flooding
CR	Carbon Reduction
FE	Financial Efficiency
HW	Health and Wellbeing
NB	Nature and Biodiversity
RW	Resources and Waste

Action ID	Action	Context	Co Benefits	Partners	Delivery Period		
					2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1	Investigate how improvements to the fabric of LCC buildings, heating upgrades and other energy efficiency measures could save the council money, provide thermally improved working environments and build resilience to global energy markets. Continue to secure external funding when it is available to carry out these works.	Council	AQ, BR, CR, FE, HW	N/A			
2	To achieve financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.	Council	BR, CR, FE, NB	N/A			
3	Subject to the results of a trial, work with high mileage teams to reduce grey fleet business mileage to realise financial savings for LCC and health benefits for employees.	Council	AQ, CR, FE, HW	N/A			
4	Identify opportunities on the Council's estate for implementation of practices and enhancements that benefit nature, increase the land use sector's climate resilience and drawdown of atmospheric emissions.	Council	CAF, CR, FE, NB	N/A			
5	Strengthen environmental controls within the Procurement Strategy, and develop tools and guidance to integrate environmental impact into procurement decisions and integrate council sustainability specifications and requirements into supplier contracts and the procurement process.	Council	BR, CR, NB, RW	N/A			
6	Support the shift of Council investments towards those that promote increased sustainability.	Council	BR, CAF, CR, FE	N/A			
7	Deliver a pilot study to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of transitioning LCC's fleet from ICE (Internal Combustion Engines) to EVs (Electric Vehicles). Integrate a small number of EVs into the fleet to allow a data driven appraisal of EV performance within LCC operations, with a view to building preparedness for upcoming national legislation around ICE vehicle phase out.	Council	AQ, BR, CR, FE, HW	N/A			
8	Revisit and refresh the existing County Council Climate Change Risk Register and from that develop a list of service specific climate action plans.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW	N/A			
9	Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW	N/A			
10	Introduce a proactive programme of culvert maintenance where the current approach is reactive and undertake high priority repairs and or replacements.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW	N/A			
11	Develop a system of management for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) as they become more commonly adopted to mitigate surface water flooding.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW, NB	N/A			
12	Deliver an increased gully emptying trial on county highways by introducing a 40 month cycle for priority 3 gullies to mitigate surface water flooding.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW, NB	N/A			
13	Undertake mapping of underground drainage assets to improve the Council's ability to investigate issues and plan maintenance activities to assist in preventing any future surface water flooding.	Council	BR, CAF, FE, HW, NB	N/A			
14	Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, HW, NB	Transport Partners Business Residents			

15	Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, FE, HW,	Active Travel England (ATE) District councils Leicester City Council Health partners Residents Businesses Schools Active travel partnerships Community groups			
16	Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, FE, HW	Public transport providers Community groups Residents Department for Transport (DfT) District councils Neighbouring authorities Business and Skills Partnership Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands			
17	Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, HW	Midlands Connect Neighbouring authorities District councils Residents Business Chargepoint Operators National Grid DfT and OZEV			
18	Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, HW	Midlands Net Zero Hub District councils Business and Skills Partnership			
19	Consider opportunities for working with partners on joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CR, FE, HW	District councils Health partners Energy Saving Trust			
20	Collaborate with partners to secure funding that gives residents opportunities to save on utility bills and for better health and wellbeing by supporting energy efficiency improvements that keep homes warm in the winter.	Leicestershire	CR, FE, HW	District councils Midlands Net Zero Hub			
21	Support district councils to develop local planning policies which champion climate resilience and adaptation using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes.	Leicestershire	CAF, CR, FE, NB	District councils Leicester City Council Business and Skills Partnership			
22	Work collaboratively with partners to seek opportunities to deliver local energy transition opportunities, including community energy projects, identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire.	Leicestershire	AQ, CR, FE	Universities Partnership Community Energy Groups			
23	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering financial savings and climate resilience, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Leicestershire	BR, CR, FE	Business and Skills Partnership			
24	Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers goods and services with a low environmental impact.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CR, FE, NB, RW	Leicester City Council Leicestershire County Council			
25	Develop the Leicester & Leicestershire Destination Management Plan with a strategic priority of Regenerative Tourism to align with Visit England's strategy.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB, RW	Leicester City Council Tourism Advisory Board Visit England District councils Local Tourism Partnerships National Forest Canal & River Trust			

26	Deliver the Whole Systems Approach to Food, Healthy Weight and Nutrition (WSA) to maximise the health benefits of a sustainable food system, increase food security and reduce the environmental impacts of food production.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB, RW	Food growers Education sector Health sector			
27	Deliver the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy to work towards a circular economy whilst supporting innovation, jobs and efficient use of resources.	Leicestershire	BR, CR, FE, RW	District councils			
28	Deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in line with Government guidance.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB	Leicester City Council Rutland Council District councils Natural England Environment Agency Forestry Commission National Forest Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Neighbouring authorities Farmers, land owners and managers Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise groups Residents and other stakeholders			
29	Work with local planning authorities when opportunities arise to explore how the LNRS, Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity Duty can deliver multiple benefits such as nature recovery, climate resilience and drawdown of atmospheric emissions.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB	District councils LNRS Steering Group			
30	Deliver the County Council's Tree Management Strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB	District councils Woodland Trust National Forest Business Residents			
31	Provide information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAV's) to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.	Leicestershire	AQ, CAF, CR, HW, NB, RW	EAVs			
32	Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB	Universities District councils			
33	Work with partners when possible, particularly universities, to support research and implementation of best practice in climate change adaptation.	Leicestershire	CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub			
34	Provide flood resilience equipment to at risk communities through working with Flood Wardens, town and parish councils.	Leicestershire	BR, CAF, HW	Town and parish councils Flood wardens			
35	Provide community grants to support the development of local resilience to flooding through the purchasing of equipment or delivery of small scale project work	Leicestershire	BR, CAF, HW	Town and parish councils Flood wardens			
36	Investigate the condition and performance of private assets such as ditches and culverts linked to flood risk where there are complex ownerships or disputed responsibilities.	Leicestershire	BR, CAF, CR, FE	Private asset owners Environment Agency			
37	Consider opportunities to work with partners to implement nature based solutions that mitigate the impacts of climate change such as flooding and the heat island effect.	Leicestershire	AQ, BR, CAF, CR, FE, HW, NB	Farmers, land owners and managers Voluntary community and social enterprise Universities National governmental bodies District councils Community groups			

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Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

This Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will enable you to assess the **new, proposed or significantly changed** policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** for equality and human rights implications.

Undertaking this assessment will help you to identify whether or not this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** may have an adverse impact on a particular community or group of people. It will ultimately ensure that, as an Authority, we do not discriminate and we are able to promote equality, diversity and human rights.

Please refer to the EHRIA [guidance](#) before completing this form. If you need any further information about undertaking and completing the assessment, contact your [Departmental Equalities Group](#) <mailto:> or equality@leics.gov.uk

***Please note: The term 'policy' will be used throughout this assessment as shorthand for policy, practice, procedure, function or service.*

Key Details	
Name of policy being assessed:	Climate Resilience Delivery Plan
Department and section:	Environment and Transport, Environment and Waste Commissioning
Name of lead officer/ job title and others completing this assessment:	Vicky Cormie, Head of Service Environment and Waste Commissioning
Contact telephone numbers:	0116 3057291
Name of officer/s responsible for implementing this policy:	Joanna Guyll
Date EHRIA assessment started:	21 March 2022
Date EHRIA assessment completed:	12 December 2025

Section 1: Defining the policy

Section 1: Defining the policy

You should begin this assessment by defining and outlining the scope of the policy. You should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's [Equality Strategy](#).

1	<p>What is new or changed in the policy? <i>What has changed and why?</i></p> <p>The previous Net Zero Action Plans have been renamed and updated in response to the Council's changed priorities as well as a renewed focus on climate change adaptation, they are now called the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan (the Delivery Plan).</p> <p>The wording of the actions has been updated to reflect the broadened economic, social and environmental priorities of the new political administration. To support this change in narrative, a new column and associated key have been added in which the co-benefits of each action are identified in abbreviated form (e.g. FE for financial efficiency, NB for nature and biodiversity and HW for health and wellbeing).</p> <p>The timeframe has also been updated. Previously, action implementation was identified over a 5-year period but this has been changed to a 3-year period. This is to align with the agreed spend period of the £2 million climate change adaptation fund.</p>
2	<p>Does this relate to any other policy within your department, the Council or with other partner organisations? If yes, please reference the relevant policy or EHRIA. If unknown, further investigation may be required.</p> <p>These actions are from the Net Zero Strategy and road map. The Net Zero Strategy sets out the approach to delivering the Council's policy to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire by 2050, in line with the national target.</p> <p>Yes, the Delivery Plan is a theme included in the Environment Strategy 2018 – 2030. The Clean and Green Outcome of the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 also includes tackling climate change as a sub outcome.</p>
3	<p>Who are the people/ groups (target groups) affected and what is the intended change or outcome for them?</p> <p>The ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire by 2050 will affect people across Leicestershire. The intended outcome is to halt Leicestershire's contribution to climate change and to maximise the co-benefits for people, nature and the economy from a just transition.</p>
4	<p>Will the policy meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements to have due regard to the need to meet any of the following aspects? (Please tick and explain how)</p>

			How?
	Yes	No	
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	✓		Projects and policies to implement the Delivery Plan will be subject to EHRIA. Many actions within Delivery Plan improve universal access to cleaner air, safer streets, better flood resilience and lower energy bills (e.g., Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel/public transport; energy efficiency in homes; culvert/SuDS management). These reduce disproportionate environmental burdens that can correlate with protected characteristics. Risks arise if implementation overlooks accessibility, affordability, or culturally appropriate engagement.
Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	✓		Delivery of the Delivery Plan offers co-benefits for health equality, economic prosperity and improved environment that can advance equality of opportunity. Specific programmes of work will be subject to an EHRIA and consideration given to advancing equality of opportunity. The Council will support this, for example through grant applications such as "Green Living Leicestershire" which offers fully funded energy efficiency measures to low income households. Improving bus/community transport, demand-responsive transport, and active travel (Actions 14–16) can reduce barriers for those without private cars, often lower-income residents, young people, older adults, and disabled people. Programmes to support home energy efficiency and keep homes warm (Action 20) advance opportunity by reducing fuel poverty and health inequalities. Inward Investment and Enterprise Zone support (Actions 24, 26) can spread opportunities for training and employment in low-carbon sectors, provided outreach targets under-represented groups.

	Foster good relations between different groups	✓		Place-based nature recovery, tree planting, volunteers and public engagement (Actions 29–33) can create shared local benefits, volunteering opportunities and community-led projects that bring diverse groups together. Behaviour change campaigns (Action 15; “Choose How You Move”) and Sustainable Food Plan (Action 27) can build common purpose around climate resilience, provided messaging is inclusive and avoids stigmatising any group
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Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Screening

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Screening

The purpose of this section of the assessment is to help you decide if a full EHRIA is required.

If you have already identified that a full EHRIA is needed for a policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service, either via service planning processes or other means, then please go straight to Section 3 on Page 7 of this document.

Section 2

A: Research and Consultation

		Yes	No*
5.	Have the target groups been consulted about the following?		
	a) their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;	✓	
	b) any potential impact of this change on them (positive and negative, intended and unintended);	✓	
	c) potential barriers they may face	✓	
6.	If the target groups have not been consulted directly, have representatives been consulted or research explored (e.g. Equality Mapping)?	✓	
7.	Have other stakeholder groups/ secondary groups (e.g. carers of service users) been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?	✓	

8.	<p>*If you answered 'no' to the questions above, please use the space below to outline either what consultation you are planning to undertake or why you do not consider it to be necessary.</p>
	<p>Consultation has taken place for the original Net Zero Action Plan and Strategy. The amendments to the actions: The wording of the actions has been updated to reflect the broadened economic, social and environmental priorities of the new political administration. Additionally, the timeframe has also been updated and new actions regarding adaptation to climate change added. The actions are no longer framed in terms of carbon emissions reduction but in terms of their co-benefits. No further consultation has taken place as only the way the Delivery Plan is communicated has changed.</p>

Section 2

B: Monitoring Impact

9.	<p>Are there systems set up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="314 833 1108 911">a) monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups; <li data-bbox="314 945 997 1024">b) enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities 	Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Insight Survey		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment webpage and email		

Note: If no to Question 9, you will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics.

Section 2

C: Potential Impact

10.	<p>Use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any of the 'protected characteristics' may potentially be affected by the policy and describe any positive and negative impacts, including any barriers.</p>							
		Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<p>The national Climate Change Committee recently stated that global temperature increases of between 1.5°C and 2°C would affect vulnerable people most of all.¹ Vulnerable people are also likely to benefit disproportionately from co-benefits associated with a transition to net zero carbon emissions, such as reduced air pollution.² Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation³ found that the extent to</p>	

¹ Climate Change Committee, 2020, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming p31

² Climate Change Committee, 2020, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming p218

				which individuals are able to cope with climate change impacts is influenced by the interaction between personal factors (e.g. health, age), social factors (e.g. income, neighbourhood cohesion, isolation), and environmental factors (e.g. building quality, green space). ³ Intergenerational fairness is a key issue when considering action on climate change and climate justice. The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change ⁴ . This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects as this could also impact on people's ability to afford low carbon solutions. Safer, cleaner streets and better bus/community transport improve independent mobility for young and older people (Actions 14–16). Warmer homes from energy efficiency programmes reduce cold-related illness among older adults and children (Action 20). Free/low-cost nature volunteering and greening activities support intergenerational cohesion (Actions 31–33). Complex digital tools for travel or energy may exclude older adults (Action 23). Active travel schemes must address safety for children and older pedestrians/cyclists (Actions 14–15).
	Disability	✓		See also comments in Age section regarding vulnerable people and health impacts from climate change and ability to afford low carbon solutions. Demand responsive/community transport and accessible bus stops improve mobility (Action 16). Reduced air pollution via transport and nature actions benefits people with respiratory/cardiac conditions (Actions 14–16, 29–31). Flood resilience protects accessible routes to services (Actions 10–13). Active travel infrastructure must meet inclusive design standards (drop kerbs, tactile paving, rest areas) to avoid exclusion (Actions 14–15). Communications should be available in Easy Read, BSL, audio, large print;

³Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2014, Climate Change and Social Justice: an Evidence Review

⁴ Climate Change Committee, 2020, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming p31

			procure accessible apps/websites (Actions 6, 23, 33).
Gender Reassignment	✓		Inclusive community programmes (volunteering, engagement) can provide safe, welcoming spaces (Actions 31–33).
Marriage and Civil Partnership		✓	
Pregnancy and Maternity	✓		Pregnant women may be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as overheating. It is not anticipated that climate action will affect this group in any specific ways, but assessments should be made on individual programmes or actions to ensure that this is the case. Cleaner air and safer walking routes support maternal and infant health (Actions 14–15) Warmer homes reduce risks associated with cold homes for newborns (Action 20).
Race	✓		The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change. This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects as this could also impact on people's ability to afford low carbon solutions. Global fairness and differential impacts in different nations is a key issue when considering action on climate change and climate justice.
Religion or Belief	✓		The Delivery Plan will support those who's beliefs include environmental protection and stewardship of the Earth.
Sex	✓		The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change. This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects as this could also impact on people's ability to afford low carbon solutions.
Sexual Orientation		✓	

	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities	✓		The Climate Change Committee suggests that people in poverty are most likely to be affected by the risks and impacts of climate change. This could create differential impacts on people with protected characteristics e.g. sex, disability and race due to differences in economic activity, housing tenure and income levels. This message has been reinforced through consultation which found that the public have concerns about the potential cost implications for residents, with fears that this will be disproportionate for those on lower incomes. Specific examples raised included the cost of purchasing an alternative fuel vehicle, retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient and the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group referenced housing development, cuts to bus services and fear of low income residents being priced out of taking action. A key aim of the Strategy is that the transition to net zero will be just and maximise co-benefits. In this way, specific programmes of work will be subject to an EHRIA and consideration given to advancing equality of opportunity. The Council will support this, for example through grant applications such as "Green Living Leicestershire" which offers fully funded energy efficiency measures to low income households. This must be addressed in the implementation of projects and may have a positive impact if grant funding can continue to be secured for low income households. The solutions for carbon reduction will need to be developed to address the specific needs and assets of rural communities e.g. public transport, EV infrastructure, off-gas properties etc.
	Community Cohesion	✓		Community action on climate change has the potential to increase community cohesion when projects are inclusive by design.
<p>1. Are the human rights of individuals <i>potentially</i> affected by this proposal? Could there be an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics? (Please tick)</p> <p>Explain why you consider that any particular article in the Human Rights Act may apply to the policy/ practice/ function or procedure and how the human rights of individuals are likely to be affected below: [NB: include positive and negative impacts as well as barriers in benefiting from the above proposal]</p>				
		Yes	No	Comments

Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms				
Article 2: Right to life	✓		The Delivery Plan supports improvements to environmental health.	
Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way		✓		
Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour		✓		
Article 5: Right to liberty and security		✓		
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		✓		
Article 7: No punishment without law		✓		
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life		✓		
Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion		✓		
Article 10: Right to freedom of expression		✓		
Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association		✓		
Article 12: Right to marry		✓		
Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against		✓		
Part 2: The First Protocol				
Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment		✓		
Article 2: Right to education		✓		
Article 3: Right to free elections		✓		
Section 2				
D: Decision				
1 3. Is there evidence or any other reason to suggest that:			Yes	No
	a) the policy could have a different affect or adverse impact on any section of the community;		✓	

	b) any section of the community may face barriers in benefiting from the proposal		✓	
1 3.	Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the likely impact of the policy			
	No Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Neutral Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negative Impact or <input type="checkbox"/> Impact Unknown
Note: If the decision is 'Negative Impact' or 'Impact Not Known', an EHRIA Report is required.				
1 4.	Is an EHRIA report required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Section 2: Completion of EHRIA Screening

Upon completion of the screening section of this assessment, you should have identified whether an EHRIA Report is required for further investigation of the impacts of this policy.

Option 1: If you identified that an EHRIA Report ***is required***, continue to Section 3 on Page 7 of this document.

Option 2: If there are no equality, diversity or human rights impacts identified and an EHRIA report ***is not required***, continue to Section 4 on Page 14 of this document.

**Section 3:
F: Equality and human rights improvement plan**

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer Responsible	By when

Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Upon completion, the Lead Officer completing this assessment is required to sign the document in the section below.

It is required that this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is scrutinised by your Departmental Equalities Group and signed off by the Chair of the Group.

Once scrutiny and sign off has taken place, a depersonalised version of this EHRIA should be published on Leicestershire County Council's website. Please send a copy of this form to the Digital Services Team via web@leics.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 4

A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EHRIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report

1st Authorised Signature (EHRIA Lead Officer): ...K Greenhalgh

Date: ...14 September 2022.....

2nd Authorised Signature (DEG Chair):A. Carruthers

Date:~~20 September 2022~~... 30/12/2025.....

Proposal Name: Environment Strategy & Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

Department: E&T

Name of contact: Vicky Cormie

How to use this tool

This is your tool to enable you to carry out a 'desktop' HIA. It will help you look at the potential impacts of your proposal on the health and wellbeing on our communities in Leicestershire, and consider the impact on health inequality.

Below are some tips on how to fill out the columns:

- **Impact** – To complete this section, have a think about what impact your proposal may have on each themes listed in the rows below, and importantly, if this impact will be positive or negative. Tick the '+' column for positive impacts and '-' for negative impacts.
- **Likelihood** – What is the likelihood of each impact? Try to support these decisions using available evidence. Tick the '?' column if you are uncertain an impact will occur and '!' if you are certain / have evidence an impact will occur.
- **Description of Impact** – How will the proposal impact on the population? If it will impact specific group or populations differently, identify this- you could add in multiple rows to show this. How severe is the impact likely to be? Will it be instant or in the future?
- **Recommendation** – This is the space to write recommendations around how positive impacts could be maximised and negative impacts minimised. This may include further research and links to information you have found.

Further guidance completing this form can be found in the HIA Support and Guidance notes.

What impact if any will the proposal have with regard to the themes listed below?

