

City Centre Director  
June 2019 Update  
Report

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## Regeneration News

### City council agrees loan to support Leicester Cathedral Revealed project

Leicester City Council is to loan almost £1m to Leicester Cathedral to help enable it to create a new Heritage Learning Centre. The cathedral has raised more than £9million of the £11.3m it needs to carry out the ambitious Leicester Cathedral Revealed project, which in addition to repairs to the historic fabric, will create a new heritage centre beside the main building with exhibition, interpretation and learning spaces telling the story of the 2,000-year-old site. Since the reinterment of King Richard III, the cathedral and the city have experienced a sharp rise in visitor numbers, and the project is designed to provide an improved visitor experience while protecting the historic setting of the cathedral and Cathedral Gardens.

Leicester City Council has therefore agreed to make up to £950k available as a loan to the cathedral, to ensure the work can begin in 2020 and continue on schedule and on budget, with the aim of completing the entire project by 2022. The city council is proposing making the money available to the cathedral from its reserves, at a rate of four percent interest per annum, to be repaid in 2024. After taking into account other repayments, the loan will produce £14k a year surplus for the city council. The loan comes under the city council's Investment Strategy, which was set out in February 2019, and includes property investments and other loans to third parties where doing so would promote economic development and benefit the city.

Leicester City Mayor Peter Soulsby said: "Leicester Cathedral is at the heart of both the city and county, and the Leicester Cathedral Revealed project will benefit not only Cathedral Gardens and the surrounding public realm, but also build further on the tourism boom the city has experienced following the King Richard III story. "It makes sense for us to make this loan available, to ensure the cashflow is there when the cathedral needs it. It also means we get a better return on our investment than we would do by relying on the tiny levels of interest accumulated by leaving this money in our reserves, which we are otherwise obliged to do. "I'm very pleased that we are in the position to make this investment in one of the city's best-known landmark buildings and resting place of King Richard III."

In welcoming the council's support, the Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, added: "It's very important to both cathedral and city that this project succeeds, and I cannot overstate the importance of having the funding available to allow us to start work. We don't expect to make use of this loan facility until 2021. "In fact, we will be making every effort to ensure we don't need to use it at all because we are doing everything we can to raise the final £2.3m before then." Leicester Cathedral secured National Lottery Heritage Funding (NLHF) back in 2017 to enable the project design, development and to kick-start a wider fund-raising strategy, resulting in a £3.3m NLHF grant. A total of £9million has now been secured by the cathedral.

## **£8.5 million link road secured for proposed city centre bus route**

Council bosses have now secured all the land they need to create a new £8.5 million link road in Leicester city centre. The proposed route for buses will run between Mansfield Street and Belgrave Gate. The link road, currently a car park where the ABC cinema once stood, will provide a short route out of the city centre for some 34 buses an hour. The link will remove the need for buses to travel down Belgrave Gate past the Clock Tower and down Churchgate. It has taken the council more than four years to secure the land it needs to build the road and it was forced to apply to the Government for a compulsory purchase order (CPO) to get control of a vital area from an owner.

A city council spokeswoman said: “We have been granted a CPO to purchase other pieces of land required to construct the scheme and the challenge period for this decision has now passed. “The process to transfer the land from the current owners to the city council takes three months and this process can now begin. “The value of the land will be determined by a Lands Tribunal if agreement can’t be reached between the city council and current owners.”

The authority has already bought land belonging to G.S Fashions Ltd, currently used as a car park, for £1.7 million but is leasing this back to the company to operate as a car park until works are ready to start. Pedestrians cut through the car park on a daily basis heading from the St Margaret’s Bus Station towards the city centre and back, so an official footpath will be included in the scheme as well as a new cycle route. Work on Mansfield Street itself is meant to ensure greater pedestrian safety for those accessing this part of the city and will enable the introduction of a two-way traffic flow on this road between Short Street and Sandacre Street.

Companies have now been invited to bid to build the road and various contractors are being considered. Once a contract is awarded, it is hoped work will start in the autumn and be complete by spring 2020. City mayor, Peter Soulsby said: “By creating this road, we will be able to improve journey times for the thousands of people who use bus services each day and provide a much-improved direct pedestrian link between St Margaret’s and the Haymarket bus station. “Once that is done we will be able to progress with the pedestrianising of the area around the Clock Tower and of Churchgate which people say really needs improving. “It’s a narrow area road in one of the busiest parts of the city and would be vastly improved by removing the buses.”



*Artist's impression of Belgrave Gate after the link road is built*

## **Flats between Leicester's 2 biggest night clubs**

Leicester City Council has given the go-ahead for the 267 apartments to be built on a 1.2-acre car park site, off Sandacre Street, near Club Republic and Blueprint. The multi-million scheme includes two 'L-shaped' blocks – one 11 storeys high, the other eight – which would also be close to the St Margaret's bus station.

