

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:

We would like to request the following information:

Policies and procedures

1. What policies, procedures and regulations does the local authority have in place to manage, monitor or regulate the following:

a) Street furniture, such as advertising boards or café furniture

ANSWER: Street Cafés are required to have a licence. Where a licence is issued a condition is included in relation to the placement of furniture.

Please find attached our licensing policy in relation to advertising boards, please see attachment 1.

Please also find attached guidelines under our Planning department, please see attachment 2.

b) Parking on pavements

The City Council actively enforces parking restrictions where there is an existing Traffic Regulation Order in place. This includes issuing penalty charge notices to vehicles parked on pavements which are contravening a Traffic Regulation Order.

c) Wheelie bins that cause a pavement obstruction

Bins on the street are dealt with using the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which was amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 S46 and S47. Please find attached. Also please find attached Bins on street general information letter which is the first advisory letter that we send out to residents.

d) Shared spaces / surfaces

We do not have any specific policies or procedures in place to manage, monitor or regulate shared spaces/surfaces. However, when we consider any such proposals, whether generated by ourselves or by external parties, we subject them to detailed consideration and examination to determine their suitability. In particular we refer them to our Disabled Persons Access Officer and the Inclusive Design Advisory Panel which is chaired by a Councillor and attended by representatives of Vista, Leicester Centre for integrated Living and Guides Dogs for the Blind.

Parking

- 2. Has the local authority taken over the enforcement of minor parking offences from the police and if so which department has responsibility for this?**

The Parking Enforcement Team is responsible for dealing with parking contraventions and is part of the City Developments and Neighbourhoods Department.

Shared spaces

- 3. In the last 5 years how many shared space / surface schemes have been developed in the local authority area and where are they situated?**

In the last 5 years we have developed 3 schemes, the details are as follows:- Within the City Centre we have a pedestrianised area which has very limited access for motor vehicles for loading between 5am and 11am and at other times only by permit. It is constructed with flush paving which does not generally differentiate between footways and a carriageway, although some more recent schemes do retain a 3m asphalt central strip with the remaining area being block paved. We are currently constructing two streets (St Nicholas Place and Peacock Lane) as shared space areas which following examination of the design as set out in 1d above includes corduroy paving in a contrasting colour to identify where vehicles will be travelling.

- 4. How many shared space / surface proposed schemes have been turned down on grounds of safety?**

No shared space/surface schemes have been specifically turned down on grounds of safety, rather as part of the development process for schemes (as set out in 1d above) alternative solutions will have been agreed which would include appropriate segregation/delineation.

Equality monitoring and consulting blind and partially sighted people

- 5. During the planning process for changes to the built and street environment how does the local authority meet its Equality Act 2010 duty to monitor the effect on disabled people? How are blind and partially sighted people consulted during the planning process?**

The council's Inclusive Design Advisory Panel (IDAP) is generally consulted on major project and issues which arise. This includes representatives of Guide Dogs Association, Vista (our local organisation for visually impaired people) and Leicestershire Centre for Integrated living. The latter two reps are registered blind. The Leicester Disabled People's Access Group is also consulted on many schemes, and includes several visually impaired members. The council also employs a Disabled People's Access Officer who supports both these groups and is directly involved in major projects – including planning applications. The Equality Act 2010 does not have a duty to monitor the effects of council decisions/actions on disabled people. The Equality Act 2010 has a Public Sector

Equality Duty (PSED) which has 3 aims: elimination of discrimination; promotion of equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations between different groups of people/protected characteristics. The PSED applies to all protected characteristics, not just to disability. There are no prescribed actions for a local authority to take in carrying out this duty – it is up to the discretion of the individual authority as to how they will meet their PSED.

The approach taken by the Council to ensure that we eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people in general, including blind and partially sighted people, is to develop a body of expertise in inclusive design in partnership with representatives from local disability organisations and maintain that expertise for informing and challenging council decisions from the perspective of disabled users. This group is the Inclusive Design Advisory Panel which have supported the generation of Inclusive Design principles incorporated within the council's development plan. These principles have been embedded in main projects such as Connecting Leicester. Information on the Advisory Panel can be found on the council's website: <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/ep/planning/planningapplications/makeanapplication/adviceforapplicants/inclusivedesign/access-specialists/>

By ensuring that our urban and built spaces incorporate these principles, developed in collaboration with local disability organisations, and minimise barriers for disabled people, enabling them to enjoy our urban spaces along with non-disabled people across the range of protected characteristics a diverse city like Leicester has, we fulfil the third aim of the PSED in fostering good relations between different groups of people.

Consultation takes place on all major schemes using the council's main consultation platform, as well as contacting relevant community organisations. IDAP and its affiliates receive information on proposals and are invited to take part in consultation, ensuring that the views of disabled users are gathered and taken into account. The council does carry out equality impact assessments which highlight potential equality issues (although the Equality Act does not require these to take place) and all decision making reports include relevant equality implications for the decision at hand to ensure that Members making decisions have due regard of the equality implications.

- 6. When the local authority plans disruption such as pavement closures and other temporary obstructions such as scaffolding, how does the local authority meet its duty under the Equality Act 2010 to monitor the affect on disabled people? How do you consult with blind and partially sighted people about such disruption?**

The above people regularly comment on/ are consulted on temporary works associated with major projects.

Pavement repairs and accidents

7. How much has the local authority spent on pavement repairs over the last five years?

The expenditure on reactive highway repairs is as follows but this figure includes footway and carriageway repairs as we cannot provide a figure just for footway repairs.

2013/14 - £1.715m
2012/13 - £1.458m
2011/12 - £0.719m
2010/11 - £0.868m
2009/10 - £1.057m

8. How much has the local authority spent on litigation awards to people who have been injured from pavements in need of repair over the last five years?

2013/14 - £3900
2012/13 - £37,725
2011/12 - £12,012
2010/11 - £127,180
2009/10 - £90,885

9. Over the last five years, how many blind and partially sighted people have received compensation as a result of injuring themselves on a broken pavement?

We are unable to provide information as to the number of blind and partially sighted people who have received compensation as we do not collect this information as part of the claims handling process.

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

Pedestrian Crossings

10. What percentage of the pedestrian crossings maintained by the local authority, have:

- a) Tactile rotating cones? - 87% (404 from 466)
- b) Audible beeps? - 35% (161 from 466)
- c) Both? - 21% (98 from 466)

Bin collection

11. Does the local authority have any sort of scheme in place to help residents who are registered visually impaired to take out rubbish and take out/return recycling containers?

The Council offers an “assisted collection” for those households where there is no resident able to physically present their wheeled bin or orange bag at the kerbside on the day of collection.

Please see the link below:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/cl/waste-and-cleansing/waste/domestic-waste-collection/assisted-collections/>

Providing alternative formats

12. Over the last five years, how many council planning applications were given to residents in the following formats? Also please state the actual number of planning applications made each year.

	Braille	Audio	Word Documents/ Clear print	Total no of planning applications
2013/14	No record	No record	No record	2331
2012/13	No record	No record	No record	2010
2011/12	No record	No record	No record	2050
2010/11	No record	No record	No record	2090
2009/10	No record	No record	No record	1959

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The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

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

Information Governance Manager
Information and Support
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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.