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
Social Cohesion and Community Does the proposal encourage social interactions in the community, help to install a sense of neighbourliness and local pride in the area? Does the proposal encourage community participation and increase social inclusion?					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>The Environment Strategy does encourage residents, communities, businesses and others to come together to work together on tackling the various environmental crises and protecting and enhancing the environment.</p> <p>Most actions are seeking to make positive environmental change. Most of which should also result in positive health outcomes from the improvements in the local environment, the social interaction of taking action with others and in some cases from the physical activity involved in making the environmental improvements.</p> <p>Not all members of the community will necessarily be able to participate in some of the activities such as older people, disabled people etc so there is likely to be variability in the level of health benefit achieved, though all should benefit from an environmental improvement in their locality.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>Consider the health benefits of when designing and delivering activities that encourage residents, communities and businesses to get involved in protecting and improving the environment and net zero.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p>

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>Several actions within the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan will support social cohesion and community which can be seen below.</p> <p>Improving local transport links supports community inclusion and social participation. This particularly includes rural and vulnerable populations. Social cohesion will be improved through improved nature in local areas.</p> <p>Additionally, there is the indirect benefit from the climate adaptation actions that lead to the continuity of essential services which reduces stress and disruption during climate events.</p> <p>Social inclusion may be negatively affected through the trial of dimming streetlights impacting feelings of safety particularly in winter months.</p> <p>The timing of these actions covers the short, medium and long term as actions plan to be delivered from 2025 to 2030.</p> <p>The severity of the impact of the action plans on social cohesion and community is expected to be moderate as social cohesion and community are</p>	<p>Continuing to secure funding where available to deliver cycling, walking and chargepoint infrastructure and passenger transport services.</p> <p>Ensure all infrastructure is accessible to all users and accounts for the latest government guidance and best practice.</p> <p>Street lighting: Ensure street lighting is maintained to a high standard to reduce any impacts of failed lights further reducing lighting levels. Ensure that the views of the local community are considered and where there is evidence of risk to safety look to increase lighting levels if needed.</p>

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>primarily co-benefits of many of the actions.</p> <p>Action References: 15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p> <p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p> <p>29: Deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in line with Government guidance.</p> <p>22: Work collaboratively through the Universities Partnership to deliver local energy transition opportunities, identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change</p> <p>3: Permanently implement the practices explored in the streetlight dimming trial and, to achieve additional financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.</p> <p>9: Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.	
Employment and the Economy Does the proposal create new employment in the area or boost local economy/use of services Does the proposal reduce unemployment and economic activity, improve workplace conditions, offer access to gaining new skills? Health inequalities are driven by structural determinants- including the economic and environmental conditions in which people age and work				Environment Strategy & Action Plan Some of the actions within the Environment Strategy are likely to encourage new business activity and provide additional or alternative employment opportunities such as new green jobs (e.g. Installing solar panels, air source heat pumps, planting trees or maintaining woodlands). As a result, new employment opportunities are possible as are opportunities to re-skill in green skills. Some of the environmental improvements may result in improved working conditions e.g. – switch to electric vehicles and machinery – reduced pollution from internal	Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work with the Business and Skills Partnership, universities, FE colleges, businesses and others to maximise the opportunities to create employment and new business opportunities. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan Through working collaboratively to deliver local energy transition opportunities and working with partners to support low carbon sector industry boosts the local economy. Providing information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAVs) to help support the wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county alongside delivering public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	138

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>combustion engines, provision of green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>Several actions within the Climate Resilience Delivery Plan will support employment and the economy which can be seen below. These actions will lead to a positive impact across the local economy, particularly providing opportunities in green industry and upskilling. These actions particularly benefit those in carbon intensive sectors transitioning to more sustainable roles. The below actions could reduce health inequalities by providing upskilling opportunities and training, preparing for future opportunities. This also reduces financial stress and improve access to stable income, supporting mental and physical health. Additionally improved working conditions (healthier environment, remote working options) reduce occupational health risks. There is also the indirect impact of protecting infrastructure which avoid economic losses</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>Action References</p> <p>9: Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.</p> <p>22: Work collaboratively through the Universities Partnership to deliver local energy transition opportunities, identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire</p> <p>23: Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.</p> <p>24: Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers goods and services with a low environmental impact.</p> <p>26: Work with partners to use Enterprise Zones to support low carbon</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>sector industry and business clusters and increase research and development capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects as staff resource allows.</p> <p>25: Develop the Leicester & Leicestershire Destination Management Plan with a strategic priority of Regenerative Tourism to align with Visit England's strategy.</p> <p>27: Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the environmental impact of food production, distribution and food waste; and support residents to understand the food system including reducing food waste, encouraging local shopping and growing their own food.</p> <p>32: Provide information and training to the County Council's EAVs to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their</p>	141

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	
Transport Does the proposal impact on road safety, active travel, cycling and walking facilities and infrastructure Does the proposal cause community severance? Or impact on accessing public transport?					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan The Environment Strategy encourages the switch to active travel and the use of mass transport solutions such as buses. This should reduce the level of car use and increase levels of exercise of residents resulting in health benefits.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan There are several climate resilience actions focused on delivering low emission transport policy and design, improving the transportation system, building key infrastructure for walking and cycling and promoting active travel. The implementation of these actions would have positive health impact for Leicestershire's residents and communities.</p> <p>These actions would have moderate health impact in medium to long term timescale. For list of relevant actions, please see below.</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work closely with Transport team and others to maximise the take up of active travel and the switch to multi-modal and low/zero emissions transport.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan <u>Access to public transport:</u> Consider the planning for HGV routes within the county to reduce the noise and air pollution, which would minimise stress caused by HGV to residents. Prioritise and ensure sufficient public transportation services in rural areas to access employment, education and medical services. Continue to secure funding and support for the bus improvement plan to lower the transportation cost for elderly and the low-income populations. This could maximise the health equality.</p> <p><u>Road safety:</u> Monitor the development in the walking and cycling facilities and carry out regular maintenance to ensure the safety standards are attained. Ensure EV charge points are installed in line with the</p>

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>Access to public transport:</p> <p>The actions would improve access to public transportation, which could reduce health inequality for people who don't have access to cars. By improving passenger transportation services and the transportation network, more transportation services would be available for the rural areas. This enables easier access to employment, education, community events and health services.</p> <p>In addition, building more walking and cycling facilities would provide greater travel opportunity for low-income populations. This would enhance social cohesion and rural connectivity, reduce inequality, and improve the physical and mental health of residents.</p> <p>Moreover, the actions promote aims to decarbonise transport via developing a vision and strategy as part of the Local Transport Plan 4.</p> <p>This would further enhance the health benefits for residents and communities through improvements to air quality,</p>	<p>government's latest guidance and maintained to a suitable standard.</p> <p>Carry out regular maintenance on streetlights, review and consider the view of the local community, and restore light intensity if necessary.</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>Continue to support the use of HVO fuels in HGV and promote the use of electric vehicles to enhance good air quality.</p> <p><u>Active Travel</u></p> <p>Account for latest design and safety standards when installing active travel infrastructure on the highway.</p> <p>Ensure, and promote where appropriate, that employees follow best practice when working from home for example, taking regular breaks.</p>

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>opportunities for exercise and improved connectivity.</p> <p>Climate adaptation would also mean that transport remains operational during floods and extreme weather. This also improves safety from drivers, cyclists and pedestrians and aim to maintain transport continuity during extreme weather events.</p> <p>Action References:</p> <p>9: Work with high-risk service areas (such as highways and property) to implement the service specific climate action plans to protect assets and ensure continuous services for Leicestershire residents and businesses.</p> <p>12: Deliver an increased gully emptying trial on county highways by introducing a 40-month cycle for priority 3 gullies to mitigate surface water flooding.</p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p> <p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	<u>Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)</u>
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p> <p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p> <p>1: Deliver a pilot study to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of transitioning LCC's fleet from ICE (Internal Combustion Engines) to EVs (Electric Vehicles).</p> <p>Integrate a small number of EVs into the fleet to allow a data driven appraisal of EV performance within LCC operations, with a view to building preparedness for upcoming national legislation around ICE vehicle phase out.</p> <p>4: Work with high mileage teams to reduce grey fleet business mileage to realise financial savings for LCC and health benefits for employees.</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
	+	-	?	!		
					<p>In terms of road safety, building more walking and cycling facilities, such as separate cycle lanes and footpath, would increase the road safety for vulnerable road users increasing the attractiveness of these transport modes for residents.</p> <p>The introduction of EV chargepoint infrastructure may pose a road safety hazard through the introduction of electrical equipment and extra street furniture to the highway. Users of chargepoints may be more at risk to traffic collisions when using the chargepoints. There is also the potential of a trip hazard if cables are incorrectly used.</p> <p>In addition, streetlight dimming could have a negative impact on the road safety for residents due to the decreased visibility. Elderly or disabled people may be at higher risk of increased chances of slips and falls due to lack of visibility.</p>	

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					<p>For the community (residents and businesses), the climate resilience delivery plan has the potential to promote active travel across the county. Actions will reduce the reliance on cars while promoting more walking and cycling to increase the amount of exercise and physical activity, which would result in physical and mental health benefits. However, street light dimming could reduce the willingness for people to walk or cycle after sunset, this may reduce the frequency of active travel.</p> <p>Within the council actions promote employees to adopt more sustainable working practices including reducing business mileage. The delivery plan also encourages more sustainable working practices through strengthen environmental controls during procurements and engagement with key suppliers.</p> <p>However, a promotion of sustainable working practices such as home working and online meeting may cause employees to remain more sedentary</p>	

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					while increasing screen time increasing the risk of negative health impacts.	
Physical Activity Think about how the proposal may impact on people being physically active, participate in active play or active travel. Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health including income.					Environment Strategy & Action Plan The Environment Strategy encourages people to be more active in order to reduce pollution and carbon emissions from vehicles and to encourage more people to enjoy nature and the outdoors. This should result in positive health benefits. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan The plan focuses on nature recovery. This would promote physical activity amongst residents and the local community. For relevant actions, see below. These actions would improve the natural environment as well as enhancing the biodiversity across the Leicestershire, which in turn provide more places for people to visit, exercise, gather and relax, improving physical and mental health. Climate adaptation actions would aim to keep walking and cycling routes useable during heavy rain. Additionally, if SuDS	Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work with partners and stakeholders to maximise opportunities to encourage physical activity through the actions within the Environment Strategy. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan Prioritise and identify natural areas that are seriously damaged and require immediate action would be able to maximise the health benefits throughout the Leicestershire as a whole. This would maximise health equality so that all businesses and residents around Leicestershire would be able to enjoy the same health benefits. Ensure the community, including elderly and disabled people, able to receive the information on environmental community activities. Invite and encourage the community to volunteer and participate. For recommendations on active travel, please refer to the active travel session in the Transport theme.

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					<p>include accessible green infrastructure this could encourage outdoor activity.</p> <p>In addition, there is actions on raising public awareness and engagement. These would create more community activities and volunteering events.</p> <p>There are also several actions to encourage more active travel across the community and the council, please refer to the active travel session above in the Transport theme.</p> <p>These actions are expected to have a moderate health impact and come into effect on a medium to long-term scale.</p> <p>Action References:</p> <p>10: Introduce a proactive programme of culvert maintenance where the current approach is reactive and undertake high priority repairs and or replacements.</p> <p>11: Develop a system of management for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) as they become more</p>	

Theme	Nature		Likelihood		<u>Description of impact</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale -Think about inequalities- who will it impact on, which groups? • Severity- Mild/ Moderate/ Severe? • Timing- Short/ Medium/ Long term 	Recommendation (to minimise or maximise impact)
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					<p>commonly adopted to mitigate surface water flooding.</p> <p>29: Deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland in line with Government guidance.</p> <p>30: Work with local planning authorities when opportunities arise to explore how the LNRS, Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity Duty can deliver multiple benefits such as nature recovery, climate resilience and drawdown of atmospheric emissions.</p> <p>31: Deliver the County Council's Tree Management Strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.</p> <p>32: Provide information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAV's) to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p>	

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Housing Think about any effects the proposal may have on the affordability of housing, Affordability of heating home, neighbourhood design, access to green/blue space. Health inequalities are driven by structural determinants- the economic and environmental conditions in which people live, age and play					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>The Environment Strategy encourages the retrofit of existing houses and the construction of more environmentally friendly new houses. Both of these should result in an improvement in the quality of housing and in reducing the cost of heating/lighting houses.</p> <p>This should result in long term health benefits for those living in such houses.</p> <p>However, there may be some people that do not qualify for free/discounted retrofitting of their houses and who cannot afford to pay for such improvements. So, there may be some disparity in who can benefit from such improvements.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>There are various actions in the plan which provide benefits regarding heating homes, neighbourhood design and access to green space, this enhances mental health and promotes physical activity. These are listed below.</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>Work with the Warm Homes Team and other partners to maximise the uptake of housing retrofit and the building of more sustainable new houses.</p> <p>Lobby the Government to ensure fair funding for those wishing to improve the energy efficiency of their housing.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>Work with partners to secure future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings.</p> <p>Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and innovative business models such as group buying projects to support householders to install low carbon technology such as air source heat pumps.</p> <p>Promote community awareness campaigns about the benefits of active travel and low carbon home technologies (e.g. solar together, warm homes)</p>

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					<p>These actions will lead to a large-scale positive impact on housing efficiency and heating which in turn will lead to positive health impacts. This will be through reducing exposure to damp, cold and poor air quality. This also leads to direct benefits to low-income households by reducing energy costs, improving insulation through retrofits, additionally these actions could work towards reducing health disparities caused by energy poverty. This is a significant impact as housing quality impacts health incomes. This area is medium to long term.</p> <p>Additionally, there are various actions when in place would reduce flood risk and damp/mould prevalence</p> <p>Action References:</p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p> <p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of</p>	

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					<p>citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose 16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>20: Collaborate with partners to secure funding that gives residents opportunities to save on utility bills and for better health and wellbeing by supporting energy efficiency improvements that keep homes warm in the winter.</p> <p>21: Support district councils to develop local planning policies which champion climate resilience and adaptation using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes.</p> <p>22: Work collaboratively through the Universities Partnership to deliver local energy transition opportunities,</p>	

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					<p>identified through the Local Area Energy Plan for Leicestershire.</p> <p>23: Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.</p> <p>10: Introduce a proactive programme of culvert maintenance where the current approach is reactive and undertake high priority repairs and or replacements.</p> <p>11: Develop a system of management for sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) as they become more commonly adopted to mitigate surface water flooding.</p> <p>12: Deliver an increased gully emptying trial on county highways by introducing a 40-month cycle for priority 3 gullies to mitigate surface water flooding.</p>	

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Diet and Nutrition Think about how the proposal could encourage or discourage people from accessing healthy food choices, affordability of healthy choices, ability to grow own food. Does the proposal impact on sustainable food production? Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health including income.					Environment Strategy & Action Plan The Environment Strategy through the Food Plan and Resources & Waste Strategy encourages improvements in diet and nutrition, reductions in food waste, the growing of own food etc. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan Action Reference: 27: Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the environmental impact of food production, distribution and food waste; and support residents to understand the food system including reducing food waste, encouraging local shopping and growing their own food.	Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work with Public Health and other partners to maximise improvements to diet and nutrition through the relevant actions within the Environment Strategy. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan Continue to work with partners to support the Sustainable Food Plan and support residents to make healthy food choices while shopping seasonally and also with growing their own food, including the co-benefits of gardening and outdoor activity linked to physical and mental health.
Education and skills Think about how the proposal could encourage or discourage people from improving their educational attainment? Impact on opportunities to develop new skills? Providing opportunities for volunteering/apprentices.					Environment Strategy and Action Plan The Environment Strategy does encourage people to learn new skills, be it in the form of green skills to avail of new green job opportunities, or to learn about environmental issues to better enable people to take action in	Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work with the Business and Skills Partnership, universities, FE colleges, businesses and others to maximise the opportunities to people to learn new skills and improve their educational attainment to take up the new green job opportunities. Climate Resilience Delivery Plan

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Educational attainment is linked to health behaviours and health outcomes.					<p>their own lives of in their communities or businesses.</p> <p>We are working with the local universities and further education colleges to encourage people to undertake new environmental and related courses and further learning.</p> <p>We also provide training to residents through our EAVs scheme, provision of training courses, workshops and information sheets as well as attendance at events.</p> <p>Some people may lose out on the transition to the green economy because they feel too old or don't want to retrain. This is why we talk about needed a just transition.</p> <p>In the main this should have a positive health impact on people.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p>	<p>Collaborate with local schools, colleges and universities to raise awareness of climate adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Continue to develop volunteering opportunities with a focus on increasing young people access to volunteering opportunities within climate resilience, active travel and nature recovery.</p> <p>Ensure engagement activities reach minority and hard to reach groups.</p>

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					<p>There are actions that have a high potential to improve skills and attainment across sectors particularly in climate adaptation and mitigation. The advice and training will provide opportunities to gain new skills. This area is moderate given the link to educational attainment and health outcomes. This area is progressing in the short to medium term.</p> <p>Action References:</p> <p>32: Provide information and training to the County Council's Environment Action Volunteers (EAV's) to support wider benefits of environmental improvements and climate adaptation in the county.</p> <p>33: Develop and deliver public engagement activities to support individuals in reducing their environmental impacts and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>34: Work with partners when possible, particularly universities, to support research and implementation of best practice in climate change adaptation.</p>	

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					27: Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the environmental impact of food production, distribution and food waste; and support residents to understand the food system including reducing food waste, encouraging local shopping and growing their own food.	

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Air Quality & Noise Think about how air pollution and noise could be impacted reducing car use, traffic congestion, reducing noise disturbances					Environment Strategy & Action Plan The Environment Strategy encourages the move away from internal combustion engines and the switch to EVs and electric heating systems. This	Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work with the Transport team and other partners to encourage the take up of EVs and low carbon heating systems.

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					<p>will reduce the level of pollutants from these sources and improve air quality,</p> <p>The Environment Strategy also encourages the provision of more green and blue infrastructure and the improvement of the natural environment this should also support a reduction in pollution by increasing the ability of trees/hedges to absorb pollutants.</p> <p>Some of the green infrastructure may result in an increase in biological pollutants which may cause difficulties for some people with breathing conditions. However, the intention is to take this into consideration in the design of the green infrastructure.</p> <p>Overall, this should have a positive health impact.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>The primary health benefit of implementing the plan are the expected improvements in air quality from the</p>	<p>Work with partners to encourage an increase in the amount of green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>Maximise positive impacts through full rollout of low emission transport alternatives.</p> <p>Effective enforcement of freight routes away from residential streets except for, when necessary, will reduce air pollution and noise.</p> <p>Continue to work with transport colleagues and other partners to improve air quality and noise pollution.</p> <p>Consistent local planning: minimise negative impacts through encouraging adherence to Leicestershire Highway Design Guidance and planning in a coordinated way ensure consistency between active travel routes and passenger transport services.</p>

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					<p>countywide reduction in emissions and lower levels of pollutants in the air. This particularly improves health outcomes for vulnerable populations. Air quality is expected to improve through the support of low/zero emission transport options such as active travel, passenger transport, electric vehicles inc. freight. Improved air quality will also be supported via consistent local planning and improved carbon sequestration through delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the tree strategy planting commitment and biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Excessive noise disturbances are expected to reduce through the action plans aims to achieve modal shift away from car use towards more sustainable modes of transport. Noise produced by HGVs can be expected to improve through support of the provision of low emission freight alternatives.</p> <p>The air quality benefits are expected to be severe and take place over the</p>	161

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					<p>medium to long term as larger scale projects are delivered.</p> <p>Action References:</p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p> <p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p>	

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					<p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p> <p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p>	
Crime Reduction and Community Safety Does the proposal discourage crime and antisocial behaviour, reduce fear of crime, promote safe environment.					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>The Environment Strategy does not have any direct impact on crime or community safety. However, there are some potential indirect impacts. For example, the increase in trimming and dimming of streetlights might result in an increase in the fear of crime. (LCC.4 Carry out the 18 month dimming streetlights to 30% intensity trial - complete the trial and subject to cabinet agreement, consider opportunities for permanent implementation.) Evidence so far has indicated to increase in actual crime levels. Where issues are reported and evidenced amendments are made to the dimming project.</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>Work with partners to consider the potential crime and community safety consequences of the actions within the Environment Strategy with a view to minimising the impact of these.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>Ensure street lighting is maintained to a high standard to reduce any impacts of failed lights further reducing lighting levels. Ensure that the views of the local community are considered and where there is evidence of risk to safety look to increase lighting levels if needed.</p>

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					<p>Sometimes the increased use of green and blue infrastructure can result in an increase in the fear of crime or actual levels of crime as there are more places for criminals to hide, areas are more sheltered so less visible – but crime is normally taken into account in the design process.</p> <p>So, there is a risk of minimal negative health benefits from people being worried about or being victims of crime.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan As described above the dimming of Street lights to reduce emissions could encourage antisocial behaviour and crime in some communities.</p> <p>Action Reference: 3: Permanently implement the practices explored in the streetlight dimming trial and, to achieve additional financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.</p>	

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Alcohol, Tobacco, Illegal drug use Does the proposal impact on the supply/use of alcohol and tobacco. Will it create an environment that discourages illegal drug use? Health behaviours are influenced by wider determinants of health.					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>The Environment Strategy encourages a reduction in littering and fly tipping. Many of the sources of litter come from alcohol (empty bottles and cans), tobacco (cigarette butts and vapes) and drug use (deal bags, nitros bottles, balloons, cotton buds).</p> <p>Encouraging a reduction in littering may result in some people reducing their consumption of these products or at least been more careful about how they dispose of them.</p> <p>Low likelihood of small health improvements.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>The dimming of Street lights to reduce emissions could encourage antisocial behaviour and crime in some communities.</p> <p>Action Reference:</p> <p>3: Permanently implement the practices explored in the streetlight dimming trial</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan</p> <p>This link is very tangential so there is likely to be limited opportunities to maximise impact here. Though steps could be taken to promote the health benefits of taking action on litter etc.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan</p> <p>Ensure street lighting is maintained to a high standard to reduce any impacts of failed lights further reducing lighting levels. Ensure that the views of the local community are considered and where there is evidence of risk to safety look to increase lighting levels if needed.</p>

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	+	-	?	!		
					and, to achieve additional financial savings, seek to convert all illuminated signs to LED and link them to the existing central management system.	
Energy Use, Waste Minimisation and Climate Change Does the proposal impact on energy use, energy efficiency and waste. Can carbon emissions and waste be minimised? Does the proposal impact on refuge services? Encourage recycling. Contribute to net zero? Impact climate change					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan A core component of the Environment Strategy is the encouragement of reduced energy use, an increase in energy efficiency, a reduction in waste and resource use, and both reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>There are a wide range of actions across these areas.</p> <p>This should result in significant positive health benefits for wider society as these actions are implemented.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan The scale of this area is broad as actions impact energy efficiency, waste management and emissions reduction across the county. These actions contribute directly to mitigating climate</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan Work with key partners and stakeholders to maximise the impact of action on energy use, waste minimisation and climate change.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan The primary purpose of the Delivery Plans is to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This is picked up in many of the actions above.</p> <p>In addition, work will be done to identify how we can undertake work to adapt to climate change, where resources allow.</p> <p>Continue to collaborate with Public Health to ensure we have a joined-up approach.</p>