The developers, London-based Delph Property Group, say the scheme will provide much needed private rental sector accommodation in the city and that it has worked with council officials to come up with a suitable design. The scheme includes a 54-space car park. The city council's case officer said the scheme was 'high quality and well designed'. He also said it would assist the council to meet its Government-set targets to provide land for housing. There will be no affordable homes included in the scheme. The council says that this is regrettable but has agreed with the developer that the scheme would not be profitable if providing affordable housing had been a condition of getting planning permission. The council cites a case in London where a block of flats was built near an existing night club. Permission was refused by the local council but then called in by the mayor and approved with conditions that noise mitigation measures be included such as acoustic glazing and sealed windows.



*How the Sandacre Street flats will look (Image: Leicester City Council website)*

## **Phoenix Cinema gets nearly £600k more for expansion that will double screens**

Nearly £600,000 has been committed to an ambitious expansion of Leicester's Phoenix cinema. Bosses at the Cultural Quarter venue are looking to raise some £7.1 million to double the number of screens from two to four and create a bigger bar and café area, a roof terrace and an enlarged art gallery. The Garfield Weston Foundation charity will put £250,000 into the scheme with a further £100,000 from The Foyle Foundation. The BFI has committed £220,000 to the project. That money will be added to The Arts Council's £4 million into the venture. Leicester City Council has committed £1 million as well as the land needed.

Phoenix chief executive officer John Rance said: "It is hugely encouraging to have the support of both the Garfield Weston and Foyle foundations - two of the UK's most respected charitable institutions investing money into Leicester. "We are making strong progress towards our fundraising target and confident in our ability to raise the remaining funds we need. We would welcome any support to get us over the finish line."

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK with grants around £70 million annually. It has donated over £1 billion to charities since it was established in 1958. The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making Trust supporting UK charities which has become a major funder of the Arts and Learning. Phoenix now the

has money it requires to begin building in early 2020 though it still needs to raise some £1.3 million. It is planning further grants and will next month launch a public appeal for cash. It may also seek to raise money through offering naming rights for the new cinema screens and the gallery.



