

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request that Leicester City Council provide me with the following information:

How much of the funding allocated to the Council under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Local Authority Competition in January 2013 has been spent to date?

ANSWER

Leicester City Council has spent £120,000 of funding allocated under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Local Authority Competition.

What is the name/names of the project(s) or scheme(s) on which the funding was spent?

The project was called "Square Mile". The funding proposal targeted an area of Leicester (covering three city wards: Abbey, Fosse and Western Park) with older housing that demonstrated multiple deprivation characteristics, including low income families, elderly households and households with ill health that are likely to fall into the definition of fuel poverty. This fuel poverty based initiative supplements other City Council activity in the same area.

What criteria are used to judge the success of the projects on which the money was spent?

The project proposal sought to both identify and engage with vulnerable members of the community to provide information, advice and support to as large a number of households as possible. This was achieved by a targeted mailshot, followed up by an Energy Agent working in the project area, engaging with partner organisations and community groups to attract new referrals to the scheme.

The project qualification criteria for householders to receive support through the scheme were to include one of the following:

- Households on a means tested benefit
- Low energy efficiency rating (below SAP 44)
- Over the age of 60
- Family member suffering ill health through living in cold / damp conditions
- The replacement of the heating appliance will be subject to:
- Boiler must be over 10 years old, D - G rated appliance, a back boiler or a faulty appliance that is uneconomic to repair

The project sought to provide assistance to 40 homes by providing heating and insulation upgrades to improve the thermal efficiency of domestic dwellings for both owner occupiers and private renting tenants living within the designated target area.

Given the short timescale for delivering the project its success was judged largely on achieving the required outputs, however, we also recorded the improved SAP ratings and predicted reduction of carbon emissions resulting from the measures. By 31st March 2013 we had completed installation of 47 'A' Rated replacement gas condensing boilers, together with heating control upgrades and loft insulation top ups.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.