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					change impacts. This will work on the medium to long term. For further detail please see above entries regarding specific actions.	
Access to Public Services Does the proposal impact demand for local services. Does the proposal impact on accessing health or social care services. Health inequalities can be driven where there are differences in distribution of resources, services					<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan The Environment Strategy encourages shopping and living locally – reducing travel journeys, food miles, encouraging local growing, supporting local sustainable businesses, environmental groups and charities.</p> <p>There may be issues in that not all people will be able to avail of such local services due to age, disability, economic position etc.</p> <p>But in the main the encouragement of local should have benefits to local people and for their health.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan Access to public services including health and social care services is expected to improve through delivery of the plan. The support of alternative</p>	<p>Environment Strategy & Action Plan Consider the impact on public services of the relevant actions within the Environment Strategy.</p> <p>Climate Resilience Delivery Plan As many low/zero emission transport modes can be easiest to implement in urban areas it is important to ensure an equitable provision of transport modes in rural areas.</p>

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					<p>low/zero emission transport options will support connectivity and access to public services by reducing reliance on car usage. These principles can be supported through consistent local planning.</p> <p>An increase in demand of the transport network is expected. This may cause a restriction to accessing services for residents. This can be mitigated through improved provision of alternative transport modes.</p> <p>Action Reference</p> <p>14: Deliver the Local Transport Plan 4 to promote active travel, use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car and associated pollution from tailpipe emissions.</p> <p>15: Continue to support active travel to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens and reduce local air pollution caused by tailpipe emissions; this will include actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and delivering</p>	

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	+	-	?	!		
					<p>behavioural change through the Choose How You Move campaign.</p> <p>16: Continue to improve and support passenger transport across Bus, Rail, Demand Responsive Transport and Community Transport, through ongoing delivery of the LTP, Bus Service Improvement Plan and Leicestershire Enhanced Partnership</p> <p>17: Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing on-street charge points across Leicestershire</p> <p>18: Support our partners to deliver the FLEX-D project to develop charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.</p> <p>19: Work with partners to consider joint procurement of low emission vehicles and recharging infrastructure.</p>	

Useful Contacts

Advice and support to fill out this form can be obtained through the Public Health team please email HIA@leics.gov.uk



CABINET – 3 FEBRUARY 2026

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE AUTHORITIES – STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND RELATING TO HOUSING DISTRIBUTION

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval for the County Council to become a signatory to a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) produced by the Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities relating to housing distribution following the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and new Standard Method published in December 2024.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - a) Approves the County Council becoming a signatory to the *Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to housing distribution following the National Planning Policy Framework and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025)* as set out in Appendix A;
 - b) Notes the completion of associated evidence work on the Updated Housing Distribution Paper, which has informed the Statement of Common Ground, as set out in Appendix B.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. On 27 November 2025, the Government confirmed that the Duty to Co-operate will not be retained under the current plan making system and will cease to apply when new plan making regulations come into force (expected later in 2026). Notwithstanding this change, the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) requires "maintaining effective co-operation" across administrative boundaries (see paragraphs 24 to 28 below). Planning Inspectors are expected to continue to examine plans in line with these policies. In this context, Statements of Common Ground remain an appropriate method to document cross-boundary strategic matters, record areas of agreement and disagreement, and set out next steps, demonstrating that effective and ongoing joint working has taken place. This is particularly important for the County

Council due to its responsibilities for highway and education matters, given the scale and criticality of infrastructure dependencies.

4. This SoCG has been prepared jointly by the nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire. It will directly support Blaby District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in the submission of their respective Local Plans to the Planning Inspectorate before the end of December 2026.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. Determination of the SoCG will need to be considered through all partners' respective governance processes and this is expected to be completed over the coming months.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. In September 2022, the Cabinet approved the County Council becoming a signatory to the Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground on Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022). The SoCG sets out the collaboration undertaken to reach agreement on strategic housing distribution and other matters in line with the Government's Duty to Co-operate (DtC), supporting progress on respective emerging Local Plans.
7. In February 2025, the County Council became a signatory to a Duty to Cooperate Statement: Transitional Arrangement in Respect of Unmet Need (see Annex 2, within Appendix A to this report) The Statement updated and confirmed the agreed position of all partner councils on arrangements to deal with existing unmet need and to confirm the agreed way forward through the December 2024 NPPF transitional period into the new planning system. This statement has been used to provide an updated position to appointed Inspectors for Plans currently being examined, and for use in preliminary discussions with the Planning Inspectorate for emerging Local Plans.

Resource Implications

8. The County Council has committed significant resources to engaging in, and supporting, a collaborative approach to strategic planning in order to facilitate the delivery of growth within the County and to mitigate the negative impacts of development, to the extent that it is reasonably possible to do.
9. As set out in the report to the Cabinet in December 2025 on strategic spatial and transport planning, securing the delivery of infrastructure (whether transport or otherwise, such as education, waste and health), to support the needs of Leicester and Leicestershire's growing population is becoming ever more challenging. This is particularly the case where strategic transport infrastructure is required to seek to mitigate the cumulative impacts of development sites across a relatively wide area of the County. The County Council seeks to achieve a more coordinated approach to locations for growth and prioritisation of its delivery relative to the prioritisation of investment in the

infrastructure and services necessary to support it.

10. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

11. This report will be circulated to all Members.

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PART B**Background**

12. The local authorities in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) (Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council) commissioned a Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENNA) in 2021.
13. The published HENA (June 2022) was based on an assessment of local housing need using the Standard Method as of March 2022. This demonstrated a need for 5,713 dwellings per annum across the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA. An accompanying Housing Distribution Paper provided an interim redistribution of unmet housing needs arising from Leicester and was the basis for an SoCG relating to housing and employment need for the period 2020-2036, to support the preparation of Local Plans.
14. The County Council became a signatory to this SoCG on Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) following the Cabinet's approval in September 2022.
15. In December 2024, the new Standard Method was published alongside a new NPPF. This changed the overall scale of housing to be provided for in the HMA by a relatively small number; however, the distribution across the HMA significantly changed due to the deletion of the 35% urban uplift (announced by the previous Government in December 2020). The effect of this was to significantly reduce local housing need in Leicester City, whilst the need has significantly increased in most district council areas.
16. Following the publication of the new NPPF, the authorities prepared the 'Duty to Co-operate Statement – Transitional arrangements in respect of unmet need' (February 2025). This confirms and clearly sets out how all partners are progressing Local Plans and, in particular, how to deal with the matter of unmet need in the absence of specific reference to this issue in the transitional arrangements.
17. Partners considered that it was necessary to revisit the HENA's Housing Distribution Paper and commission an update to inform the Local Plans which are utilising the new Standard Method and will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the December 2026 deadline, together with future Local Plan reviews within the HMA.
18. This new SoCG does not replace the June 2022 SoCG; rather, it will co-exist to enable progress towards full Local Plan coverage across Leicester and Leicestershire.

19. The Government intends to enact regulations to bring forward the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 in early 2026 and it is understood that the DtC will no longer apply at this point. However, Local Plans will still need to meet the existing tests of soundness as set out in the NPPF, including that Local Plans are positively prepared and effective, i.e. for authorities to address any issues around unmet need and demonstrate effective joint working, as evidenced by the SoCG.
20. It is considered that changes to wider planning reforms do not negate the need for partners to consider the revised housing distribution and produce a new SoCG.

Statement of Common Ground

21. This SoCG (Appendix A to this report) has been prepared by the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA partners, in accordance with the NPPF (2024).
22. The key strategic matters addressed include the DtC and joint working; Leicester and Leicestershire housing needs to 2046 under the new Standard Method (December 2024); unmet need to 2046; and apportionment of unmet need to 2046.
23. The SoCG will support the submission of four Local Plans in Leicestershire directly affected by these matters, these being for Blaby District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council – all of which need to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 31 December 2026.
24. The SoCG highlights the long track record of effective joint working on cross-boundary matters across Leicester and Leicestershire, which includes production of the 2018 Strategic Growth Plan, joint preparation of evidence and numerous joint statements of cooperation.
25. The SoCG sets out the local housing need for each Local Planning Authority for the period 2024-2046; however, the application of this housing need does not apply to the Local Plans already submitted or being prepared in accordance with the Transition Arrangements set out in Annex 1 of the NPPF (2024) where the previous standard method calculation applies, these being the Local Plans for Charnwood, Leicester City, Melton, and Harborough.
26. The SoCG is supported by evidence from the HENA Updated Housing Distribution Paper (UHDP) produced by Iceni on behalf of the authorities (Appendix B) and published on the [Strategic Growth Plan website](#), alongside a Frequently Asked Questions document. The update provides a new Housing Distribution Paper to accompany the HENA published in June 2022. Based on technical guidance and local evidence, the UHDP recalculates the level of unmet need for Leicester City from 2024 to 2036 to be a total of 2,455 dwellings (2,455 dwellings / 12 years = 205 dwellings per annum) and using a proportionate evidence base, estimates an unmet need of 8,230 dwellings from 2036 to 2046 (8,230 dwellings / 10 years = 823 dwellings per annum).

27. The authorities agree that the apportioned contributions (as per the table below) to unmet need established through the UHDP will be used by those four authorities (Blaby, Hinckley and Bosworth, North West Leicestershire and Oadby and Wigston) which are intending to submit their Local Plan for examination under the 2024 NPPF using the current planning system. The figures set out will be tested through the authorities' respective Local Plan processes.
28. The SoCG will be reconfirmed and updated for subsequent authorities' Local Plans or if there are significant factors that necessitate updates sooner, through the joint working of the authorities.

Table 1 – Annualised Apportionment of Unmet Need from 2024 over relevant plan periods

	Revised Standard Method dpa (December 2024)	Proposed Housing Requirement dpa	Contribution to Unmet Need dpa	% Contribution	Plan End Date*
Blaby	539	654	115	25.1	2042
Charnwood	992	1,133	141	30.8	2046
Harborough	735	797	62	13.5	2046
Hinckley & Bosworth	663	711	48	10.5	2045
Melton	369	388	19	4.2	2046
NW Leicestershire	617	690	73	15.9	2042
Oadby & Wigston	389	389	0	0	2042
Leicestershire Total	4,304	4,762	458	100	

Conclusion

29. The County Council is supportive of the SoCG in that it reasserts commitment to joint working on long-term strategic planning matters and positively supports progress towards a suite of up-to-date Local Plans across Leicester and Leicestershire, thereby reducing the risk of greater levels of unplanned and speculative growth that would present further challenges for the provision of infrastructure and services.
30. Notwithstanding this, the County Council has a significant role in delivering the necessary infrastructure to support growth in Leicestershire and recognise a number of strategic spatial and transport planning challenges in addressing the impact of growth on local communities, both in the short and long-term. These challenges, and proposals for future work, were included in a report to the Cabinet in December 2025. Proposals include preparation of the Spatial Development Strategy; sharing details about initial evidence work undertaken by the Local Transport Authority with the district councils (as Local Planning Authorities) and developers; and to undertake initial scheme feasibility and

development work, and to also share the outcomes as they emerge with the district councils and developers.

31. Finally, it is important to note that the HENA does not identify specific locations or sites for future housing delivery; that is a matter for individual local plans to address. Neither does the County Council becoming a signatory to the SoCG signify its support or otherwise for a particular Local Plan. Plans will continue to be subject to statutory requirements for consultations and Examination in Public, through which the Authority will continue to have the ability to express its views as necessary and appropriate.

Equality Implications

32. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Human Rights Implications

33. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Environmental Implications

34. The County Council will continue to work closely with partners to minimise the impact of the planned growth on the environmental assets of Leicester and Leicestershire.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

35. The County Council works closely with the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Partnership, which includes the seven district councils in Leicestershire, Leicester City Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership. There is a long track record of effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 23 September 2022: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs - <https://bit.ly/4q1btPg>

Report to the Cabinet on 16 December 2025: Strategic Spatial and Transport Planning - <https://bit.ly/4qlA4yD>

Publication of Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025) - <https://bit.ly/4pSSTbO>

Appendices

Appendix A: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to housing distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025)

Appendix B: Updated Housing Distribution Paper (November 2025)

Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025)

1.0 The Leicester and Leicestershire HMA and FEMA

1.1 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) covers the administrative areas of eight local planning authorities and two transport authorities. The eight local planning authorities responsible for plan making are:

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Melton Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

1.2 The two upper tier authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L), with statutory responsibilities for transportation, education, social care, flooding, minerals & waste planning and public health are:

- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Leicestershire County Council

1.3 This Statement has been prepared jointly by the eight plan making authorities and Leicestershire County Council as an additional signatory given their statutory responsibilities, hereafter referred to as “the authorities”. The Map in Appendix 1 shows the location and administrative areas covered by this statement. The Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (June 2022), to which the Updated Housing Distribution Paper (November 2025) relates, identifies this area as the Leicester & Leicestershire HMA and FEMA.

2.0 Background and Context

2.1 In December 2024 the new Standard Method was published alongside a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 12 December 2024). This changed the overall scale of housing to be provided for in the L&L Housing Market Area (HMA) by a relatively small amount, however, the distribution across the L&L HMA significantly changed due to the deletion of the 35% urban uplift. The effect of this was to significantly reduce Local Housing Need (LHN) in Leicester City, whilst the LHN in most other Districts and Boroughs significantly increased.

2.2 Following the publication of the new NPPF, the authorities prepared the “Duty to Co-operate Statement – Transitional arrangements in respect of unmet need” (February 2025). This confirms and clearly sets out how all partners are progressing local plans, and in particular how to deal with the matter of unmet need in the absence of specific

reference to this issue in the Transitional arrangements¹. This Duty to Cooperate Statement (DtC Statement February 2025) is available at Appendix 2.

- 2.3 The L&L Housing & Economic Needs Assessment June 2022 (HENNA 2022) was based on the assessment of local housing need using the Standard Method in March 2022. This showed a need for 5,713 dpa across the HMA. The HENA 2022 Housing Distribution Paper set out an agreed methodology for apportioning Leicester City's unmet housing need (at the time of 18,700 homes) and 23ha of employment need (2020 to 2036). Following publication of the new Standard Method and the reduction in Leicester City's LHN, the scale of unmet housing need was significantly reduced. It was therefore necessary to revisit the HENA's Housing Distribution Paper to inform the Local Plans which are utilising the new Standard Method and will be submitted by the December 2026 deadline, together with future Local Plan reviews within the HMA.
- 2.4 The authorities agreed to commission an update to the HENA 2022 Housing Distribution Paper to inform the apportionment of unmet need under the new Standard Method (December 2024).

3.0 Purpose

- 3.1 In accordance with paragraph 25 of the NPPF (2024), the key strategic matters addressed in this statement are: Duty to Cooperate and joint working; L&L housing needs to 2046 under the new Standard Method (December 2024); unmet need to 2046; and apportionment of unmet need to 2046. This statement has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 28 of the NPPF (2024) and will support the submission of four local plans in Leicestershire directly affected by these matters – Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council – by the 31 December 2026 deadline. These four local plans are referred to as Tranche 3 Local Plans in the DtC Statement (February 2025) and hereafter in this statement. This statement will be reconfirmed and updated for subsequent authorities' local plans.

4.0 Key Strategic Matters on which the Authorities agree

Duty to Cooperate and Joint Working

- 4.1 The authorities agree there is a long track record of effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters across L&L and that these include the key strategic matters identified in this statement. The authorities have continuously engaged with each other on the strategic matters set out in this statement and throughout the preparation of Local Plans across the area. This is most clearly evidenced by:
 - The continued function of the L&L Members Advisory Group and Strategic Planning Group
 - The joint preparation of evidence, including the update to the 2022 Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2025), L&L Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment (2025), South Leicestershire Joint Transport Evidence

¹ As set out in Annex 1 of the December 2024 NPPF.

(2025), Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping Study (2023), and Strategic Transport Assessment Stage 1 (2023).

- The adoption of a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan 2018
- The L&L Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) (Appendix 3)²
- The agreement of Joint Statements of Cooperation in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021 (available on the [Strategic Growth Plan website](#))

4.2 More information and details of engagement will be set out in individual authority's Duty to Cooperate/Maintaining Effective Cooperation Statements that accompany local plans. Authorities will continue to engage on an ongoing basis.

L&L Housing Needs to 2046 under the new Standard Method (Dec 2024)

4.3 The authorities agree that local housing need is derived using the standard method and that for the 2024-2046 period is as set out in Table 1 below. This table does not apply for local plans being prepared in accordance with the Transition Arrangements set out in Annex 1 of the NPPF (2024) where the previous standard method calculation applies. Individual local plans may have a shorter plan period than to 2046.

Table 1: Local Housing Need, Standard Method, May 2025

Local Planning Authority	Total Housing Need 2024-2046	Houses per year 2024-2046
Blaby District Council	11,858	539
Charnwood Borough Council	21,824	992
Harborough District Council	16,170	735
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	14,586	663
Leicester City Council	34,936	1,588
Melton Borough Council	8,118	369
North West Leicestershire District Council	13,574	617
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	8,558	389
Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Total	129,624	5,892

4.4 The authorities agree that the NPPF 2023 and L&L Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) apply to local plans that reached examination or Regulation 19 on or before 12 March 2025. This is set out in the DtC Statement (February 2025). For local plans that reached Regulation 19 after 12 March 2025 but before 31 December 2026, the NPPF 2024 (or relevant future iterations)

² Appendices E to J of the June 2022 Statement of Common Ground are available on the Strategic Growth Plan website

and this Statement of Common Ground will apply. These two Statements of Common Ground will co-exist to enable full local plan coverage across L&L.

4.5 Leicester City Council will begin a Local Plan Review immediately following the adoption of the Leicester City Local Plan 2020 to 2036. This will be informed by additional evidence in due course that will be used to identify the full housing capacity for that review.

Housing Distribution Update and Unmet Need to 2046

4.6 This L&L Statement of Common Ground is supported by evidence from the HENA Updated Housing Distribution Paper (UHDP) produced by Lceni on behalf of the authorities and published on the [Strategic Growth Plan website](#). The update provides a new Housing Distribution Paper to that published to accompany the L&L HENA published in June 2022. The authorities agree that the UHDP sets out the apportionment of Leicester City's unmet housing need in the L&L HMA arising from the use of the new Standard Method up to 2046.

4.7 The UHDP recalculates the level of unmet need for Leicester City from 2024 to 2036 to be a total of 2,455 dwellings, based on the new standard method and housing provision figures set out in the Leicester Local Plan. The UHDP also sets out the approach that has been used to identify a housing capacity for the City after 2036. Leicester City has a continuing unmet need for housing; using a proportionate evidence base the UHDP indicates that for the period 2036 – 2046 Leicester City has an estimated unmet need of 8,230 dwellings.

4.8 Oadby & Wigston Borough Council has undertaken further evidence to assess the housing capacity and developable and deliverable land within the Borough to accommodate the increase in Local Housing Need from 189 to 389 homes per year. From the evidence available at this time, for the purpose of this Statement of Common Ground, it has been assumed that Oadby & Wigston will just be able to meet its own need from a land supply position but not be able to accept any unmet need from Leicester. Evidence gathering is still being undertaken by the Council in relation to accommodation of the uplifted LHN and when complete, consideration will need to be given to the outcome of this by the HMA authorities.

Housing Requirement Figures for Tranche 3 Local Plans – Apportionment of Unmet Need to 2046

4.9 The authorities agree that the apportioned contributions to unmet need established through the UHDP and set out in Table 2 below will be used by those authorities submitting a local plan for examination under the NPPF December 2024 using the current planning system as governed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

4.10 As circumstances change through the availability of new evidence this will be considered by the authorities and future Statements of Common Ground may be needed. However, to enable proactive, timely local plan-making for the four Tranche 3

Local Plans, the figures in Table 2 below will be used and remain in place for the submission of the four Tranche 3 Local Plans before 31 December 2026. The housing requirement for individual Tranche 3 Local Plans will depend on their plan periods, as the contribution to unmet need is different for the period to 2036 and the period *after* 2036.