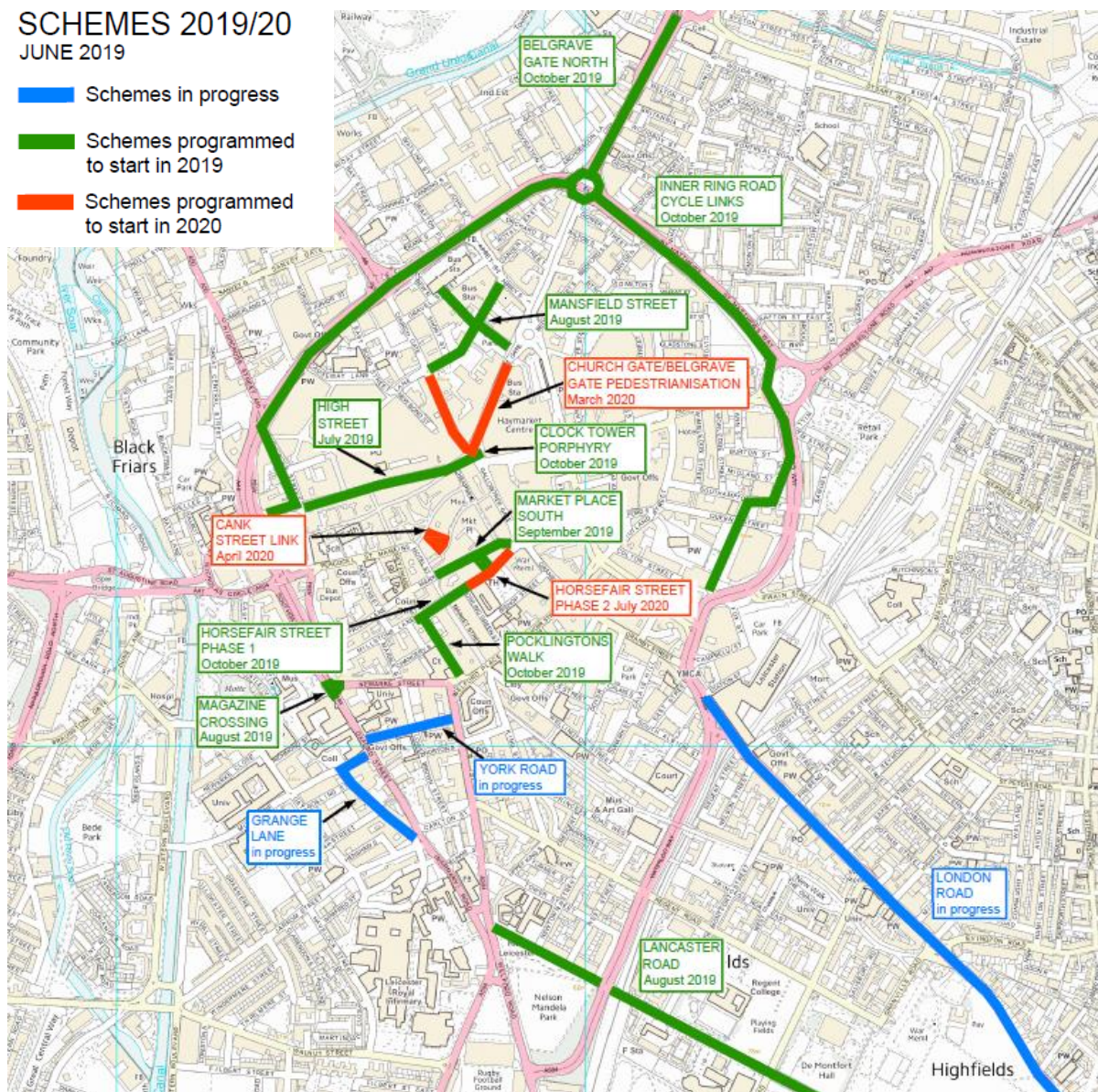
How the expanded Phoenix will look



### 17 major projects set to transform Leicester city centre - and when they'll start

SCHEMES 2019/20  
JUNE 2019

- █ Schemes in progress
- █ Schemes programmed to start in 2019
- █ Schemes programmed to start in 2020



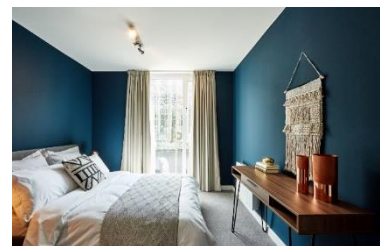
- **Abbey Park Road - Provisional start date – November 2019**  
A £1million scheme to put a segregated cycle lane along the route. It will improve access to a new 1,200 place secondary school being built on the former bus depot site due to open in 2021. Government funded through Transforming Cities Fund.
- **Belgrave Gate North - Provisional start date – October 2019**  
Cycle lane provision and pedestrian access works to make it easier for people to get from the city's northern suburbs to its centre. Government funded through Transforming Cities Fund.
- **St Matthew's Way Inner Ring Road - Provisional start – October 2019**  
Along with the Belgrave Gate North scheme, this project forms part of a £3 million package. Segregated cycle lanes will go along the stretch of the busy ring road.
- **Mansfield Street - Provisional start date – August 2019**  
Works to improve the road near the police station are part of a long-term plan to improve access to the St Margaret's bus station so buses will no longer have to pass by The Clock Tower.
- **Clock Tower resurfacing - Provisional start date – October 2019**  
This £1.8 million scheme will see one of the busiest parts of the city centre repaved with materials similar to those use to create Jubilee Square and Cathedral Gardens. It will be the first major work to the area for more than a decade.
- **Churchgate pedestrianisation - Provisional start date – March 2020**  
A key project to improve what was once one of the city's main shopping streets. A new link road between Mansfield Street and Belgrave Gate will keep the buses away from the Clock Tower.
- **Cank Street knock-through - Provisional start date – April 2020**  
The city council has bought a block of largely disused shops for £1.8 million and intends to demolish some of them to create a new link between St Martin's and the new market square.
- **Market Place South - Provisional start date – September 2019**  
Millions of pounds has already been spent renovating the area round the market, the next phase is the redevelopment of the outdoor market including decoration, better signage and branding. The new lighting scheme will improve product display and new trading units will be created, and the canopy awning will be replaced.
- **Horsefair Street and Pocklington's Walk - Provisional start date – October 2019**  
A key route into the city centre from the south, especially for buses. Footways will be widened, and segregated cycle facilities provided where necessary. Bus stops and taxi ranks will be relocated and the whole space made more user friendly. Some £1.8 million of European Regional Development Fund cash has been secured to improve these street and the market place.
- **Magazine Crossing - Provisional start date – August 2019**  
A £200,000 plan to widen the crossing near this landmark building to accommodate growing numbers of cyclists and pedestrians using it.



- Grange Lane and York Road - Provisional start date – Underway**  
 Work to improve the pedestrian crossing from Bonners Lane over the Oxford Street section of the inner ring road as well as improvements for cyclists. Grange Lane is currently closed off near the Swan and Rushes pub but the council plans to open it up to traffic leaving Oxford Street. Grange Lane will then become one way with a contraflow segregated cycle lane. Tree planting is also proposed along with traffic calming measures.
- London Road - Provisional start date – Underway**  
 This is a £3.9 million scheme to run cycle-lanes up the A6 from the rail station as far as Victoria Park.
- Lancaster Road - Provisional start date – August 2019**  
 A companion scheme to the London Road project, this £1 million scheme will see a new cycle lane run across Victoria Park and then on past the Central fire station to the city centre.
- High Street - Start date – 8 July 2019**  
 Work will replace existing damaged granite slabs with a mix of materials most closely matching the finish of Peacock Lane by Cathedral Gardens.

