

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:

A. How much a year does your council spend on street clean up?

ANSWER

The net street cleaning budget for 2011/12 was £3,376,500.

B. If possible can you segregate those costs (roughly) i.e. how much is spent on general litter, fly posting, flyering and other costs to your street clean up?

It is not possible to segregate out the costs for individual actions such as removing flyposting.

C. Is fly posting/flyering an issue in your city?

It used to be a problem but since the introduction of the City warden Service in 2008 there has been extensive work with all the promoters and clubs and some high profile prosecutions, so it is no longer a problem.

D. Do you get complaints from the community about excessive flyering (do you class it as a form of graffiti)?

We have free distribution zones and those handing out have to be licensed so we get very few complaints.

E. What priority is the cleaning up of a flyer/poster in your city e.g. high, medium, low?

Low only the odd posters from premises outside of Leicester such as Birmingham and Nottingham and we don't have a problem with leaflets.

F. Who in your opinion is behind the majority of fly posting/flyering in your city?

Any posters are usually from businesses outside of the city.

G. From our experience in Bristol, the worst offenders are university students and nightclubs constantly trying too heavily promote too their key demographic. If this is the case

in your city are you in contact with the universities about the problem?

We work very closely with both our Universities and both are in the free distribution zones so no one unless licensed is allowed to hand anything out in these areas.

H. Do you hold the universities responsible or the individual?

The two university clubs are very responsible and use contracts with all promoters and we have no issues with posters or flyers from them.

I. Do you think your police force would benefit from additional information on the numbers of people congregating in different venues/clubs around your city?

No.

J. Has your borough ever charged a company under the s.224 and s.225 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990?

Yes we have had successful prosecutions in the Magistrates using 224 which led to a CRASBO order.

K. If so how much and how many have you charged, for what purpose also?

Not had to charge.

L. Did it work, has it deterred the prosecuted from doing it again?

No so we applied for a CRASBO and were successful.

M. If you haven't prosecuted yet why is that: Legal cost, Manpower, Didn't know you could etc.

We have used powers and prosecuted.

N. Have you tried any other ways to deter or stop companies/people from doing it?

Yes, now they use contracts with all the promoters and they tend to self-police.

**O. With the s.224 and s.225 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 getting reviewed this year, and potentially made a lot easier to prosecute is that something that would appeal to your council in future?
What would be the argument against prosecuting if say it became cheaper and easier to do so? (If any)**

We have already used powers including prosecution.

P. Is your city currently involved in the 'Green league'?

Assuming that this question refers to the Green League operated by the student network People & Planet, then Leicester City Council is not involved. Our understanding is that this League is open to academic institutions only. However, the Council maintains good working relationships with both De Montfort University and the University of Leicester in terms of environmental improvement and sustainable development in Leicester.

Q. Is your city concerned about being 'Green' and 'Sustainable'?

Yes, very much so. For example, the eight priority themes set in the City Mayor's programme include: "Leicester: a low carbon city" and "The built and natural environment around us in Leicester". The Leicester Partnership (the City's Local Strategic Partnership) has an Environmental Experts Reference Group to co-ordinate work towards these goals. Leicester City Council itself has an Environmental Policy and operates to the European Union's standard for good environmental management: the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

R. If so what practices does your city do to reduce your carbon footprint etc.

Leicester City Council publishes an annual Environmental Statement setting out its own environmental objectives and targets, and summarising key actions being taken to achieve them. A copy of the most recent Statement, covering the period April 2011 to March 2012, is available to view or download at <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/ep/the-environment/environmental-policies-action/>. Recent and current actions being taken include:

- Combined heat and power (CHP) – an energy efficient network to supply heating to buildings around Leicester;
- 'Hot Lofts' - loft and cavity wall installations for housing;
- Local Transport Plan - includes measures to tackle congestion and encourage lower carbon transport modes;
- 'Plugged in Places' – installation of electric vehicle charging points;

- ‘Orange bag’ recycling scheme – new improved recycling scheme collecting a wider range of recyclable materials from households.

A document is to be published in the summer, setting out Leicester’s city-wide programme to address climate change.

S. Is there any process in place that enables you to reach your demographics about the ongoing activities your council is supplying to your community. I.e. do you have a strong following of your councils website from your community, if not how do you get in contact with them if need be?

We have a variety of channels of communication and engagement with our communities and will use the most appropriate channels for the issue we are communicating. These channels include:

- A quarterly civic magazine – Leicester Link – which is distributed to every home in the city
- Our council website, which receives over four million visits a year
- Ward community meetings, which are held regularly in the 22 wards of the city and allow local residents to discuss issues with councillors and representatives of other organisations like the Police and NHS
- Social media – we make extensive use of Twitter to announce council news and publish timely advice about key issues
- Local media – we have strong relationships with our local media and ensure they have access to information on all of the key issues the council is dealing with. This includes small community radio stations who broadcast to specific parts of the community.

T. Is there anything you would like to change in regards to how you get in contact with your community?

We are always looking for new, effective channels of communication that will help people to understand what the council is doing and what help, information and advice they can access.

This is especially important as the traditional channels of communication become less effective – particularly the role of the local media. For example, our local newspaper has lost around 10% of its circulation in the last year alone; its importance in helping to provide a bridge for information to pass to local communities is rapidly diminishing, so we need to look at how we communicate with that lost audience through more effective means.

U. If there was an idea which sets its goal to reduce councils problems with the issues I have raised (fly posting and flyering), that also could potentially increases the cities standing within the ‘Green League’ and give yourselves a

direct link between your news and your community, would you be happy to support it? (I am of course aware of many if, buts and maybe come within that question, but would you at least be interested in hearing more?)

Yes, the Council is open to considering new ideas. An idea relating to environmental improvement could be sent to environment@leicester.gov.uk for initial consideration.

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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

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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

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