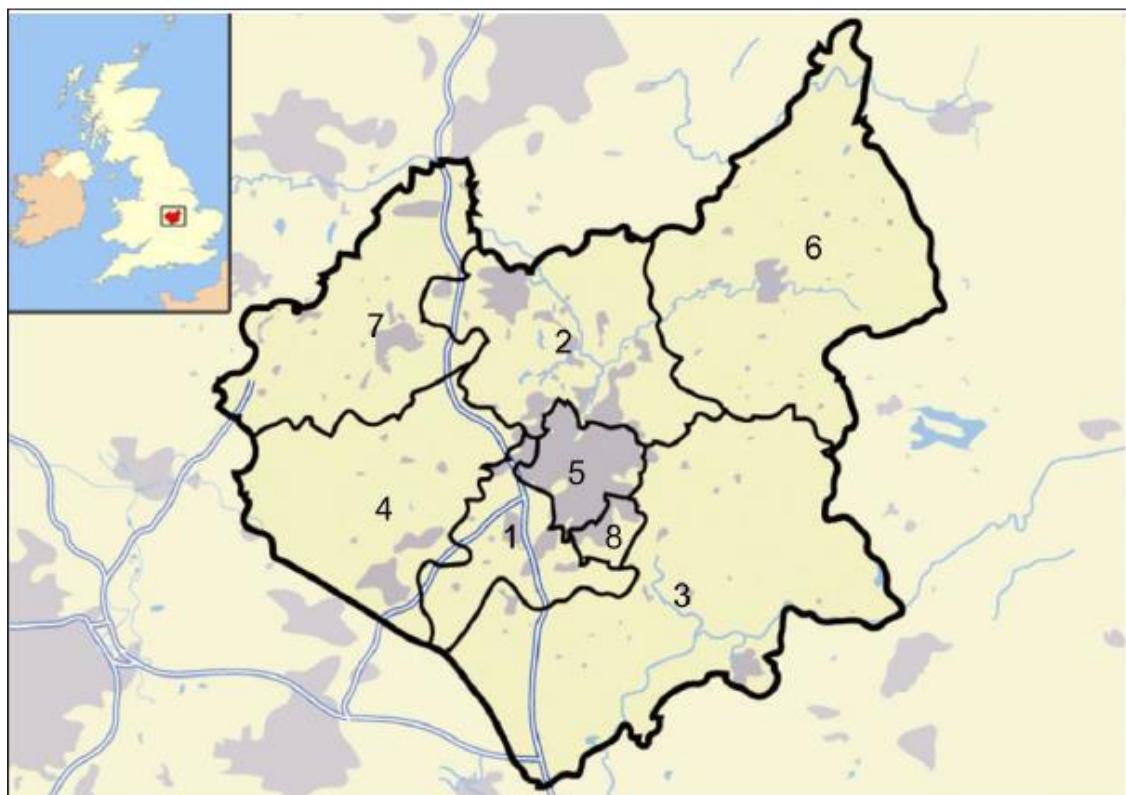
Table 2: Annualised Apportionment of Unmet Need from 2024 over relevant plan periods

	Revised Standard Method dpa (December 2024)	Proposed Housing Requirement dpa	Contribution to Unmet Need dpa	% Contribution	Plan End Date*
Blaby	539	654	115	25.1	2042
Charnwood	992	1,133	141	30.8	2046
Harborough	735	797	62	13.5	2046
Hinckley & Bosworth	663	711	48	10.5	2045
Melton	369	388	19	4.2	2046
NW Leicestershire	617	690	73	15.9	2042
Oadby & Wigston	389	389	0	0	2042
Leicestershire Total	4,304	4,762	458	100	

*NB 2046 is used as the default plan end date in the UHDP for non-Tranche 3 local plans.

5.0 Maintaining and Updating this Statement

- 5.1 The authorities acknowledge that this statement is necessary to progress the four Tranche 3 local plans under the current planning system as governed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 5.2 A new local planning system will be introduced early in 2026 together with the introduction of Spatial Development Strategies, through which local housing needs will be distributed across a geography that is yet to be determined. The formal duty to produce Spatial Development Strategies is expected in Spring 2026 through secondary legislation, following the expected royal assent of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
- 5.3 Government is seeking full coverage of up-to-date local plans, and the Tranche 3 local plans are at an advanced stage of preparation. The authorities agree that the figures set out in Table 2 will be tested through each Tranche 3 authority's local plan process.
- 5.4 This statement will be reconfirmed and updated for subsequent authorities' local plans through the joint working of the authorities.

Appendix 1**Map showing administrative areas covered by 2025 Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution under the new Standard Method****Key to Map**

1. Blaby District Council	5. Leicester City Council
2. Charnwood Borough Council	6. Melton Borough Council
3. Harborough District Council	7. North West Leicestershire District Council
4. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	8. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Appendix 2

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE STATEMENT
TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF UNMET NEED

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL
LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
NORTH-WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this joint statement is to support the progression and adoption of our current and future Local Plans and Spatial Development Strategy (SDS).
- 1.2 To confirm the agreed position of all partner councils on arrangements to deal with existing unmet need and to confirm the agreed way forward through the Dec 2024 NPPF transitional period into the new Planning system.
- 1.3 This statement will be used to provide an updated position to appointed Inspectors for Plans currently being Examined, and for use in preliminary discussions with PINs for emerging Plans.

2. Background

- 2.1 L&L councils have a long standing and exemplary track record in joint planning as evidenced by the preparation and adoption of the [Strategic Growth Plan LCC](#) and the [2022 Publication of Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs - Strategic Growth Plan LCC | Strategic Growth Plan LCC](#)
- 2.2 L&L councils are keen to maintain momentum on Local Plan making, are committed to supporting plan progression through the changing legislative context and to begin to make preparations for emerging SDS requirements.
- 2.3 This statement confirms how all partners have agreed to progress plans, and in particular how to deal with the matter of unmet need in the absence of specific reference to this issue in the Transitional arrangements as set out in Annex 1 of the December 2024 [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#)

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current position in respect of Plan preparation and adoption in the area is set out in Table 1 Plan Tracker below:

Table 1: L&L DtC Plan Tracker					
Tranche	Council	Plan stage/LDS Position	Relevant NPPF/Plan system	Agreed Mechanism to determine Unmet Need to support Plan	Comments
Tranche 1: Already Submitted. Projected adoption 2025	Charnwood Borough Council	Main Examination Hearings completed 2024; to be reconvened early 2025 Adoption Spring/Summer 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF	June 2022 SoCG Examination Document EX43	Reconvened hearing session to consider CIL Viability Assessment report in early 2025
	Leicester City	Main Examination Hearings completed November 2024 Modifications Consultation planned Spring 2025 Adoption Summer 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF	June 2022 SoCG Examination Document SCG/1	Commitment to Immediate Review on adoption of Plan
Tranche 2: Submission anticipated 2025. Projected Adoption 2026	Melton	Partial Review Reg 19 Consultation to be concluded by February 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF (Transition Period Under para 234 of 2024 NPPF)	June 2022 SoCG	
	Harborough	Reg 19 Consultation March 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF (Transition Period Under para 234 of 2024 NPPF)	June 2022 SoCG	

Tranche	Council	Plan stage/LDS Position	Relevant NPPF/Plan system	Agreed Mechanism to determine Unmet Need to support Plan	Comments
Tranche 3: Submission anticipated 2026, Projected Adoption 2027/28+	Blaby	Reg 19 Consultation: July 2025	December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	Future SoCG to replace 2022 SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and L&L HENA/capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG
	Hinckley & Bosworth	Reg 19 Consultation: to be confirmed	December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	Future SoCG to replace 2022 SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and L&L HENA/capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG
	North- West Leicestershire	Reg 19 Consultation to be confirmed	December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	Future SoCG to replace 2022 SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and L&L HENA/capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG
	Oadby & Wigston	Consultation on Regulation 19 Plan concluded February 2025	January/February 2025 Reg 19 consultation carried out under Nov 2023 NPPF. Call for Sites and new capacity assessment work to be undertaken during 2025 to inform new Plan/further Reg 19 under December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	2025 Reg 19 carried out under 2023 NPPF; complies with 2022 SoCG commitments which remain valid until replaced with future SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and HENA/L&L capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG/new Plan

Tranche	Council	Plan stage/LDS Position	Relevant NPPF/Plan system	Agreed Mechanism to determine Unmet Need to support Plan	Comments
Tranche 4: Future Plans	New Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)	2025 1) Geography Scoping 2) Initial evidence gathering	New Planning system TBC	Strategic Plan will supersede SoCG approach and confirm Strategic Housing distribution	Potential Funding/Pilot Bid to MHCLG?
	Plans delayed or deferred due to LGR/Devolution	Not currently anticipated	New LURA/ P&Inf Bill/Devolution Bill Planning system TBC	In line with future SDS	
	Plans failed to be found sound from Tranches 1-3	Not currently anticipated	New LURA/ P&Inf Bill/Devolution Bill Planning system TBC	In line with future SDS	

4. Agreed Position

- 4.1 The partners **agree** that for Local Plans progressing and adopted under the 2023 NPPF (Tranche 1 of Table 1 above) and those under the transitional arrangements as set out in Para 234 of Annex 1 of the 2024 NPPF (Tranche 2 of Table 1 above), the scale and distribution provisions for unmet need as set out in the 2022 Statement of Common Ground remain valid and in force.
- 4.2 The partners **agree** that progression of Local plans beyond the Transitional arrangements of the December 2024 NPPF will need to be informed by updated needs and capacity assessments relevant to those plans and the partners commit to working together to accommodate the area's needs once those results are known.

Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground
relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022)

1.0 The Leicester and Leicestershire HMA and FEMA

1.1 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Area (FEMA) covers the administrative areas of eight local planning authorities and two transport authorities. The eight local planning authorities responsible for plan making are:

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Melton Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

1.2 The two upper tier authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L), with statutory responsibilities for transportation, education, social care, flooding, minerals & waste planning and public health are:

- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Leicestershire County Council

1.3 This Statement has been prepared jointly by the eight plan making authorities and Leicestershire County Council as an additional signatory given their statutory responsibilities, hereafter referred to as “the authorities”. The Map in Appendix D shows the location and administrative areas covered by this statement. The Housing & Economic Needs Assessment 2022 (HEN) identifies this area as the Leicester & Leicestershire HMA and FEMA.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 The key strategic matters addressed in this statement are; Duty to Cooperate; L&L Housing and Employment Needs to 2036; Unmet Need to 2036; and the Apportionment of unmet need to 2036. This statement will be reconfirmed and updated as necessary for subsequent authorities’ Local Plans.

3.0 Key Strategic Matters on which Authorities Agree

Duty to Cooperate

3.1 The authorities agree there is a long track record of effective joint working on strategic matters across L&L. The authorities have continuously engaged with each other on the strategic matters set out in this statement and throughout the preparation of Local Plans across the area. This is most clearly evidenced through:

- The establishment of the Leicester & Leicestershire Members Advisory Group
- The joint preparation of evidence, including the Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022), Strategic Growth Options & Constraints Study (2022), and Strategic Transport Assessment (2022).

- The adoption of a non-statutory [Strategic Growth Plan 2018](#) which includes 'notional' housing figures.
- The preparation of a Joint Sustainability Appraisal to consider reasonable alternatives for apportionment of Leicester's unmet need to 2036.
- The agreement of Joint Statements of Cooperation in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021 (Appendix E, F, G and H)

3.2 More information and details of engagement will be set out in individual authorities Duty to Cooperate Statements that accompany Local Plans. Authorities will continue to engage on an ongoing basis.

[The June 2021 Statement of Common Ground \(Appendix H\)](#)

3.3 The June 2021 Statement (Appendix H) was agreed by all authorities and included the following:

"The authorities agree to carry out the following programme of work to inform the apportionment of unmet need from Leicester to the L&L Districts/Boroughs:

- *Housing and Economic Needs Assessment*
- *Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping*
- *Strategic Transport Assessment*
- *Sustainability Appraisal*

This work will be commissioned in Spring 2021 and used to inform a Statement of Common Ground apportioning unmet need which is anticipated to be completed in Winter 2021/2022."

3.4 The Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (HENNA) and the Sustainability Appraisal are now complete. These are the key pieces of evidence informing this Statement of Common Ground apportioning Leicester's unmet need to 2036.

3.5 The Strategic Transport Assessment and the Strategic Growth Options & Constraints Mapping take a longer-term perspective that will inform the next steps for the [Strategic Growth Plan](#) to 2050 and will form part of the strategic evidence for Local Plans. This work will be completed later this year.

[L&L Housing Need to 2036](#)

3.6 The authorities agree the appropriate way to calculate local housing need is using the current standard method set out in government guidance which currently uses the 2014 based household projections. The authorities agree that local housing need (2020 - 2036) is as follows:

Table 1: Local Housing Need

Local Planning Authority	Total Housing Need 2020 – 2036	Houses per year
		2020 - 2036
Blaby District Council	5,456	341
Charnwood Borough Council	17,776*	1,111*
Harborough District Council	8,544	534
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	7,552	472
Leicester City Council	39,424	2,464
Melton Borough Council	3,696	231
North West Leicestershire District Council	5,952	372
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	3,008	188
Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Total	91,408	5,713

* In accordance with government guidance Charnwood's Local Housing Need is set using the data from 2021 (including household growth for the 2021-31 and 2020 affordability ratio) as it submitted its Local Plan for Examination in December 2021.

- 3.7 The Government's current standard method for calculating housing need suggests L&L need to provide 91,408 homes (5,713 per year 2020 to 2036).
- 3.8 The NPPF requires authorities to have a clear understanding of the land available in their area to meet housing need through the preparation of a strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA). In L&L, the SHLAAs have been prepared using an agreed methodology across the HMA as a whole.
- 3.9 Appendix A and B to this Statement have been prepared using the outputs of the standard method for calculating housing need and SHLAAs. It provides a summary of the need for new homes, and the theoretical capacity of both the HMA and each local authority.
- 3.10 To 2036 there is a theoretical capacity for some 173,721 homes across the HMA as a whole (Appendix B). When set against the need of 91,408 (2020-36), the authorities agree there is flexibility to meet L&L housing need within the HMA, including unmet need.

L&L Employment Need to 2036

- 3.11 The authorities agree the appropriate way to calculate employment need is using the jointly prepared Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 2022 (HENa) unless an up-to-date local assessment has been undertaken. Based on the HENA and local assessments of employment land need the authorities agree the need is as follows:

Table 2: Employment Land Needs

	Need		Total	Source
	B1	B2/B8 (small)		
Blaby	9.1	29.0	38.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
Charnwood	7.5	35.7	43.2	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
Harborough	6.8	39.3	46.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
H&B	4.2	53.4	57.6	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
Leicester	46,100 sqm (2.3 ha)	67.3	69.6	2019-36 need, City EDNA 2020
Melton	2	38.1	40.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
NWL	8.9	31.8	40.7	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
O&W	1	3.1	4.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
L&L Total	41.8	297.7	339.5	

3.12 Table 2 above shows L&L have to provide 340 hectares of employment land to 2036. Appendix C has been prepared using outputs from the HENA and local assessments of employment need, and employment land supply. It provides a summary of the need for new employment land, and the supply of both the FEMA and each local authority. To 2036 there is a supply for some 354 hectares across the FEMA as a whole (Appendix C). When set against the need of 340 (2021-36), the authorities agree there is flexibility to meet L&L Employment Need within the FEMA, including unmet need.

Unmet need to 2036

3.13 The authorities agree that Leicester City Council is the only authority in the HMA to have declared and quantified (with evidence) an unmet need 2020 to 2036. Assisting Leicester to meet its unmet need is therefore a key element of the Duty to Co-operate across the HMA.

3.14 Leicester City Council consulted on a Draft Local Plan (regulation 18) in September to December 2020, with a view to publishing the Submission Version (regulation 19) in 2021. Leicester City declared an unmet housing need in February 2017 (Appendix I) which remained unquantified while further evidence was gathered to support the publication of their Draft Local Plan. During this time several authorities have adopted local plans.

3.15 The L&L authorities were made aware of the potential scale of unmet need in December 2019. Consultation on the Leicester Draft Local Plan (and associated evidence) was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic until September to December 2020.

3.16 Leicester's Draft Local Plan consultation indicates a potential unmet need of 7,742 homes and 23 Hectares of employment land (B2 General Industrial and B8 Small Warehousing Units less than 9,000 sq.m) 2019 to 2036.

3.17 However, immediately after the consultation closed in December 2020 the Government published a new standard method for calculating housing need. The new method increased Leicester's housing need by 35%, adding a further 9,712 homes to their need between 2020 and 2036 (607 homes per year).

3.18 Although the supply of homes in Leicester may evolve as their local plan progresses, providing for this amount of additional homes in the City would require more than a doubling of the allocations set out in their recent Draft Local Plan. In this context the City consider that it will not be possible to meet NPPF policy obligations of a sound and deliverable plan, and so in the revised PPG context (Paragraph: 035 Reference ID: 2a-035-20201216) it will be necessary to seek to agree a Statement of Common Ground to deal with the recent increase in housing need.

3.19 Leicester's standard method Local Housing Need figure is now 2,464 homes per year generating a need for 39,424 dwellings over the 2020-36 period (see Table 1 above). This includes the 'cities and urban areas uplift' and the 2021 affordability ratios published in March 2022. Appendix A and B, and the June 2021 Statement of Common Ground (Appendix H) was informed by the evidence from the Leicester's Draft Local Plan which sets out the City's capacity to accommodate growth over this period as 20,721 dwellings. An unmet need of 18,700 dwellings is therefore identified based on the evidence at the current time. An unmet need figure of 18,700 dwellings is a reasonable working assumption for the City's unmet housing need to 2036.

3.20 The authorities acknowledge that the quantity of Leicester's unmet need may change as the Local Plan progresses (e.g. as evidence on land supply is developed further or the need for homes changes (see section 4.0 below)). The authorities therefore agree a working assumption of Leicester's unmet need of 18,700 homes and 23 Hectares of employment land (2020 – 2036). These figures are subject to testing through the Leicester Local Plan.

Apportionment of Leicester's Unmet Need (2020 – 2036)

3.21 The authorities agree the L&L Statement of Common Ground Sustainability Appraisal (2022), the Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022) and the associated Housing and Employment Distribution Papers provide the latest cooperatively produced evidence to inform the apportionment of Leicester's unmet needs.

3.22 This work is based on the agreed working assumption of an unmet need from Leicester of 18,700 homes. The work considers housing provision across the HMA as a whole having regard to a range of factors including, the functional relationship of each District/Borough with Leicester City, the balance of jobs and homes in each district/borough, and deliverability of the distribution of development. When all of these factors are brought together, they address the unmet need and result in a redistributed housing provision that differs from the standard method starting point. This evidence has informed the following apportionment:

Table 3: Apportionment of Leicester City's Unmet Local Housing Need 2020 to 2036

Local Planning Authority	Average Annual unmet housing need contribution 2020 to 2036 (dwellings)*
Blaby District Council	346
Charnwood Borough Council	78
Harborough District Council	123
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	187
Melton Borough Council	69
North West Leicestershire District Council	314
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	52
Total	1,169

*Note: the figures are presented as annual averages 2020-36. This does not imply that an authority's unmet need apportionment must be phased evenly over this period. It will be for each Local Plan to determine appropriate phasing.

3.23 The authorities agree that the figures in the Table 3 above represent the agreed apportionment by District/Borough (apart from Hinckley & Bosworth – see Matters Not Agreed in Section 4 below), of the unmet housing need for Leicester, in order to meet the overall objectively assessed need for additional housing within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area to 2036. These figures are subject to testing through each individual Local Planning Authority's plan making.

3.24 Based on the agreed working assumption of an unmet need from Leicester of 23 hectares of employment land (B2 - General Industrial and B8 - Small Warehousing units less than 9,000sq.m), the joint evidence has informed the following apportionment:

Table 4: Apportionment of Leicester City's Unmet Employment Need 2020 to 2036

Local Planning Authority	Apportionment (Hectares)
Blaby District Council	0
Charnwood Borough Council	23
Harborough District Council	0
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	0
Melton Borough Council	0
North West Leicestershire District Council	0
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	0
Total	23

3.25 The authorities agree that the figures in the Table 4 above represent the agreed apportionment by District/Borough, of the unmet employment need for Leicester, in order to meet the overall objectively assessed need for employment land within the Leicester and Leicestershire FEMA to 2036. These figures are subject to testing through each individual Local Planning Authority's plan making.

4.0 Key Strategic Matters on which Authorities Do Not Agree

4.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) do not agree to the step in the HENA Housing Distribution Paper (2022) methodology from paragraph 6.21 to 6.24 and the subsequent table 6.9 which apportions 187 dwellings per year of Leicester's unmet housing need. HBBC note the capping of the redistribution of Charnwood's numbers to 1189 and believe that the accommodation of the resulting 187 dpa shortfall should be tested as part of each LPAs Local Plan process, including the current Charnwood Local Plan. HBBC consider that an apportionment of 102 dwellings per year (85 dwellings per year lower than the apportionment in Table 3) to be an initial justified apportionment of Leicester's unmet need for HBBC to test through their Local Plan work and through further strategic work. HBBC disagrees with the methodology from para 6.21 to 6.24 and the subsequent table 6.9 as it is not suitably justified and does not follow the evidence. The use of stock growth is not a measure of deliverability. It does not consider housing need, does not reflect market demand or the deliverability of developing housing in a particular area. The capping of redistribution based on 1.4% stock growth levels is considered to be arbitrary and is not supported by the evidence. Para 6.24 seeks to justify the uplift for HBBC by referencing job opportunities but this has already been considered earlier in the methodology.

4.2 HBBC is of the view that the June 2021 SoCG was clear that the apportionment of unmet need would be informed by 4 pieces of work. Only two of these pieces have been completed, the HENA and the SA. Therefore, as reflected in this Statement, the apportionment is a starting point for testing and may be amended based on the completion of the Strategic Growth Options and Constraints mapping work and the Strategic Transport Assessment and the subsequently updated Sustainability Appraisal and the outcome of any local plan 'testing'.

4.3 The other authorities do not agree with HBBC and consider the apportionment of 187 dwellings per year in Table 3 is justified by the evidence.

5.0 Maintaining and Updating this Statement

5.1 The authorities acknowledge the Government intend to reform the planning system and have previously consulted on potential future changes, including the Planning for the Future - White Paper (August 2020). The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, introduced to Parliament on 11th May 2022, proposes a number of reforms to the planning system, including potentially repealing the 'duty to cooperate' contained in existing legislation.

5.2 At present these reforms do not impact housing need or emerging Local Plans as they are proposals (rather than legislation) and could be subject to significant change before achieving Royal Assent and becoming law.

5.3 Government advice is that authorities should get up-to-date Local Plans in place (Appendix J) and some authorities in L&L are at an advanced stage of plan preparation.

- 5.4 The authorities agree the Duty to Cooperate is an ongoing process, and should the amount of unmet need change significantly, the apportionment of unmet need will be jointly reviewed to assess whether it needs updating. The process for updating and maintaining this statement will be managed through ongoing joint work between the authorities.
- 5.5 The above apportionment (Table 3 and 4 above) is intended to be implemented through individual local plans. These figures will therefore need to be tested through each authority's Local Plan process. The authorities agree that if an authority's local plan process identifies that it is not able to provide for their own objectively assessed needs as well as any unmet need apportioned in this statement (as set out in paragraph 11b of the NPPF), the apportionment of unmet need will need to be jointly reviewed and updated as necessary. The process used for this review will be proportionate to the scale of the issue and should not cause undue delay to the preparation of Local Plans.

