

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:

Is your council planning to cut back on the funding and/or ceremonial duties of your mayor in the budget proposals being finalised for the financial year 2012/13.

The budget proposals for 2012/13 which are currently out to public consultation and are therefore still to be finalised and agreed, include a proposal to make savings relating to the Civic Office and associated expenses. The Civic Office supports the civic and ceremonial roles of Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Bailiff. In doing so we will be seeking to mitigate against any impacts in terms of the actual duties undertaken by these roles including ceremonial visits.

If so, please confirm the figure your council is hoping to save from the mayoral budget and the 2011/12 level of funding.

The saving proposed is £35,000. The budget for 2011/12 for the Civic Team is £188,000.

Please identify which - if any - of the following changes you are proposing to make:

Reducing the frequency of ceremonial visits undertaken by your mayor

This change is not being considered. However it should be noted Leicester has recently elected a city mayor and we expect some of the non-ceremonial duties traditionally carried out by our Lord Mayor to be undertaken by the City Mayor in future.

Stopping the mayoral car

This change is not being considered. However in line with our commitment to carbon reduction we will be exploring in the future whether there are more carbon efficient options.

Cutting back on expenses related to civic regalia (please give details)

This change is not being considered.

Any other area not described above (please give details).

Savings are proposed in relation to staffing of the function which supports the Lord Mayor and other civic and ceremonial roles.

If your council is cutting back on mayoral activities, is this expected to be a temporary measure or one that will continue for the foreseeable future?

The savings will be permanent.

If it is a long-term expectation that mayoral ceremonial activities will be reduced, has any impact assessment been conducted on the effects of this? (Please explain your answer)

See above - not applicable

Is your council considering scrapping the role of ceremonial mayor entirely?

This is not being considered.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

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: FOIA@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

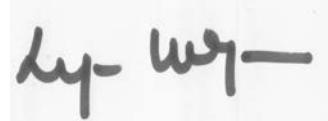
Wycliffe House

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ly-wy-

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager