

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:

In relation to Enterprise Area Policy in the relation to the above locations or for the Leicester City Council as a whole if a whole area approach was the preference could please forward to the following information;

- **Could you please outline how many of the overall initiatives outlined in the document were offered to the local business base?**
- **How were these initiatives promoted?**
- **In relation to those initiatives under the control of the Local Authority or local Regional Development Agency**
 - **Was fast track planning in relation to the Enterprise Area offered and what was the take up?**
 - **If fast track planning was not offered why not?**
- **Were there any other business support initiatives offered by the Local Authority / Regional Development Agency at the time?**
- **How did the local economy benefit from these measures? (as measured by ABI LAA or other PSA target)**
 - **From 2002 was there any annual uplift in business density?**
 - **From 2002 were any new businesses attracted to the area as a result of Enterprise Area status?**
 - **From 2002 was there any uplift in annual VAT registrations?**
 - **From 2002 was there any uplift in annual employment rates as firms grew?**
 - **From 2002 did the start-up rate per 10 000 of resident population change?**
- **Could any of these changes be attributed to Enterprise Area status?**
- **Could you please provide a copy of the Enterprise Strategy and / or Economic Development Strategy for the Leicester City Council**

Response

The Enterprise Area programme related to a package of relief support offered to businesses in deprived areas and therefore cut across many of the Council's directorates. It also seems to have had a limited time span before it was superseded by other initiatives. From our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without further clarification. Under section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a public authority need not comply with a request unless any further information reasonably required to locate the information is supplied. If a request is too broad or general in nature, then public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to the applicant in order to focus the request.

It would be useful to us if you could clarify your request in relation to enterprise support at the time so that we can assist you in your enquiry.

In particular whether your request specifically relates to the measures/activities under the enterprise area and their success, the time period you are specifically interested in, and as your enquiry is addressed to us as a local authority; whether you are specifically interested in the actions and services offered via the local authority in relation to the enterprise area at this time.

In the meantime please find the link to our LEP, <http://www.llep.org.uk/> . Under the key documents section you will find our current economic assessment and a draft economic development strategy.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require the Council to make a large number of enquiries to different Council divisions as well as external agencies. The correlation of this information from multiple sources may well involve accessing archived material. This extensive work will take us beyond the 18 hours allowed under the FOIA.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Local Authorities is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

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

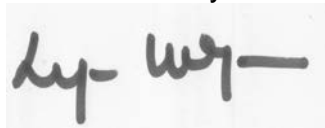
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: FOIA@leicester.gov.uk

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 'Lynn Wyeth', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth
Information Governance Manager