Appendix A - Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Land Supply, 2020 to 2031

The table below compares housing land supply to local housing need based on the Governments Standard Method.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Authority	Local Housing Need 2020 - 2031	Commitments ¹ projected for delivery 2020 to 2031	Allocations in an adopted Plan ²	Emerging allocations in a draft plan ²	Allowance for small site or windfall development to 2031	Total Projected Delivery to 2031 (B+C+D+E)	SHLAA Capacity to 2031 ³	Total Theoretical Capacity to 2031 (F+G)
Blaby	3,751	4,467	758		240	5,465	5,408	10,873
Charnwood	12,221	7,080	1,385	7,894	640	16,999	10,529	27,528
Harborough	5,874	3,693	4,332		864	8,889	5,873	14,762
Hinckley & Bosworth	5,192	2,692	557		584	3,833	15,902	19,735
Leicester City	27,104	9,047		6,602	1,650	17,299	0	17,299
Melton	2,541	2,704	3,145		189	6,038	1,108	7,146
NW Leics	4,092	5,862	790		320	6,972	3,821	10,793
Oadby & Wigston	2,068	1,010	1,203		189	2,402	0	2,402
HMA total	62,843	36,555	12,173	14,496	4,676	67,897	42,041	109,938

¹ Includes sites under construction; with planning permission (including sites with a resolution to grant), as at 31/03/2020

² projected delivery up to 31/03/2031; includes allocated sites from local and neighbourhood plans

³ To avoid duplication SHLAA sites that have planning permission or are allocated in an adopted or emerging plan have been removed from this figure

Appendix B - Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Land Supply, 2020 to 2036

The table below compares housing land supply to local housing need based on the Governments Standard Method.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Authority	Local Housing Need 2020 - 2036	Commitments ¹ projected for delivery 2020 to 2036	Allocations in an adopted Plan ²	Emerging allocations in a draft plan ²	Allowance for small site or windfall development to 2036	Total Projected Delivery to 2036 (B+C+D+E)	SHLAA Capacity to 2036 ³	Total Theoretical Capacity to 2036 (F+G)
Blaby	5,456	4,918	984		440	6,342	18,956	25,298
Charnwood	17,776	8,820	1,990	9,024	1,040	20,874	19,938	40,812
Harborough	8,544	3,693	5,679		864	10,236	9,819	20,055
Hinckley & Bosworth	7,552	2,992	1,497		949	5,438	23,130	28,568
Leicester City	39,424	9,865		8,456	2,400	20,721	0	20,721
Melton	3,696	2,704	3,891		334	6,929	3,635	10,564
NW Leics	5,952	7,013	1,427		520	8,960	13,281	22,241
Oadby & Wigston	3,008	1,010	1,203		189	2,402	3,060	2,402
HMA total	91,408	41,015	16,671	17,480	6,736	81,902	91,819	173,721

¹ Includes sites under construction; with planning permission (including sites with a resolution to grant), as at 31/03/2020

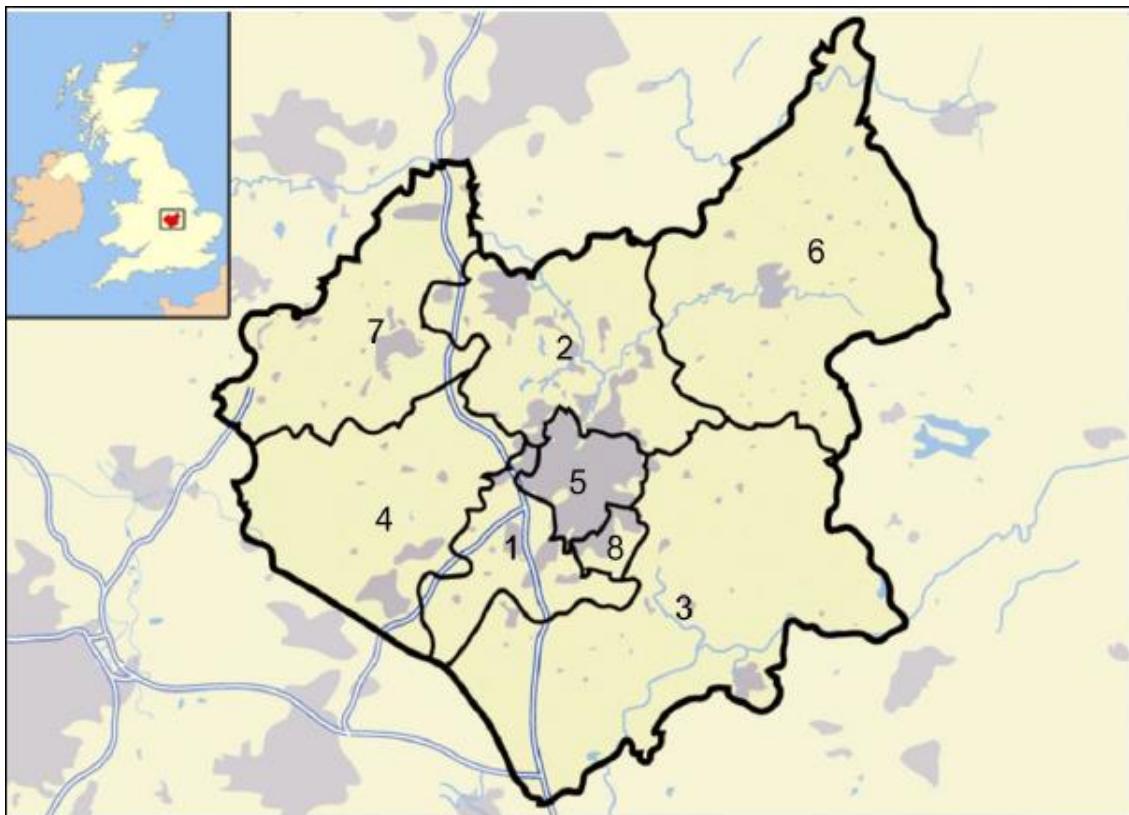
² projected delivery up to 31/03/2036; includes allocated sites from local and neighbourhood plans

³ To avoid duplication SHLAA sites that have planning permission or are allocated in an adopted or emerging plan have been removed from this figure

Appendix C - Employment Demand and Supply Balance 2021 to 2036 (excluding Strategic Warehousing)

	Need		Supply		Balance		Notes*
	B1	B2/B8 (small)	B1	B2/B8 (small)	B1	B2/B8 (small)	
Blaby	9.1	29.0	10.5	13.3	1.4	-15.7	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions pipeline. Mixed permissions divided by use class. Supply at April 2020
Charnwood	7.5	35.7	15.1	66.7	7.6	31.0	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on Local Plan trajectory Exc. Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park.
Harborough	6.8	39.3	18.0	41.7	11.2	2.4	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on net permissions pipeline at April 2020
H&B	4.2	53.4	4.2	38.9	0.0	-14.5	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on Local Plan Reg19 Feb '22
Leicester	46,100 sqm (2.3 ha)	67.3	43,000 sqm (2.1 ha)	44.0	-3,100 sqm (- 0.2 ha)	-23.3	2019-36 need / office supply, City EDNA '20 (sqm, converted to ha at 2.0 ratio) Industrial supply based on Local Plan Reg19 Feb '22.
Melton	2	38.1	2.6	34.4	0.6	-3.7	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions and allocations pipeline. Supply at April 2020
NWL	8.9	31.8	17.1	36.5	8.2	4.7	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions and allocations pipeline. Supply at April 2020
O&W	1	3.1	2.8	5.7	1.8	2.6	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions and allocations pipeline. Supply at April 2020
L&L Total	41.8	297.7	72.4	281.2	30.6	-16.5	Excludes 50 ha at Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park. Excludes -44,600 sqm offices for Leicester

Source: Various as identified in notes

Appendix D – Location and Administrative Areas**Key to Map Two**

1. Blaby District Council	5. Leicester City Council
2. Charnwood Borough Council	6. Melton Borough Council
3. Harborough District Council	7. North West Leicestershire District Council
4. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	8. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

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NOVEMBER
2025

Updated Housing Distribution Paper

Final Report

Iceni Projects Limited on behalf of Leicester
& Leicestershire Local Authorities

November 2025

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ON BEHALF OF LEICESTER
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Iceni Projects ('Iceni') worked with the local authorities across the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area ('L&L HMA') in 2021/22 to prepare a Housing Distribution Paper. This was prepared as part of a wider Housing and Economic Needs Assessment ('HENa') to inform the preparation of local plans within the HMA. Its purpose was to provide an interim redistribution of unmet housing needs arising from Leicester to support the agreement of a Statement of Common Ground ('SOCG') and the preparation of local plans.
- 1.2 The 2022 HENA was based on the assessment of local housing need using the standard method in March 2022, at the time of its preparation. This showed a need for 5,713 dpa across the HMA as assessed in the 2022 HENA. The Government has since revised the standard method, through changes to national planning policy and guidance in December 2024. It is therefore necessary to revisit the Housing Distribution Paper to inform the Local Plans which are yet to be submitted within the HMA or are not progressing under transitional arrangements.

2. LOCAL HOUSING NEED

Housing Need in the 2022 HENA

- 2.1 The 2022 HENA assessed housing need using the national policy framework and guidance in place at the time of its preparation – the July 2021 NPPF and associated Planning Practice Guidance. Local housing need was calculated using the standard method which had four steps:
 - Step 1: Annual Household Growth – drawn from the 2014-based Household Projections;
 - Step 2: Affordability Uplift – with a 0.25% adjustment applied for every 1% where the median house price to workplace-based earnings ratio was above 4;
 - Step 3: Cap – the affordability uplift was capped where the Step 2 need was more than 40% above that in a recently adopted plan, or 40% above the higher of the household growth or plan figure where the existing local plan was more than 5 years old;
 - Step 4: Cities & Urban Areas Uplift – a further 35% uplift was applied to the figures for Leicester, as one of the top 20 largest cities and urban areas in England.

Revised Standard Method

2.2 In December 2024 the Government revised the Standard Method alongside wider changes to the NPPF. The revised Standard Method is fundamentally different – and uses the current dwelling stock as a baseline (rather than household projections), to provide greater consistency across England; with a higher affordability ratchet then applied. Local housing need is thus now to be calculated using the revised standard method:

- Step 1: Baseline – a baseline figure is calculated as 0.8% of existing housing stock, using the latest stock estimates data published by Government;
- Step 2: Affordability Uplift – with a 0.95% adjustment applied for every 1% which the median house price to workplace-based earnings ratio was above 5. The affordability ratio is taken as the average over the 5 most recent years of data.

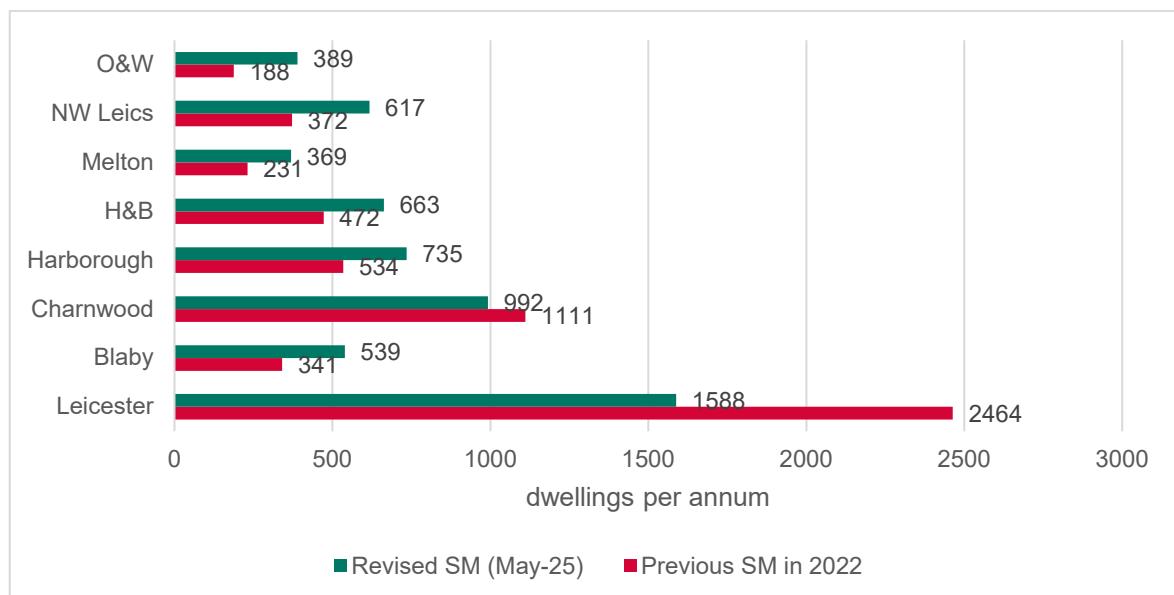
2.3 The figures change annually in the Spring, and if affordability ratios remain consistent are likely to increase modestly (as the stock baseline increases). However, the calculations should generally be more stable over time because of the effect of taking a 5-year average of the affordability ratio figures (as this should reduce the scale of potential year-on-year variation in the affordability uplift).

2.4 As the chart below shows, the scale of increase in housing need across the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA with the revised Standard Method is modest – with the revised method and latest data pointing to a scale of need 3% greater than that in the 2022 HENA and associated SOCG.

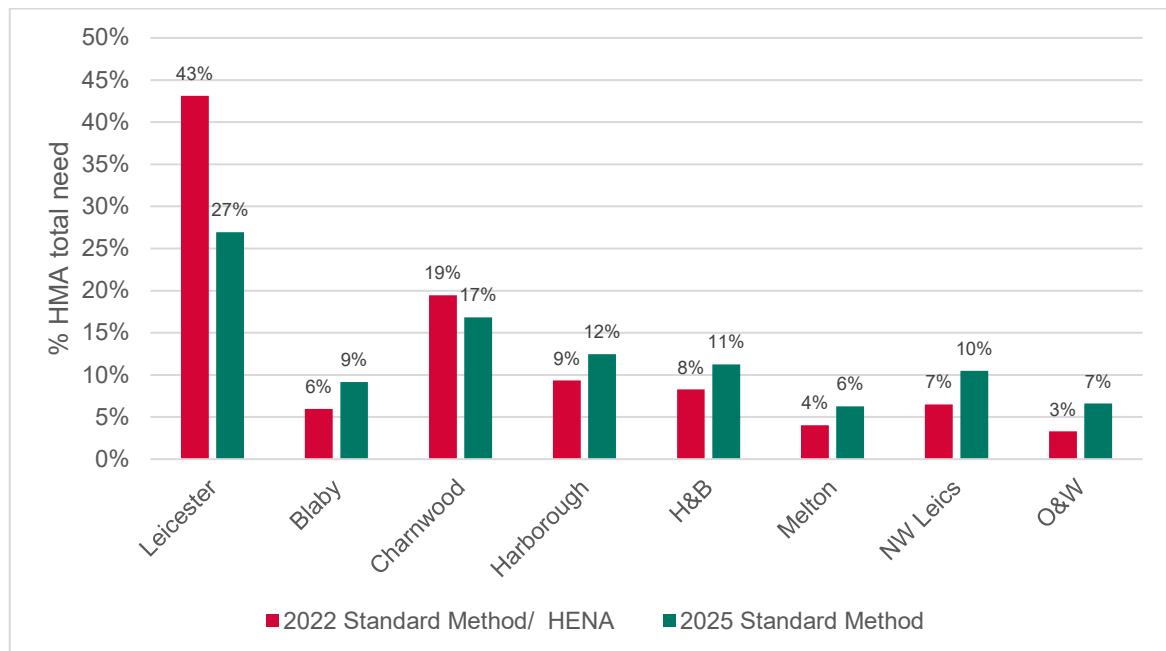
Table 2.1 Annual Housing Need across Leicester and Leicestershire – Comparison

	Annual housing need - Leicester & Leicestershire (dpa)
Standard Method in SOCG1 (2022 HENA)	5,713
Revised Standard Method (May-25)	5,892
% Increase	3.1%

2.5 However the distribution of housing need is fundamentally different, as Figure 2.1 shows. Leicester's local housing need figure has fallen by 36% and Charnwood's by 11%; whilst we see increases in all other areas, with the scale of housing need more than doubling in Oadby & Wigston.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of Housing Need across Leicester & Leicestershire

2.6 The chart below shows how the share of the HMA's housing needs has shifted through revisions to the standard method. The revised methodology itself thus shifts housing need away from Leicester¹ and provides a revised starting point for considering housing distribution in this Paper.

Figure 2.2: Share of Overall Housing by LPA

¹ Leicester's LHN figure in 2022 included the 35% cities and urban areas uplift which was a component of the standard method at that time.

3. PLANMAKING PROGRESS AND TIMESCALES

- 3.1 Different L&L local authorities are at different stages in the preparation of Local Plans and indeed are progressing plans against a different national policy backdrop.
- 3.2 Melton Borough has an adopted Local Plan and concluded a Regulation 10a Review in September 2023, against the national policy position and housing need methodology at that time, which concluded that its housing requirement is up-to-date. Melton is progressing a partial update of its Local Plan and undertook a Regulation 19 consultation in early 2025. However the partial update is not amending the housing requirement policy.

Plans progressing under Transitional Arrangements

- 3.3 Charnwood and Leicester City submitted their local plans in December 2021 and September 2023 respectively. The Examination of both plans is ongoing but is progressed under the transitional arrangements provided for in Para 234 in the 2024 NPPF. They are thus being examined against the 2023 NPPF, and associated PPG, and thus for these plans their local housing need is set using the previous Standard Method approach. These plans are projected to be adopted in early 2026.
- 3.4 Harborough consulted on a Regulation 19 version of its Local Plan in Spring 2025. Its draft Plan is similarly covered by the transitional arrangements in Para 234 in the NPPF and its housing policies have been prepared on the basis of the previous standard method. Melton's partial update is also covered by the transitional arrangements in NPPF Para 234 and has been prepared on the basis of the 2023 NPPF. The Regulation 19 consultation took place in January and February 2025. The scope of the partial review does not include the housing requirement which its Regulation 10A Review² concluded remains up-to-date³. In any case the housing requirement within its adopted Plan sets out a stepped trajectory which from 2025 onwards provides for 320 dpa which is more than 80% of the Borough's local housing need calculated using the revised standard method (as per NPPF Footnote 83) as shown in Figure 2.1 herein.
- 3.5 These local plans – in Charnwood, Leicester and Harborough – have been informed by the 2022 HENA and associated 2022 SOCG on housing distribution; whilst the Melton adopted Local Plan created headroom to accommodate unmet needs from Leicester City as addressed in the 2022 SOCG.

² Melton Local Plan Five Year Review, Sept 2023

³ The Melton Local Housing Needs Assessment (July 2024) confirms this conclusion

Plans progressing under 2024 NPPF

3.6 Plans which are progressing under the revised (2024) NPPF and using the revised Standard Method are those for Blaby, Hinckley & Bosworth, North West Leicestershire and Oadby & Wigston. Plans in these areas are all expected to be submitted in 2026. They will therefore need to be informed by the revised standard method.

Agreed Position on Unmet Needs

3.7 The L&L LPAs (with the exception of Harborough) have agreed through a DtC Position Statement that Local Plans which have been progressed against the 2023 NPPF (or previous versions), and those progressing under the transitional arrangements, should continue to rely on the 2022 Statement of Common Ground on housing distribution, which remains valid and in force. This includes the local plans in Charnwood, Harborough, Leicester, and Melton. However those plans progressing under the 2024 NPPF will need to be informed by updated needs and capacity assessments relevant to those plans and the partners have committed to working together to accommodate the area's needs once those results are known.

3.8 This revised Housing Distribution Paper has been prepared to inform, and is of relevance to, those plans which are progressing under the 2024 NPPF; and in due course to the review (at the appropriate future point) of other plans in the HMA. The timings of such future plan reviews may however be affected by proposals for local government reorganisation in Leicester and Leicestershire.

3.9 These principles are important, as a 'mix and match approach' would serve to inflate the scale of housing need across the housing market area as a whole, resulting indicatively in a need figure 11% above the current standard method. This arises because the revised standard method results in a different distribution of housing provision within the HMA than the standard method figures at the time of the HENA's preparation.

3.10 **This Updated Housing Distribution Paper thus takes as a starting point the revised standard method figure of 5,892 dpa across the Housing Market Area.**

Timescales

3.11 The L&L LPAs have agreed that this updated Housing Distribution Paper should use a 2024 base date and look over a period up to 2046. The base date is consistent to the baseline data used in the standard method; whilst the end point reflects the timescales for local plan preparation and the need for plans to look 15 years beyond the point of adoption (NPPF Para 22). The housing requirement figures for individual local authority districts need to consider and take account of the relevant plan period – which for emerging local plans in Blaby and North West Leicestershire runs to 2042 and in

Hinckley & Bosworth to 2045. Conclusions are therefore drawn over different timeframes, reflecting the different plan periods for different LPAs.

4. LEICESTER'S UNMET NEED

4.1 A key building block for considering housing distribution is the scale of housing provision which can be accommodated in Leicester City. Iceni has sought to segment the analysis to consider unmet need to 2036, as there is good quality information on residential land supply over this period; and then unmet needs beyond 2036, for which the quality of information available is weaker and hence there is less precision regarding the potential scale of unmet need.

Unmet Need to 2036

4.2 Leicester's draft Local Plan covers a plan period to 2036. The Plan is currently at Examination, with a consultation on Main Modifications having been undertaken and the Inspectors' Report awaited. Policy SL01 sets a target minimum requirement of 20,730 dwellings over the plan period from 2020-36.

