

Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group

Notes of the Meeting Friday 10 November 2023 10.30am – 12.30pm

Attendees

Liz Blackshaw - Chair	Action on Infant Feeding
Peter Lewis - Vice Chair	Equality Action, Loughborough
Alison Adams	Diocese of Leicester
Anne Lawrence	Leicestershire Deaf Association
Lucy Smith	Older People via Blaby Arts
Mina Rogers	Older Peoples Engagement Network
Resham Singh	Interfaith Forum/Sikh Welfare
Tad Stenzel	Polish Community, Melton Mowbray

Apologies

Anne Glasper	Shepshed Foodbank
Cath Bayley	VISTA
Dr Lyn Williams	Nursing
Dr Iris Lightfoote	Race Equality Centre
Jill Vincent	Charnwood Arts
Leela Damodaran	Digital Technologies & Social Inclusion CIC
Mathew Hulbert - Vice Chair	True Colours LBGT Events, Hinckley & Bosworth
Pam Sly	Leicestershire Deaf Association

Presenters

Vicky Cormie,	LCC Environment & Transport
Jeremy Braithwaite	LCC Environment & Transport

Support Officers

Barry Daws	BSL Interpreter
Jill Henshaw	BSL Interpreter
Leon Charikar	LCC Chief Executive's
Carine Cardoza	LECG Policy Support Officer

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Liz Blackshaw welcomed everyone to the LECG meeting, and introductions were made.

2. Notes of the previous meeting: 19th May 2023

The notes of the 8th of September 2023 were passed as an accurate record with following points:

Word360

Dr Lyn Williams says conversations with health colleagues ongoing.
Mathew Hulbert to provide update on response from the Patient Participation Group.

Bus Passes

Mathew Hulbert to feedback from Leicestershire Bus Users Group meeting.

3. Proposed Changes: LCC Recycling and Household Waste Site Service

Jeremy Braithwaite and Vicky Cormie, from LCC's Environment & Transport Department did a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the savings proposals for Waste and Recycling sites across Leicestershire.

Following the presentation, LECG members raised these concerns:

- if the Shepshed tip closes then 20,000 households will have to travel to the other side of Loughborough, to Coalville or Mountsorrel, these sites will experience long queues.
- closure of sites may lead to an increase in fly tipping in both urban and rural areas
- costs can be significant to clear up illegal dumping of waste/fly tipping, and may lead to rises in council tax, so is it worth closing three sites which may impact on costs even further for clearing up illegal dumping?
- need to back up online consultation with focus groups to get views from hard-to-reach groups, particularly older people, some of whom are not computer literate
- review which languages require translation, may not be essential for some
- distance and travel times to alternate waste sites is not straight forward, congestion and built-up areas can be an issue
- Those with cars will travel further and queue, creating a negative impact on communities and wildlife
- Those without cars, will be further impacted as they will need to store the waste material until it can be collected by the recycling and waste management system. Another eco nightmare
- false economy for LCC to propose the closure of some waste sites as the populations are increasing, the number of households in Leicestershire is increasing and if the growing towns lose their tips, then countryside risks becoming disfigured by multiple fly tipping sites, in addition to a shortage of GPs, dentists, a leisure centre and shops to draw new residents into local towns, instead of spending money on the way home from their places of work
- more public communication on the proposals needs to be made, i.e.
 - posters in local libraries, leisure centres, etc.
 - provide a full year of information on opening times
 - clear information on which sites 'do what'

Options for LCC to consider:

- provide more mini accessible local waste sites
- provide small electrical drop off points in centre of towns or community neighbourhoods (like bottle banks)
- continue using Leicestershire Matters to communicate changes
- promote the council's bulk waste collection service.

Vicky thanked members for their feedback. She said that fly tipping was illegal, it was a complex issue affected by many factors such as commuter routes, deprivation, and that it was being monitored. LCC is currently looking at options such as keeping some sites open on a part time basis or keeping all sites open but with less hours. However, she said there are negative impacts on recruitment and retention of staff on 37-hour full time contracts and some staff live locally to sites and do not have a car, so travelling to other sites may be difficult.

The chair thanked Vicky and Jeremy for attending the meeting and asked members to respond to the consultation and promote it with their contacts and networks [using this link to the consultation questionnaire](#).

For general enquiries about the consultation, or to request a paper copy or alternative format of the consultation questionnaire, members can telephone 0116 3050001 or email Waste.Projects@leics.gov.uk

The deadline is 24th January 2024. After this, LCC officers will analyse the results and a report will be presented to the council's Cabinet in spring 2024.

3.1 Follow Up Action

Vicky Cormie to provide written feedback to LECG informing on how LECG's comments were considered in LCC's Cabinet report.

4. Refreshing LECG Membership

A discussion on reviewing current LECG membership was held, and members raised following concerns:

- LCC website which lists community groups and organisations is out of date
- loss of task & finish groups, when LECG transferred from Age UK to LCC
- review the weekday of meetings required, previous preference was for a fixed day in the week but shift back to rotating days might be needed
- there are gaps in representation of some protected characteristics groups
- need careful balance on size of the group, too large would make it difficult to manage and unwieldy
- repeated requests for LCC's Forward Plan, has not been met.

4.1 Follow Up Action

Carine to contact:

- those members with poor attendance and ask do they want to continue being a member of LECG or do they want to nominate a substitute
- carry out a survey with members to find out majority preference on LECG meeting day.

LECG Exec Group to consider gaps in membership.

Leon to provide for January LECG meeting:

- LCC Forward Plan
- Dates and times of LCC Cabinet meetings.

5. LCC Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Draft Strategy (EDI) 2024 – 2028

Leon Charikar, LCC Chief Executives [presented the consultation plan for the council's EDI strategy](#). A report on final strategy will be sent to Cabinet in April 2024 followed by a report to Full Council in May 2024.

The chair thanked Leon and for the presentation, a brief discussion was held, and the following points were made:

- LECG members to contact Leon if they want to be part of a task group to develop and finalise the draft strategy
- how is the EDI Strategy engaging with and making available interpreting services for those who need them?
- how is LCC connecting this strategy with the Integrated Care Board and the commissioning of these services?
- attention required to use of acronyms in the document.

5.1 Follow Up Action

Leon to consider the above points in developing the draft EDI strategy and engage with external bodies such as the Integrated Care Board.

Leon to provide feedback to LECG on consultation results.

6. Any Other Business

As the meeting was running out of time, [the Analysis report of LCC Consultations Considered by LECG](#) was deferred to the next meeting in January.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting will be 'in person' at the NSPCC Centre, Leicester, LE4 1EZ on Friday 26th January 2024. Future 2024 dates to be confirmed.