4.3 The provision anticipated between 2024-36 can be calculated by subtracting completions over the initial 2020-24 period from the plan requirement. Over this 4 year period, completions of 4,129 dwellings were achieved. This generates a residual requirement of 16,601 dwellings, as shown in the table below.

4.4 If the residual housing requirement of 16,600 homes (2024-36), which the draft Local Plan makes provision for, is compared to the revised standard method figure for the City (1,588 dpa), a shortfall of 2,455 dwellings arises in Leicester between 2024-2036. This represents the scale of unmet need to 2036.

Table 4.1 Residual Housing Requirement in Leicester, 2024-36

	Dwellings - Leicester
Local Plan Housing Requirement, 2020-36	20,730
Completions 2020-24	4,129
Residual Requirement, 2024-36	16,601
Standard Method Housing Need – Annual	1,588
Housing Need, 2024-36 (1588 dpa)	19,056
Shortfall to 2036	2,455

4.5 This figure of 2,455 dwellings is treated as a working assumption for the unmet need from Leicester to 2036 based on the plan position at this time.

4.6 In due course, the review of Leicester's Local Plan will need to review the supply position and progress in terms of actual delivery, consider what appropriate supply-side buffer is necessary and may set a revised housing requirement. However the above unmet need figure is based on the best available current evidence.

4.7 For the avoidance of doubt, it is not appropriate - for the purpose of this Paper - to have regard to the former standard method calculations (such as those set out in the 2022 HENA) for the reasons set out in Section 3 above.

Unmet Need beyond 2036

4.8 It appears unlikely that Leicester will be able to fully meet its housing need beyond 2036. However there is limited information currently available on what the supply position might be as the current draft Local Plan looks to 2036 and this Paper is being prepared in advance of a Local Plan Review.

4.9 In contrast to the Leicestershire local authorities, the majority of housing supply in Leicester comes forward on brownfield, previously-developed sites (PDL). Leicester's existing evidence, including its 2022 SHELA, have considered the deliverability and developability of sites over the current plan period to 2036 only. The last data from call for sites was some time ago, in Spring 2022, and in any case, the City Council's experience is that few sites tend to get put forwards through such processes – with many simply progressing straight to pre-app and planning applications. Iceni's experience, which chimes with this, is that **there is typically limited 'visibility' of supply in urban areas beyond a 10 year period looking forwards**.

4.10 These factors mean that it is difficult at this point to be definitive on what the land supply position might be beyond 2036, and equally it is extremely difficult to quantify what it might be with any degree of accuracy. Furthermore, it is unusual for an assessment of unmet need to be undertaken (and in

particular for unmet need to be declared) before a detailed interrogation of the supply position has been undertaken. We are not aware of an instance in another local authority where this has occurred. The Leicester and Leicestershire authorities are seeking to plan proactively in this regard.

4.11 The NPPF, in advising on the preparation of Statements of Common Ground as part of collaboration on strategic matters such as this, sets out that:

*"Plans come forwards at different times, and there may be uncertainty about the future direction of relevant development plans or the plans of infrastructure providers. In such circumstances strategic policy-making authorities will need to come to an informed view on the basis of the information available, rather than waiting for a full set of evidence from other authorities."*⁴

4.12 In these terms, this Paper seeks to provide an informed view on the potential scale of unmet need from Leicester over the 2036-46 period based on the information available at the time of writing. As further information becomes available on Leicester's residential land supply, such as informed by future evidence as its Local Plan Review progresses, it may be necessary to revisit and update the assessment of unmet need and any associated SOCGs. This would be consistent with what is envisaged in NPPF Para 28 and is taken into account in the approach and methodology set out herein.

4.13 In the context of the information currently available, two approaches have been used to assess and draw conclusions on the potential indicative scale of unmet need: i) bottom-up estimates of longer-term supply which are informed by the City Council's understanding of the potential longer-term contribution of different areas within the City; and ii) top-down estimates which are informed by an analysis of historical trends in brownfield development in the City. These are then drawn together by Iceni to estimate unmet need from Leicester over the 2036-46 period. These have been discussed with the City Council, County Council and other Leicestershire LPAs through the Steering Group meetings as part of preparing this Paper.

Approach A: Bottom-Up Assessment of Supply

4.14 The first approach represents estimates from Leicester City Council of the potential longer-term supply based on the information currently available. This is based on estimates of the following supply over the 2036-46 period:

- Estimate of the longer-term capacity of the Central Development Area (CDA): 1,300 dwellings;

⁴ NPPF (December 2024) Paragraph 28

- Estimate of large site windfalls outside of the CDA: 1,710 dwellings;
- Indicative new strategic site allowance: 500 dwellings; and
- Small site windfall allowance: 2,140 dwellings (214 dpa).

4.15 The 2022 Leicester Central Development Area Residential Capacity Study considered potential development sites in the short, medium and longer-term. To inform this Paper, the City Council has considered sites within the CDA which have been delivered and potential sites in the CDA area which are not already included within the supply in the emerging Local Plan to 2036. It has excluded sites which fall within Conservation Areas as it considers substantial redevelopment in these areas is unlikely. Applying a density assumption of 75 dwellings per hectare (dph), it initially estimates that the remaining potential supply in the CDA could yield 3,900 dwellings. A discount of two-thirds (66%) is then applied to this to reflect the City Council's concerns around deliverability, given issues with complex or fragmented land ownerships, contamination, flooding and other development constraints. This informs its assessment of the projected yield from the CDA area of 1,300 dwellings between 2036-46.

4.16 The 1,300 dwelling figure therefore represents an estimate from the City Council of the potential maximum longer-term yield from sites in the CDA.

4.17 The second and third components of supply reflect estimates from Leicester City Council of potential additional windfall development on large sites outside of the CDA; and an indicative allowance of 500 dwellings from a new (as yet undefined) strategic site.

4.18 The final component of the supply then reflects an allowance for small-site windfall development on sites of < 10 dwellings. This is based on the evidence in the 2022 SHLAA which considered completions on small sites in Leicester over the 2015-22 period, which averaged 214 dpa.

4.19 Drawing these two components together, the City Council has **estimated a supply position of 5,650 dwellings over the 2036-46 period.**

4.20 The City Council notes the potential for a diminishing supply of land for residential development in the CDA given the significant residential development which has already taken place, which includes development of the Leicester Waterside area and loss of office space through Permitted Development. It also recognises the significant impact which high-density development of Purpose-

built Student Accommodation (PBSA) has had on housing delivery historically which given the prospects for growth in student numbers in the future may not be replicated.⁵

- 4.21 The City Council does not envisage further significant greenfield land site release in the next Local Plan (such as green space, playing fields or allotments) at the current time; albeit that this will evidently need to be considered through the Local Plan Review in due course.
- 4.22 Iceni would however note that the current Local Plan is largely based on evidence prepared prior to Covid-19. The current Plan seeks to generally protect existing commercial space. Our experience is that the growth of e-commerce will reduce requirements for physical retail space over time. Similarly, there is potential that changing working patterns may further reduce the overall scale of office floorspace (whilst equally emphasising a 'flight to quality'). Updated evidence will need to consider these issues as part of the City's future Local Plan Review, which might release additional commercial space for residential redevelopment or conversion. These issues will need to be considered as part of the City's Local Plan Review.

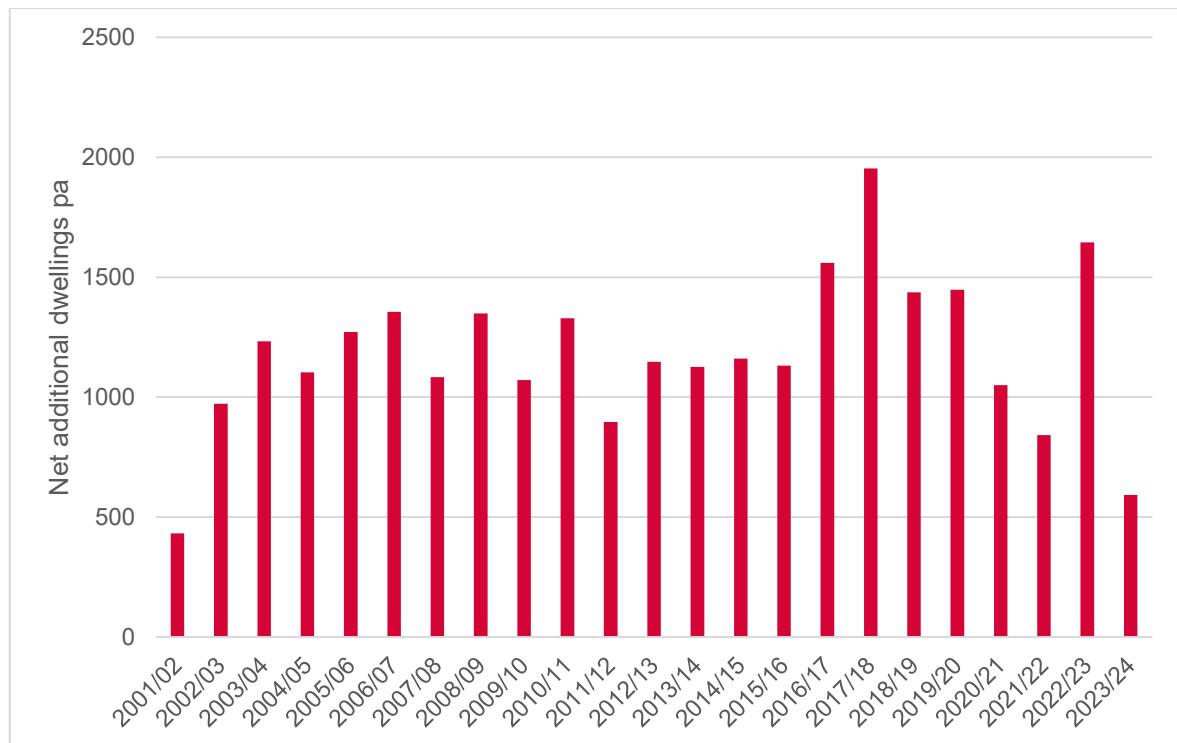
Approach B: Top-down Assessment of Potential Brownfield Supply

- 4.23 In the context of the limited visibility or clear evidence on residential land supply beyond 2036, Iceni has sought to consider an alternative, top-down approach to estimating the brownfield land supply in the City based on past development trends.
- 4.24 Historical housing completions in Leicester are set out as 'net additional dwellings' in the City Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (the latest of which relates to the period to March 2022). These correspond with the figures in MHCLG Live Tables on net additional dwellings and are based on the Housing Flows Reconciliation (HFR) data submitted annually by the City Council to Government. We replicate historical housing completions in Leicester in Figure 4.1 below, drawing on both datasets.
- 4.25 Housing delivery is evidently somewhat cyclical, with lower delivery between 2011-16 and since 2020 than in intervening years. Housing delivery has also dropped off significantly in recent years as rising build costs, higher finance costs and other regulatory issues (including around building safety) have affected scheme viability. These issues are equally impacting development in other cities and larger urban areas. Completions volumes have also been significantly influenced by delivery of Purpose-built Student Accommodation.

⁵ Iceni would note that this is a demand-side rather than supply-side factor

4.26 However it is appropriate to focus on supply-side factors in assessing the City's land supply and potential to meet housing need. 96% of Leicester's Core Strategy requirement (1280 dpa) has been met over the plan period to date (2006-24).

Figure 4.1 Historical Housing Delivery in Leicester



Source: Leicester City Council Monitoring; MHCLG Live Table

4.27 Average annual housing delivery (across all types of sites) has varied over time but falls between 1,115 – 1,282 dwellings per annum (dpa) as shown in Table 4.2. The longer-term average, covering different economic cycles, is of 1,228 dpa. This covers periods of both weaker and stronger market conditions.

4.28 These levels of historical development are substantially above the City Council's estimate of potential supply post 2036 (at an equivalent of 565 dpa). Iceni has therefore sought, for comparative purposes, to consider what future supply might look like based on historical trends.

Table 4.2 Average Net Additional Dwellings Delivered in Leicester

	Net additional dwellings
5 Year Average (2019-24)	1,115
10 Year Average (2014-24)	1,282
20 Year Average (2004-24)	1,228

4.29 In the context of the uncertainty regarding the future supply of greenfield sites, and to adopt a cautious approach, we have focused in particular in this scenario on the potential yield from brownfield sites if past supply trends were replicated. In this second approach, we do not therefore make any specific allowance for additional greenfield development in Leicester.

4.30 Data in the City Council's AMR provides a split of gross completions between brownfield and greenfield development and show 90%+ completions in recent years on brownfield land, but the City Council does not consider these figures on the brownfield/greenfield split to be reliable.

4.31 An alternative source is MHCLG *Land Use Statistics* data, which are accredited official statistics. We have therefore used these to consider the proportion of development taking place on previously-developed land. Data is available over the 2013-22 period and this shows that, on average, 79% of new homes in Leicester were delivered on previously-developed land with 21% on non-developed land. The data includes both homes delivered through new-build development as well as conversions. Over this period the net additional homes dataset points to demolitions of, on average, 20 dpa.

4.32 Using this data, we have in the table below taken long-term net additional completions data (which cover different points in the market cycle) and estimated the brownfield net supply position by first estimating gross completions, then the proportion of this on brownfield land; and then discounting losses (which will also be brownfield). This yields **an estimate supply of 965 dwellings per annum in Leicester based on historical trends**, which is a substantial 71% higher than that arising from the bottom-up approach.

Table 4.3 Estimating Brownfield Completions Trend in Leicester

	dpa Leicester
20 yr average net additional dwellings	1,228
Net/gross conversion⁶	0.985
20 yr average gross additional dwellings	1,247
% brownfield addresses in MHCLG Land Use Statistics	79%
Brownfield gross delivery	985
Of which replacement of losses	20
Estimated annual brownfield net completions	965

4.33 Whilst there is some (anecdotal) evidence of a diminishing brownfield land supply in the City in the longer-term, as described above, we consider that there could be some additional potential residential supply which could come forward from retail and other commercial space. Fundamentally,

⁶ Based on comparison of gross and net completions data for Leicester

there is a lack of visibility on long-term potential brownfield land supply beyond 2036 at the time of writing. This will need to be considered further through the review of Leicester's Local Plan.

Drawing the Evidence Together

4.34 In the context of the uncertainty regarding the longer-term land supply in Leicester, Iceni consider that the appropriate approach should be framed in the context of national policy. This makes a distinction between land supply (which influences the deliverable and developable supply) and market/demand-based factors (which influence what is actually delivered). It also emphasises the optimisation of land supply where there are prospective supply-side constraints.

4.35 In particular, in the context of a constrained land supply, the application of the NPPF and PPG would direct that further detailed consideration is given to other potential supply sources: the NPPF emphasises that strategic policies should make as much use as possible of brownfield land, as well as under-utilised land and buildings, especially in circumstances in which land supply is constrained (Paras 124 and 125), be informed by regular reviews of demand for land and land availability (Para 127) and take a positive approach to applications for alternative uses, including the use of retail and employment land for housing in areas of high demand (Para 128). It advises in effect that the supply/demand balance for land is an influence on appropriate densities (Para 125) and contain policies to optimise the use of land to meet as much of the identified need as possible (Para 130). There is a feedback loop in the land availability PPG⁷, where densities are expected to be reviewed where there is a land supply shortfall with a view to increasing residential development yields.

4.36 Leicester City has a concentration of employment opportunities and benefits from existing infrastructure, including public transport and social infrastructure, which make it one of the most sustainable locations for new development within the HMA.

4.37 The two supply estimates result in a potential range of between 565 – 965 dwellings per annum in Leicester City. They have been considered by the project Steering Group which includes representatives of all of the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Planning Authorities. Having regard to this national policy backdrop together with the issues about the visibility of the land supply in urban areas beyond a 10 year time horizon, **Leicester City Council have agreed with Iceni that it is reasonable to adopt the midpoint between the two supply scenarios to provide a working estimate of supply in Leicester beyond 2036. This equates to a supply of 7,650 dwellings between 2036-46, or 765 dpa.** This is taken forwards herein for the purposes of consideration of unmet needs at the current time.

⁷ *Planning Practice Guidance - Housing and economic land availability assessment*

Table 4.4 Calculating Leicester's Unmet Need 2036-46

	Dwellings
Local housing need - Leicester, 2036-46	15,880
Estimated supply / requirement	7,650
Unmet need from Leicester, 2036-46	8,230
Unmet need per annum, 2036-46	823

4.38 As further detailed evidence emerges regarding Leicester's longer-term land supply, as part of the Review of the Leicester Local Plan, the supply position should be revisited. We would expect there to be provision for joint working between the City Council and the local authorities in Leicestershire to discuss, review and agree land supply evidence. This can then feed through to a review, where appropriate, of the scale of unmet need and the apportionment of it to other areas. We address mechanisms for review later in this report.

Bringing the Evidence Together

4.39 Bringing the evidence together on the unmet need in Leicester to 2036, and from 2036-46, we estimate an unmet need from Leicester of 2,455 dwellings to 2036 (equivalent to 205 dpa), and of a further 8,230 dwellings from 2036-46 (equivalent to 823 dpa). The greater proportion of unmet need is therefore expected to arise after 2036. Annualised figures are set out as the timeframes for local plans differ.

Table 4.5 Scenarios for Total Land Supply Shortfall, 2024-2046

	2024-36	2036-46
Need (revised Standard Method)	19,056	15,880
Supply estimate	16,601	7,650
Unmet need	2,455	8,320
Unmet need per annum (dpa)	205	823

5. UNMET NEEDS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

5.1 The only other Leicestershire authority from which an unmet need could potentially arise, based on the position and information at the time of writing, is Oadby & Wigston. This is a small Borough which sits within the urban area centred around Leicester City, has tightly defined boundaries and where the revised standard method has resulted in an increase in its housing need significantly, from 188 dpa at the time of the 2022 HENA to 389 dpa at the time of writing (a 107% increase). The scale of housing need has essentially doubled.

5.2 Oadby & Wigston BC prepared and consulted on a Reg19 Local Plan in early 2025 which showed how it could support delivery of 240 dpa (this being the figure arising from the 2022 Housing SOCG). It is testing whether the standard method can be met in full within the Borough. At the time of writing this report, it does not look like the Council will be declaring an unmet housing need in relation to residential land supply, but this will need to be kept under review. The Council is still in the process of completing the full suite of Local Plan evidence base documents.

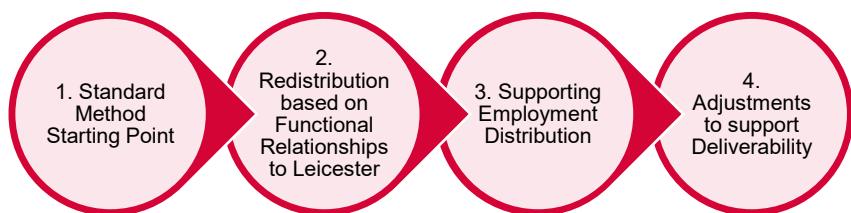
5.3 It is nonetheless clear that OWBC will not be able to contribute to meeting any unmet need from other authorities. All realistic potential development sites are likely to be required to meet its own revised standard method housing need. This is considered further in Section 6.

6. REVIEWING THE APPROACH TO APPORTIONING UNMET NEEDS

Reviewing the 2022 HENA Housing Distribution Approach

6.1 The 2022 HENA Housing Distribution Paper essentially used a three-stage approach to redistributing Leicester's unmet need: a first-stage based on functional relationships; a second stage which sought to achieve an improved local alignment between the distribution of jobs and homes; and a third stage which made adjustments for land supply and deliverability.

Figure 6.1: 2022 HENA Redistribution Approach



6.2 The functional relationships between different LPAs and Leicester, together with issues of alignment of jobs and homes are considered to remain relevant and appropriate considerations in apportioning unmet need from Leicester.

6.3 The final stage in the 2022 HENA housing distribution included the following adjustments:

- An upwards adjustment to the contribution from Melton Borough to reflect the residual requirement in its current adopted Plan;

- b) An adjustment to the contribution to Oadby & Wigston Borough, constraining the contribution it could make to unmet need to reflect the land supply position in the Borough;
- c) An adjustment to the contribution from Charnwood on deliverability grounds, influenced by the higher demographic growth in the Borough implied in the household projections used in the standard method.

6.4 Reviewing the position now, the context for some of these final stage adjustments taken forwards previously has changed.

6.5 For **Melton** Borough, the indicative standard method housing need (369 dpa) is now above the residual plan requirement (308 dpa 2024-36) within the extant Local Plan and the stepped housing requirement therein which, for instance, envisages delivery of a minimum of 320 dpa between 2026-36, limiting potential for this to be assumed *per se* to contribute to unmet need. The extant Local Plan also does not look beyond 2036.

6.6 For **Oadby & Wigston**, as set out below, there is likely to be no realistic potential for the Borough to contribute to any other local authority's unmet need (in addition to meeting its own needs) given the doubling of the Borough's own housing needs and its land supply position.

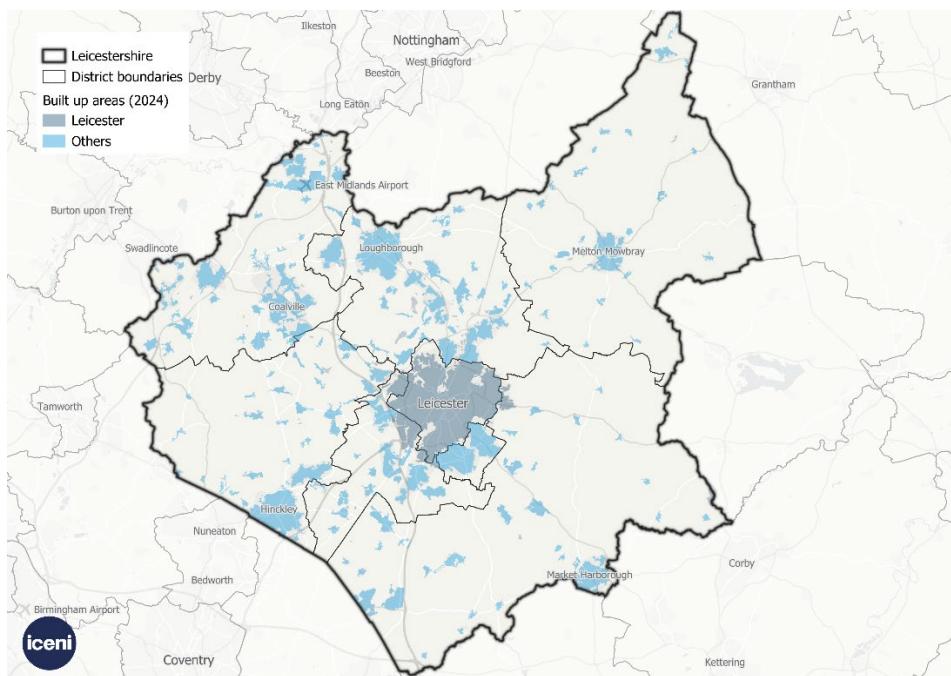
6.7 In respect of the final 'deliverability' adjustment for **Charnwood**, which was disputed by some parties through its Local Plan Examination, the revised standard method now 'levels the playing field' by taking a stock position as a baseline (as opposed to household growth), the effect of which is to reduce the local housing need for the Borough.

7. REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE ON FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS TO LEICESTER

7.1 The 2022 HENA Distribution Paper considered the functional relationships between different Leicestershire authorities and Leicester City, including migration flows over the 2016-19 period and commuting patterns based on 2011 Census data. These were brought together in a blended approach recognising the vintage of the Census data alongside the influence of historical planning assumptions on migration flows.

7.2 These flows will invariably be part influenced by the spatial geography around Leicester. As the plan in Figure 7.1 shows, the Leicester Urban Area boundary (as defined by ONS⁸) extends to include Braunstone, Thorpe Astley and Glenfield in Blaby District. However the LPAs have historically also recognised a range of other settlements as falling within the wider Urban Area centred on Leicester City, including Birstall, Thurmaston, Scrattoft, Thurnby and Bushby, Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. There are then evidently further settlements which are near to, and functionally related, to Leicester.

Figure 7.1: Settlement Geography in Leicester & Leicestershire

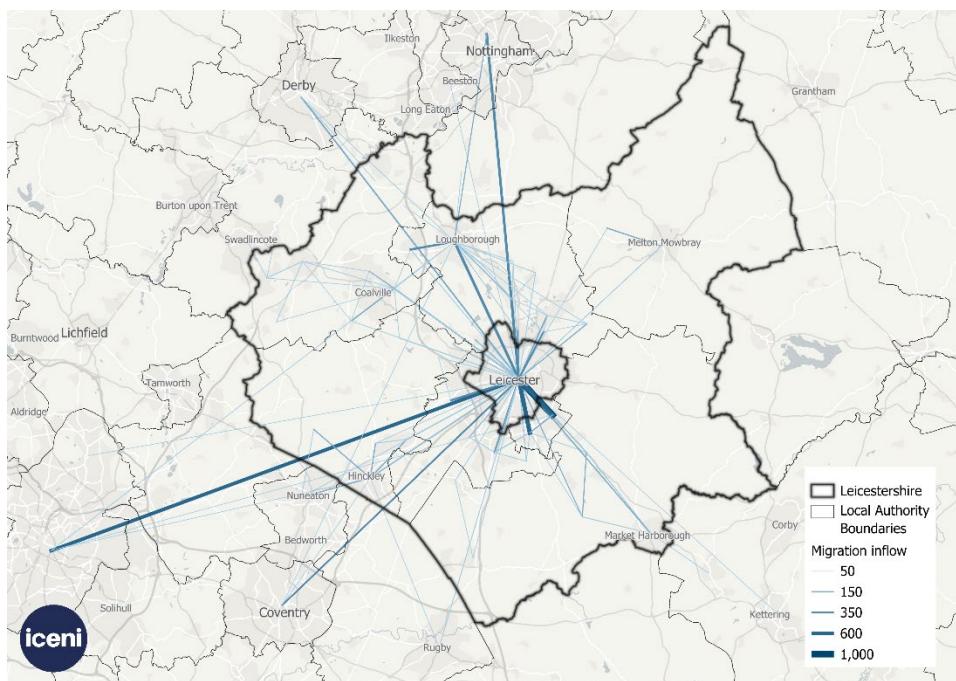


Migration Flows

7.3 The 2021 Census now provides updated information on the functional relationship of different areas with Leicester. The charts below show migration over the year to Census day 2021. They indicate a strong migration relationship of the City both with other parts of the urban area and settlements close to Leicester, as well as to the market towns elsewhere in the County, including Loughborough, as well as Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Coalville and Hinckley.

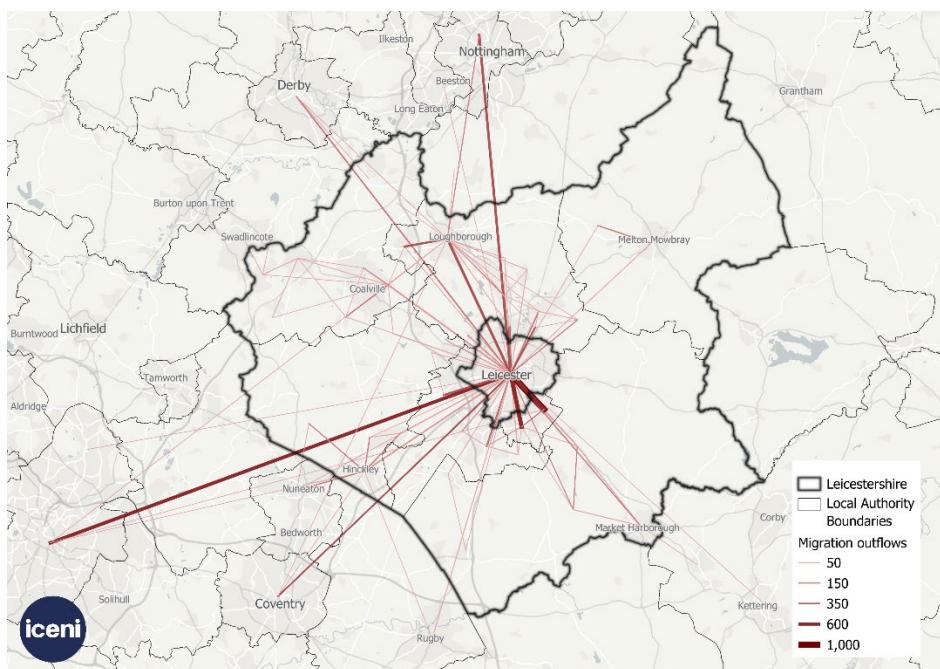
⁸ ONS Built Up Area boundaries

Figure 7.2: In-Migration to Leicester, 2020-21



Source: 2021 Census

Figure 7.3: Out-Migration from Leicester, 2020-21



Source: 2021 Census

7.4 Iceni consider that caution should be applied in the use of a single year's worth of migration data (as is used in the Census-based analysis above) given the potential influence of the distribution of new development in that year on flows. We have therefore instead analysed ONS Internal Migration Estimates, which are based on administrative data sources including higher-education and NHS

data, and considered a four year period from 2018-22. This essentially updates the analysis in the 2022 HENA Distribution Paper.

7.5 The strongest migration flows affecting Leicester are with Oadby & Wigston; Charnwood and Blaby. At the other end of the spectrum, there is a relatively weak relationship to North West Leicestershire and Melton Borough.

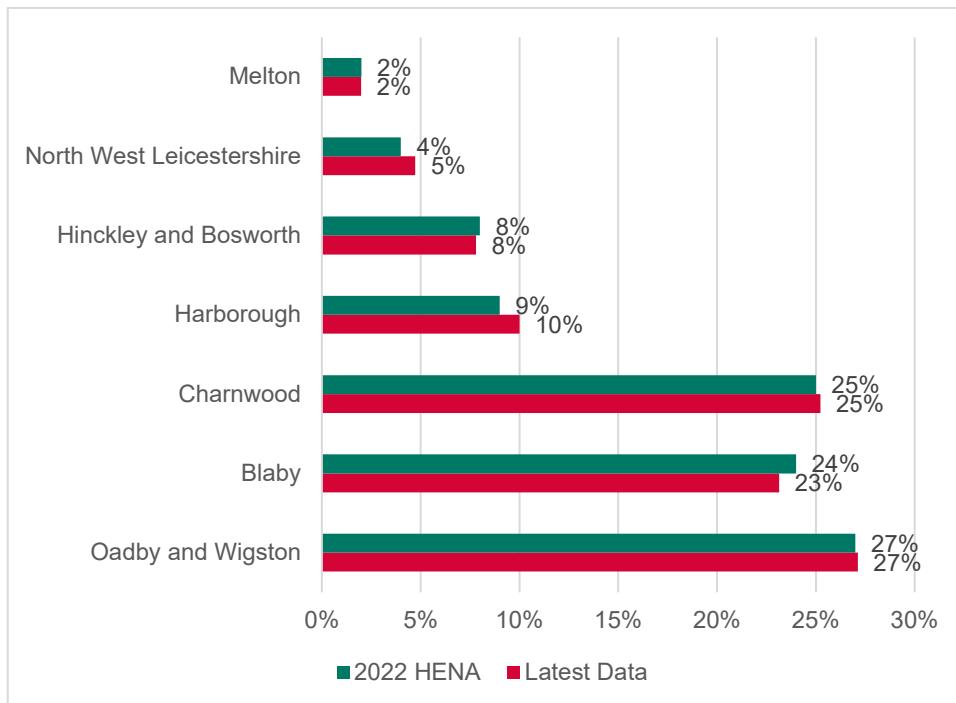
Table 7.1 Gross Migration Flows between Leicester and Leicestershire Local Authorities, 2018-22

	Average Gross Flow per annum	%
Oadby & Wigston	3,988	27.1%
Charnwood	3,708	25.2%
Blaby	3,402	23.1%
Harborough	1,470	10.0%
Hinckley & Bosworth	1,147	7.8%
North West Leicestershire	694	4.7%
Melton	291	2.0%
Total	14,700	100%

Source: ONS Internal Migration Statistics

7.6 The chart below illustrates how the share of gross migration with Leicester has changed between the data used in the 2022 HENA and the latest position. The broad migration relationship between the City and different LPAs remains consistent, with a modest increase in flows with North West Leicestershire and Harborough and modest reduction with Blaby.

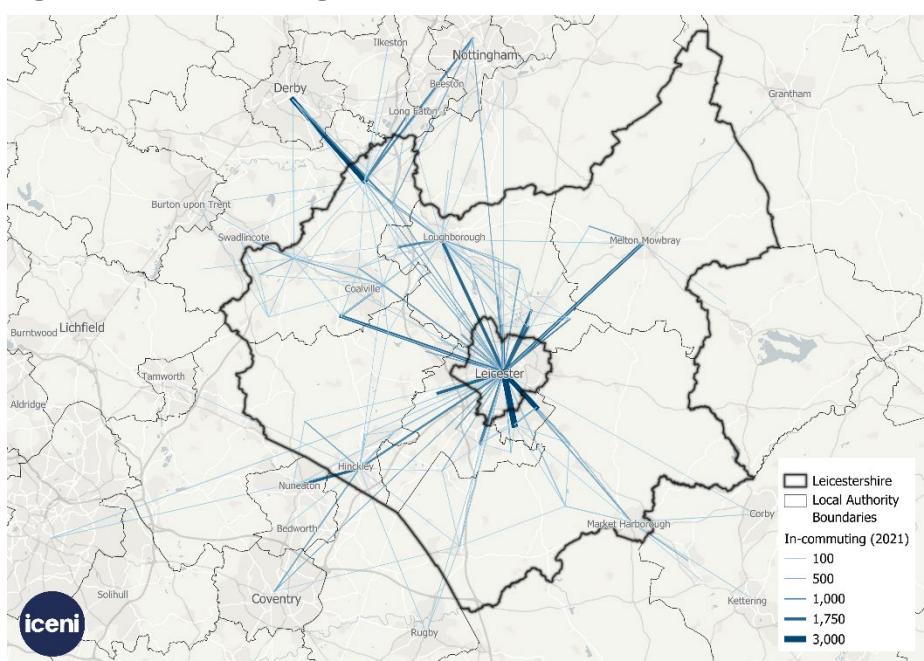
Figure 7.4: Changes in Share of Gross Migration with Leicester



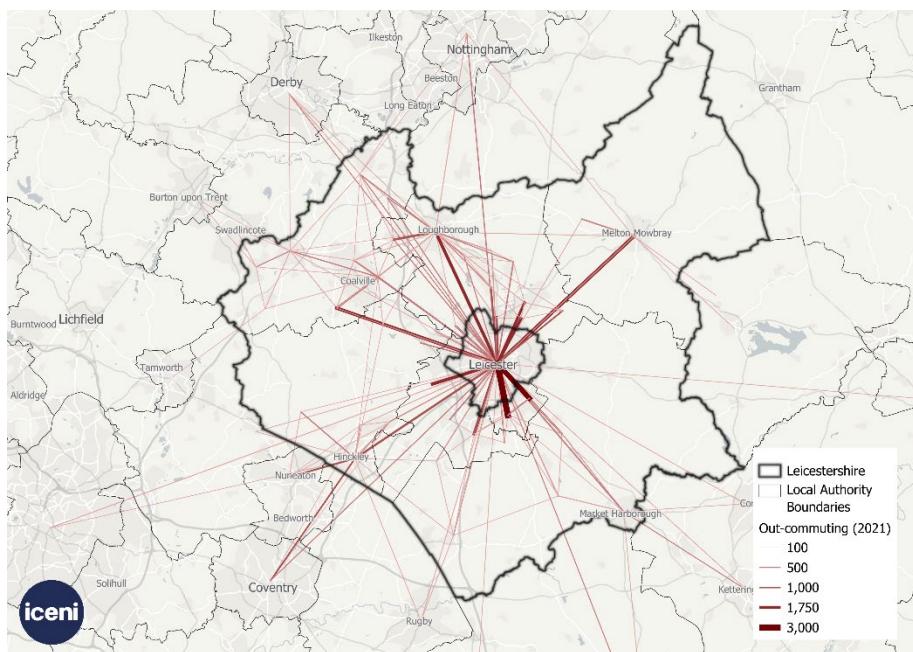
Commuting Relationships

7.7 The maps below illustrate in- and out-commuting with Leicester, based on 2021 Census data. This data needs to be treated with some caution as the Census was undertaken during a Covid-19 lockdown and therefore may not be truly reflecting of commuting dynamics now. It is likely in particular to underplay commuting to office-based jobs which could be undertaken from home.

Figure 7.5: In-Commuting to Leicester



Source: 2021 Census

Figure 7.6: Out-Commuting from Leicester

Source: 2021 Census

7.8 The commuting analysis points again to a strong commuting relationship of Leicester City with settlements within or close to the Leicester Urban Area, but also strong relationships with some of the other market towns and other key employment locations – including Bardon in North West Leicestershire. It also shows a stronger relationship with Melton Mowbray than the migration analysis.

7.9 The table below shows the relative in- and out-flows between Leicester and the Leicestershire authorities based on the 2021 Census data. This updates Table 4.3 in the 2022 HENA Housing Distribution Paper. The strongest commuting flows with Leicester City remain with Blaby and Charnwood.

Table 7.2 Commuting Relationships to Leicester City, 2021

	In-commuting to Leicester	% of in-flow from Leicestershire	Out-commuting from Leicester	% of out-flow to Leicestershire
Charnwood	11,274	29%	5,615	18%
Blaby	9,199	24%	9,219	30%
Oadby & Wigston	6,566	17%	3,936	13%
Harborough	4,512	12%	3,681	12%
Hinckley & Bosworth	3,959	10%	2,929	10%
NW Leicestershire	1,908	5%	3,150	10%
Melton	1,080	3%	2,242	7%
Total	38,498	100%	30,772	100%

Source: 2021 Census

7.10 As the 2022 Paper set out, the commuting flow is indicative of a housing market relationship. It is considered that the gross commuting flow (i.e. combining flows to and from Leicester) is of greater utility in understanding the functional relationship to Leicester. The table below replicates the gross commuting relationship analysis using the 2021 Census data (updating Table 4.2 in the 2022 Paper).

Table 7.3 Gross Commuting Relationship with Leicester, 2021

	Gross commuting	%
Charnwood	16,889	24.4%
Blaby	18,418	26.6%
Oadby & Wigston	10,502	15.2%
Harborough	8,193	11.8%
Hinckley & Bosworth	6,888	9.9%
NW Leicestershire	5,058	7.3%
Melton	3,322	4.8%
Total	69,270	100%

Source: 2021 Census

7.11 It is possible to compare the gross commuting relationship of Leicestershire authorities with the City using both 2011 and 2021 Census data. This, as shown below, indicates that the changes shown are marginal. A slight reduction in commuting with Oadby & Wigston and Blaby is shown, with a slightly stronger commuting relationship with North West Leicestershire (where there has been significant employment development) and Melton (which has recognised labour supply issues).

Table 7.4 Changes in Shares of Commuting with Leicester, 2011 to 2021

	2021 Gross Commuting Share	2011 Gross Commuting Share	Difference
Charnwood	24%	24%	0%
Blaby	27%	29%	-2%
Oadby & Wigston	15%	18%	-3%
Harborough	12%	12%	0%
Hinckley & Bosworth	10%	9%	1%
NW Leicestershire	7%	5%	2%
Melton	5%	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%	0%

Source: 2011 and 2021 Census

Bringing the Evidence Together

7.12 Iceni continue to consider that a blended approach to migration and commuting data should be used, which recognises that the migration data is based on several years of data and more stable view of flows but can be influenced by historical planning assumptions or housing supply distribution; whereas the commuting flow data is influenced by the effects of Covid-19 on working patterns at the time when the 2021 Census was undertaken but does capture some influence of the geography of employment development and changes in commuting since 2011.

7.13 The table below brings together the gross migration data (from Table 7.1) and commuting flow data (from Table 7.3) to generate a blended average figure, replicating the approach used in the 2022 HENA Housing Distribution Paper.

Table 7.5 Functional Relationship to Leicester – Blended Average of Gross Migration and Commuting

	% of gross commutes	% of gross migration	Average
Charnwood	24.4%	25.2%	24.8%
Blaby	26.6%	23.1%	24.9%
Oadby & Wigston	15.2%	27.1%	21.1%
Harborough	11.8%	10.0%	10.9%
Hinckley & Bosworth	9.9%	7.8%	8.9%
NW Leicestershire	7.3%	4.7%	6.0%
Melton	4.8%	2.0%	3.4%

7.14 However the current evidence indicates that Oadby & Wigston is not able to contribute to addressing unmet needs. In the 2022 Housing Distribution Paper, the Borough's own housing need at that time was for 188 dpa. The revised standard method has increased the Borough's housing need (or its share of the HMA's need) to 389 dpa, with the share of the HMA's housing need in Oadby & Wigston using the standard method increasing from 3% to 7% as Figure 2.2 shows.

7.15 Iceni has undertaken a Housing Absorption Study for OWBC to consider and assess its potential to deliver the standard method number and if there is any headroom to meet unmet needs. This indicates that including almost all sites which have been put forward for development through the emerging Local Plan that there is just sufficient land supply to meet the Borough's standard method housing requirement over the proposed plan period to 2042. It indicates no realistic potential for the Borough to contribute to unmet needs from Leicester, albeit the Housing Absorption Study does not show that there is an unmet need arising from OWBC from a land supply perspective. On this basis, the current evidence does not suggest it is realistic for OWBC to make a contribution to unmet needs arising from Leicester. OWBC's wider local plan evidence, including its transport evidence base, is testing further whether the Borough is able to sustainably meet its local housing need figure. It has been agreed between the HMA partners that any declared unmet need stemming from OWBC in due course will be dealt with through the Duty to Cooperate and the plan-making process and therefore consideration of potential infrastructure capacity issues is outside of the scope of this exercise.

7.16 On the basis of the current evidence that Oadby & Wigston Borough is not able to contribute to meeting unmet needs from Leicester, Iceni has therefore recalculated the functional relationships of

other areas within the HMA with Leicester, excluding Oadby & Wigston. These are shown in Table 7.6 below.⁹

Table 7.6 Revised Functional Relationship of L&L Authorities with Leicester (excluding OWBC)

	% Apportionment based on Functional Relationship¹⁰
Charnwood	31.7%
Blaby	31.5%
Harborough	13.8%
Hinckley & Bosworth	11.2%
North West Leicestershire	7.5%
Melton	4.2%

7.17 Applying these percentages (which are shown in the left hand column below) to the unmet need, the table below calculates the unmet need apportionment based on functional relationships to 2036, and over the 2036-46 period. The table provides an initial apportionment of the unmet need figures of 2,455 dwellings from Leicester over the 2024-36 period and the indicative unmet need for 8,320 dwellings over the 2036-46 period as set out in Table 4.5 herein. The right hand column shows annual figures for unmet need post 2036 which can be applied to different plan periods.

⁹ This takes the percentages for these authorities in Table 7.5 and recalculates them as a share of the total excluding Oadby & Wigston.

¹⁰ Numbers do not precisely sum due to rounding in the table to one decimal place in the table shown. Calculations use unrounded figures.

Table 7.7 Initial Apportionment of Unmet Need from Leicester based on Functional Relationships

	Functional relationship to Leicester ¹¹	Contribution to unmet need from Leicester 2024-36	dpa contribution to 2036	Contribution to unmet need from Leicester 2036-46	dpa contribution 2036-46
Blaby	31.5%	775	65	2,597	260
Charnwood	31.7%	778	65	2,607	261
Harborough	13.8%	340	28	1,138	114
Hinckley & Bosworth	11.2%	275	23	923	92
Melton	4.2%	103	9	344	34
NW Leicestershire	7.5%	185	15	621	62
Total		2,455	205	8,230	823

7.18 As set out in Para 3.11 herein, local plans or plan reviews within the HMA have different plan periods, with emerging local plans in Blaby and North West Leicestershire running to 2042 and in Hinckley & Bosworth to 2045. Table 7.8 indicates the housing requirement implied by the initial apportionment based on functional relationships over these plan periods for these authorities. Figures are expressed to 2046 for the other authorities in the HMA.

7.19 The initial apportionment considered herein is then reviewed alongside issues of the alignment of jobs and homes – which is considered in the next section. Whilst these issues were considered sequentially in the 2022 HENA Paper, with a view to ensuring that the apportionment approach can be readily updated, the alignment of jobs and homes are to be considered alongside one another in the final apportionment analysis in this Paper.

¹¹ Numbers do not precisely sum due to rounding in the table to one decimal place.

Table 7.8 Initial Apportionment of Unmet Need from Leicester based on Functional Relationships over relevant plan periods

	Unmet Need from Leicester	Blaby	Charn-wood	Harb-rough	H&B	Leicester	Melton	NWL	O&W
Functional relationship to Leicester¹²		31.5%	31.7%	13.8%	11.2%	N/A	4.2%	7.5%	N/A
Contribution to unmet need 2024-36	2,455	775	778	340	275	N/A	103	185	N/A
dpa contribution to 2036		65	65	28	23	N/A	9	15	N/A
Contribution to unmet need 2036-46	8,230	2,597	2,607	1,138	923	0	344	621	0
dpa contribution 2036-46		260	261	114	92	0	34	62	0
Implied requirement 2024-36 (dpa)		604	1057	763	686	1,383	378	632	389
Implied requirement Post 2036 to end of relevant plan period (dpa)		799	1253	849	755	765	403	679	389
Plan period end point		2042	2046	2046	2045	2046	2046	2042	2042
Implied requirement over relevant plan period		12,034	25,209	17,648	15,029	24,251	8,565	11,664	7,002
Implied requirement (dpa)		669	1146	802	716	1102	389	648	389

¹² Numbers do not precisely sum due to rounding in the table to one decimal place. The calculations in the report use unrounded figures.

8. ALIGNING HOMES & JOBS

8.1 In this section we move on to review the alignment of homes and jobs. The first step is to consider the current balance of homes and jobs, using jobs density statistics. These describe the ratio between jobs in an area to residents aged 16-64.

8.2 The jobs density is above the L&L and national averages in both North West Leicestershire and Blaby, consistent with the position in the 2022 HENA¹³. This is shown in Table 8.1 below. The jobs density of over 1.0 points to notable net in-commuting to these areas. Blaby's jobs density has however increased significantly in the most recent data. A particularly low jobs density in Oadby & Wigston is also notable – pointing to significant net out-commuting.

Table 8.1 Jobs Density, 2023

	Jobs density
Blaby	1.09
Charnwood	0.70
Harborough	0.75
Hinckley & Bosworth	0.70
Leicester	0.74
Melton	0.84
NW Leicestershire	1.14
Oadby & Wigston	0.62
Leicester & Leicestershire	0.80
England	0.87

Source: NOMIS

8.3 Holding all other factors equal, higher housing provision in North West Leicestershire and Blaby could therefore help to provide more localised opportunities for living and working in a similar area. The opposite is the case for Oadby & Wigston.

8.4 The analysis in the 2022 HENA regarding employment growth prospects has not been updated at this point, but the scenarios therein were based on the long-term economic trends and took into account local economic drivers and opportunities as identified in the LLEP's¹⁴ Economic Growth Strategy to generate a 'Growth Scenario'. The modelling was presented in the HENA over the period

¹³ Table 5.2 in the 2022 Housing Distribution Paper

¹⁴ Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership

to 2036, as well as to 2050 (but not to intermediate dates) albeit Iceni has been able to consider the original data herein.

- 8.5 Iceni has updated the demographic model to take account of the latest data and this latest demographic information can be used to review the inter-relationship between economic growth and housing need. A base demographic model has been developed using the ONS 2022-based Sub-National Population Projections (released June 2025). The core modelling has been run over the 2024-46 period, but outputs have been developed for different end points to reflect the timeframes for different local plans recognising the need to align the housing and employment provision over the relevant plan periods.
- 8.6 Household representative rates (which are used to relate growth in population to households) have taken the HRRs from the 2021 Census as a starting point¹⁵, but then modelled a part return to the 2021 position for the 25-44 age bracket over the period to 2046. This in effect builds in the demographic effects of an improvement in housing affordability resulting in an increased ability of younger households to form over time, consistent with the national policy objectives and affordability uplift in the standard method.
- 8.7 In relating jobs and homes, the modelling builds in some improvement in economic participation over time – in line with assumptions from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) 2018 Fiscal Sustainability Review. This is consistent to the 2022 HENA and assumes some increase in women and older persons in work. A commuting ratio is calculated from the 2021 Census.

HENA Growth Scenario

- 8.8 The table below compares housing need implied by the HENA Growth Scenario over the period to 2046 against the standard method. It shows that for all L&L local authorities, the standard method housing need generates sufficient labour supply to support the HENA Growth Scenario (with no ‘economic uplift’ therefore justified for any area using this scenario alone). In reality, there is unlikely to be ‘excess labour’ – the analysis would simply suggest that economic participation improvements would be weaker than that modelled if this housing provision and economic growth was achieved (i.e. growth in economic activity rates would be lower than modelled).

¹⁵ This is consistent to the approach adopted in the ONS 2022-based Household Projections

Table 8.2 Housing Need implied by Standard Method and HENA Growth Scenario, 2024-46

	Standard Method (dpa)	Economic-led Need: HENA Growth Scenario	Difference
Blaby	539	496	43
Charnwood	992	578	414
Harborough	735	493	242
Hinckley & Bosworth	663	323	340
Leicester	1,588	1,365	223
Melton	369	244	125
NW Leicestershire	617	513	104
Oadby & Wigston	389	193	196
TOTAL	5,892	4,204	1,688

Source: Updated Modelling

8.9 The table below provides the same analysis covering the different plan periods for the emerging local plans in Blaby, NW Leicestershire, Hinckley & Bosworth, and Oadby & Wigston. The figures differ from those in Table 8.3 above as they take account of differences in demographic changes over the varying plan periods. Again, it shows that the standard method generates sufficient labour supply to support the HENA Growth Scenario in all four authority areas.

Table 8.3 Housing Need implied by Standard Method and HENA Growth Scenario over plan periods for selected emerging Plans

	Plan period end point	Standard Method (dpa)	Economic-led Need: HENA Growth Scenario
Blaby	2042	539	515
Hinckley & Bosworth	2045	663	326
NW Leicestershire	2042	617	544
Oadby & Wigston	2042	389	197

HENA Growth Scenario with B8 Adjustments

8.10 Iceni has been working with the L&L authorities to consider the need for and apportionment of strategic B8 development. The findings from this work are set out in the *Leicester & Leicestershire: Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment* report, dated October 2025.

8.11 We have therefore also sought to test herein whether the apportionment of strategic B8 need has any impact on the homes/jobs balance or apportionment of housing provision within the HMA. To do so, Iceni has:

- Calculated the strategic B8 floorspace implied over relevant plan periods – this has included subtracting 2023-24 completions (where appropriate) to generate a figure starting from 2024 to align with the timeframes adopted herein. Whilst the strategic B8 evidence looks to 2046, for plans with shorter plan periods we have calculated a pro-rata need over the relevant plan period.¹⁶
- Calculated the additional FTE jobs implied by the strategic B8 floorspace recommendations for different districts, using a jobs density of 95 sq.m per FTE jobs, and adopting assumptions on displacement (25%) and substitution (20%). This is then compared to the jobs already included within the sector within the 2022 HENA labour demand modelling to calculate the quantum of jobs which are additional (or lower) relative to the HENA Growth Scenario and ensure no double counting.
- The final stage is then to apply a FTE to total jobs conversion (95%) – consistent to the HENA modelling; and then to consider wider supply chain and multiplier effects (adjusted for commuting) to calculate the net additional jobs which are expected to arise.

8.12 These calculations clearly only apply to districts where there is an apportionment of strategic B8 floorspace. The results, applied to the relevant plan periods, are shown in the table below.

Table 8.4 Housing Need to Support HENA Growth Scenario and Strategic B8 Apportionment

	Plan period end point	Standard Method (dpa)	Housing Need (dpa) HENA Growth Scenario adjusted for B8 apportionment
Blaby	2042	539	614
Charnwood	2046	992	566
Harborough	2046	735	565
Hinckley & Bosworth	2045	663	431
North West Leicestershire	2042	617	690

8.13 The chart below shows the effect of the strategic B8 apportionment on the economic-led housing need. It results in a housing need above the standard method arising in this scenario in Blaby (of 614 dpa) and in North West Leicestershire (690 dpa) only. It is notable that those districts in which a higher housing need arises through this analysis correlate with those in which there is already a

¹⁶ Blaby and NW Leicestershire to 2042, Hinckley & Bosworth to 2045

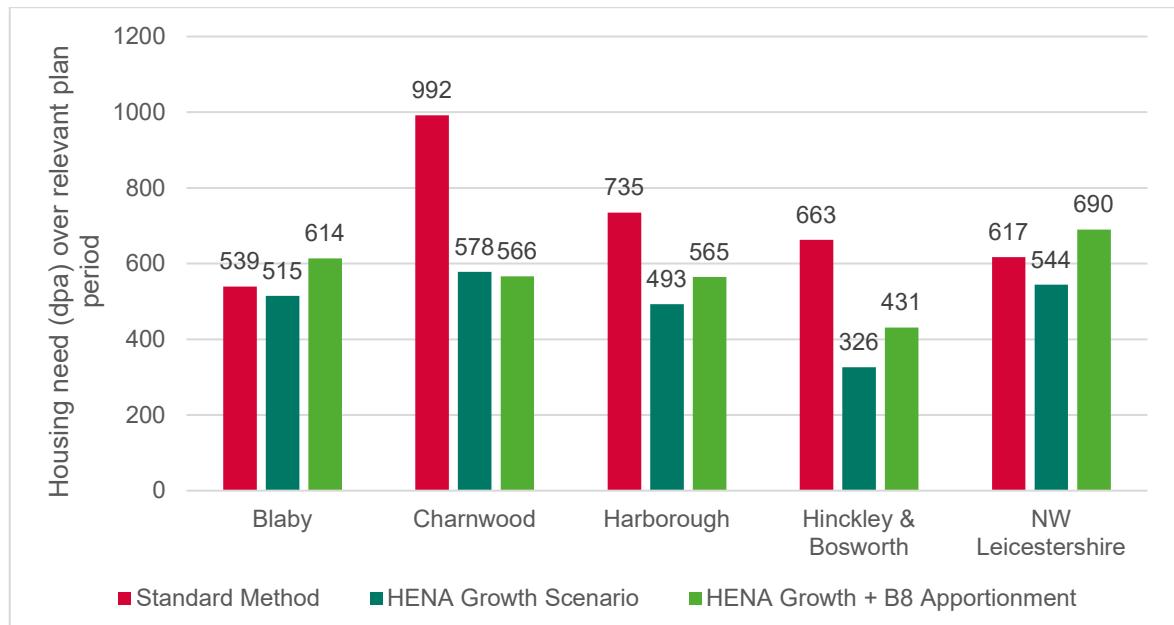
strong jobs density and net in-commuting – pointing to a broader rationale for higher housing provision to support the alignment of homes and jobs.

8.14 For North West Leicestershire, this economic-led need for 690 dpa exceeds the initial apportionment of unmet need based on the functional relationship – which was for 648 dpa, as set out in Table 7.8.

8.15 In how the modelling works, the economic-driven figure shown for Blaby here (614 dpa) implicitly assumes that the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (RFI) comes forwards to support jobs growth. The consenting process for this is separate to (and outside of) the local plan process and this cannot therefore be guaranteed; and this report does not imply that the proposed RFI scheme should or will come forwards. We have not therefore specifically taken forwards the economic-led need scenario here for Blaby. However it is notable that the the scale of need shown over the plan period to 2042 for Blaby arising from this scenario (614 dpa) falls below the apportionment arising based on the functional relationship analysis. This is considered further in drawing conclusions in the next section.

8.16 The figure for Charnwood drops in this scenario as the expected growth in warehousing and logistics is lower than assumed in the HENA Growth Scenario.

Figure 8.1: Comparison of economic-led housing need (with strategic B8 apportionment) and standard method, over relevant plan periods



8.17 In the other districts – Charnwood, Harborough and Hinckley & Bosworth - the analysis continues to suggest that the standard method will provide sufficient labour supply growth to support economic growth taking account of the strategic B8 apportionment conclusions.

9. BRINGING THE EVIDENCE TOGETHER

9.1 The HMA authorities are keen to see an approach to apportioning unmet needs which can be readily updated to take account of changes in the base housing needs position or the unmet needs arising from Leicester. The approach must also be designed to take account of the different plan periods to which different local authorities are working. These considerations have been taken into account in bringing together the different components of analysis. This is set out in Table 9.4 herein.

9.2 The starting point is the standard method figures for each authority (Row 1) and the quantum of Leicester's unmet need to 2036 (Row 2) and post 2036 (Row 3). The figures relating to the economic-led need for housing are fixed figures, based on the analysis of potential employment growth; whereas the apportionment of need based on functional relationships is based on percentage figures and can flex (for instance should the scale of unmet need change).

9.3 Comparing the initial apportionment based on the functional relationships analysis (Row 12) to the scale of housing need necessary to support alignment of homes and jobs (Rows 13 and 14) indicates that a higher apportionment of unmet need to North West Leicestershire would be justified to support an improved spatial alignment of homes and jobs (Row 15). It points to a proposed requirement for North West Leicestershire of 690 dpa with a contribution of +73 dpa to Leicester's unmet need.

9.4 Taking account of this, the residual unmet need (as shown in Rows 17 and 20) is then apportioned to the other Leicestershire authorities, besides Oadby & Wigston (as shown in Rows 18-20 and 21-22).¹⁷ Bringing this together with the proposed provision in NW Leicestershire, the proposed annual housing requirement figures to 2036 and post 2036 in different local authorities are set out in Rows 23 and 24.

Unmet Need to 2036

9.5 To apportion the unmet need to 2036 of 2,455 dwellings, we thus undertake an initial apportionment based on aligning homes and jobs. This results in an increased need in NW Leicestershire (+73 dpa additional homes over the standard method) in particular as strong jobs growth is envisaged in this

¹⁷ This uses the same process as described in Footnote 9 herein

District, but it has a relatively weaker functional relationship than the position with some other Districts. The residual unmet need (132 dpa) is then apportioned to the other authorities (besides O&W) based on their functional relationship to Leicester (Rows 21 and 22). The relative shares to each authority change from those shown in Table 7.6 as North West Leicestershire is excluded at this stage (see Table 9.4). This results in the following unmet need contributions from Leicestershire authorities between 2024-36 (as shown in Row 23 in Table 9.4).

Table 9.1 Apportionment of Unmet Need to 2036 – dpa

	Apportionment of Unmet Need to 2036 (dpa)
Blaby	45
Charnwood	45
Harborough	20
Hinckley & Bosworth	16
Melton	6
NW Leicestershire	73
Oadby & Wigston	0
Total	205

Unmet Need beyond 2036

9.6 For needs beyond 2036, the analysis is repeated with a first stage apportionment to North West Leicestershire (+73 dpa), on the same basis as described above, with the residual need then distributed to other districts (besides O&W) based on their functional relationship with the City. Over this period beyond 2036, the need has been calculated as it relates to different plan periods (as shown in Row 10 in Table 9.4 herein).

Table 9.2 Apportionment of Unmet Needs post 2036 – dpa

	Apportionment post 2036
Blaby	256
Charnwood	257
Harborough	112
Hinckley & Bosworth	91
Melton	34
North West Leicestershire	73
Oadby & Wigston	0
Total	823

Housing Requirement over relevant Plan Period

9.7 The housing requirement over the relevant plan period is influenced by the plan period end point. The apportionment of unmet need to 2036 is applied over a 12 year period (2024-36) with the housing need post 2036 then applied to different number of years, depending on the plan period end point.¹⁸

9.8 The final apportionments based on the current evidence are shown overleaf in Table 9.4.

Table 9.3 Final Apportionment of Housing Need over relevant plan periods

	Plan period end point	Requirement over plan period: total dwellings	Requirement (dpa) over plan period
Blaby	2042	11,776	654
Charnwood	2046	24,935	1,133
Harborough	2046	17,528	797
H&B	2045	14,933	711
Leicester	2046	24,251	1,102
Melton	2046	8,529	388
NW Leicestershire	2042	12,420	690
Oadby & Wigston	2042	7,002	389

¹⁸ Blaby and NW Leicestershire 6 years to 2042; and Hinckley & Bosworth 9 years to 2045. Figures for other authorities are calculated to 2046

Table 9.4 Final Apportionment of Unmet Need over Relevant Plan Periods

Row				Blaby	Charnwood	Harborough	H&B	Leicester	Melton	NWL	O&W	Total
A. Review of Need and Unmet Need												
1	Standard method (dpa)			539	992	735	663	1588	369	617	389	5892
		Total	dpa									
2	Leicester Unmet need to 2036			2455	205							
3	Unmet need 2036-46			8230	823							
4	Capacity to contribute to unmet need			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	
B. Initial Apportionment based on functional relationship												
5	Functional relationship to Leicester			31.5%	31.7%	13.8%	11.2%		4.2%	7.5%		
6	Contribution to unmet need 2024-36	2455		775	778	340	275	0	103	185	0	2455
7	dpa contribution to 2036			65	65	28	23	0	9	15	0	205
8	Contribution to unmet need 2036-46	8230		2597	2607	1138	923	0	344	621	0	8230
9	dpa contribution 2036-46			260	261	114	92	0	34	62	0	823
10	Plan period			2042	2046	2046	2045	2046	2046	2042	2042	
11	Implied requirement over relevant plan period			12,034	25,209	17,648	15,029	24,251	8,565	11,664	7,002	
12	Implied requirement based on functional relationship (dpa)			669	1146	802	716	1102	389	648	389	
C. Economic-led Need over relevant plan period												
13	HENA Growth Scenario need (dpa)			515	578	493	326	1,365	244	544	197	4,263
14	HENA Growth Scenario + B8 adjustment need (dpa)			614	566	565	431			690		
15	Economic-led Need exceeds initial apportionment on functional relationship			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
16	Economic uplift on Standard Method figure taken forwards									73		
D. Apportionment of residual unmet need based on functional relationship												
17	Residual unmet need to 2036 (dpa)		132									
18	Reapportionment based on functional distribution - %			34.1%	34.3%	15.0%	12.1%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	92.5%
19	Reapportionment based on functional distribution - dpa			45	45	20	16	0	6	0	0	
20	Residual unmet need post 2036 (dpa)	750										
21	Reapportionment based on functional distribution - %			34.1%	34.3%	15.0%	12.1%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	
22	Reapportionment based on functional distribution - dpa			256	257	112	91	0	34	0	0	
E. Final Apportionment												
23	Requirement to 2036 (dpa)			584	1,037	755	679	1,383	375	690	389	5,892
24	Requirement post 2036 (dpa)			795	1,249	847	754	765	403	690	389	
25	Plan period end point			2042	2046	2046	2045	2046	2046	2042	2042	
26	Requirement over plan period: total dwellings			11776	24935	17528	14933	24251	8529	12420	7002	
27	Requirement (dpa) over plan period			654	1,133	797	711	1,102	388	690	389	

Managing Future Changes

9.9 There is the potential for future changes in a) the standard method housing need figure for individual authorities; and b) the scale of unmet need, due to either changes in Leicester's housing need figure and/or further detailed evidence on land supply in Leicester.

9.10 The approach set out has been designed to be able to accommodate this. The alignment of homes and jobs results in fixed figures; allowing the iteration of the apportionment using functional relationships to flex based on changes in the scale of unmet need. The approach to managing changes is thus:

- For individual LPAs to take account of changes in the standard method figure for their area (up to the point of submission of the local plan);
- Where changes in the unmet need from Leicester City arise, consideration is given to how this is dealt with in the following order:
 - a). Joint working to review the capacity position and agree an updated working figure for unmet needs to 2046;
 - b). Apportioning the unmet need based on functional relationships initially using the average percentage figure in Table 9.4.
 - c). Discussion of whether there are capacity constraints which would preclude an authority from making a contribution or increasing its contribution. The emphases would be on the authorities concerned to justify this to other LPAs.
 - d). Comparison of this with evidence of housing needed to support employment growth based on the evidence herein (and any more recent testing of jobs/homes alignment within other LPAs' evidence where appropriate). The economic-led need figure is taken forwards where this exceeds the figure based on functional relationships;
 - e). Recalculate the distribution – as done in this Paper – through adjusting the functional relationship percentages to distribute the remaining need between the other authorities which are able to contribute.

9.11 The potential for Leicester's unmet need to change prior to the adoption of emerging local plans is a relevant consideration which individual local authorities may wish to consider, alongside land supply and infrastructure capacity evidence, in making judgments on the appropriate supply-side buffer to include within their local plans.

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