**Take a look inside stunning flats at Leicester’s new apartment complex, The Wullcomb**

Images of the £43 million apartment complex, Wullcomb, Leicester’s first purpose-built Build to Rent scheme (‘BTR’) opposite Highcross in Vaughan Way, reveal stylish interiors and spacious living areas with luxurious touches. The scheme is owned by Long Harbour, delivered in partnership with local developer Sowden, Winvic Construction and Franklin Ellis as lead architect. CRTKL designed the apartments creating refined furnishings and state of the art technology. Open to customers later this summer, the 297 one- and two-bedroom apartments and studios come with furnished or unfurnished options. Always designing with the end user in mind, these high-performing residential buildings support communities and build critical connections to surrounding uses and offer vibrant and inviting places to live. The scheme will be managed by Long Harbour’s in-house management company Way of Life.



“The team at CRTKL have more than delivered on our vision,” said Way of Life Managing Director Sowgol Zarinchang. “We wanted to create an interior that was edgy and fresh but wholly functional. The talented designers have tuned into the small details too, incorporating features that represent Leicester’s heritage.” The company’s Residential Director, John Badman, worked very closely with Long Harbour and Way of Life on a joint vision for The Wullcomb.

“When we arrive at a new location, it’s extremely important to contribute to a community and understand what makes a place unique. We apply a humanist-driven design process to better understand how people live and their values, to create places and amenities that will connect with them, their neighbourhood and their lifestyles. “A lot of the materials, colours and textures used throughout The Wullcomb were inspired by the hosiery and clothing manufacturing industry that the city is known for. Other features of the development include a cinema room, a shared living area called The Perch and a rooftop terrace with a wood-fired pizza oven, reflecting Way of Life’s drive to create a sense of community among its residents.

## Work starts on new restaurant, bar, retail and office space in Cultural Quarter

Builders have begun working on a new development in Leicester city centre. Leicester City Council approved plans for Park Portfolio Ltd to convert Assurance House, Rutland Street into a new space for 'working, relaxing and entertaining'. Assurance House - which comprises three buildings - will be refurbished and extended to provide financial and professional services, retail, and office space. A new restaurant and bar/pub will also be included on the ground floor. The development, located in the city's Cultural Quarter, will be spread over four floors following a single-storey extension.

It will create an additional 27 jobs in the building, bringing the total number of full time employees to 57. Computer generated images of how Assurance House will look were included in documents submitted to the city council by Staniforth Architects. On behalf of the applicant, they said: "The proposals intend to improve and enhance a prominent building through the provision of high-end, inspiring accommodations for both working, relaxing and entertaining, whilst respecting and adding to the character of Leicester's Cultural Quarter."

They continued: "Works to the front of the two existing buildings take the approach of a sensitive addition, using considered materials, detailing and proportions for the new shop fronts and entrance doors. "These elements have been sympathetically integrated into the historic fabric and seek to preserve the character and appearance of St George's Conservation Area." The city council supported the development in its planning decision documents. It said: "The proposed use would support a key aim of the St Georges South area which is to create connecting routes and mixed city centre uses to support, reinforce and complement cultural and leisure attractions and city centre living. "It is considered that the extension preserves the character and appearance of the conservation area." It added that no car or cycle parking was required of the development, due to the nearby NCP car park, and provision of on street and cycle parking nearby.



*Image: Leicester Mercury / Chris Gordon*



*How Assurance House will look once work is completed (Image: Staniforth Architects)*

## **Metro Bank to open branch at Clock Tower location**

Metro Bank was granted permission to open a new branch at a prominent corner of the Haymarket shopping centre. The retail bank plans to merge two existing units, currently occupied by The Body Shop and Clarks. It says the opening will create new jobs in the financial services sector, and provide additional banking choice for local people

In the documents, Metro Bank added: "Planning permission was granted by way of appeal on 8 April 2019 for the amalgamation of the existing units and installation of a new double height glazed shopfront at the site, as well as ATMs. "This permission not only allowed for the modernisation of this prominent corner site, but also secured the first Metro Bank in Leicester, creating new jobs in the financial services sector and providing additional banking choice for local people."

Commenting on the plans, a spokesperson for Clarks told LeicestershireLive: "We are planning to relocate our existing Clarks store to a new premises in Leicester. "We are currently in negotiations with our landlords, so can't comment any further on location or timescales at this stage."



*How new Metro Bank branch in Leicester could look, according to plans*

## **How Leicester's new Novotel hotel in £50m scheme will look**

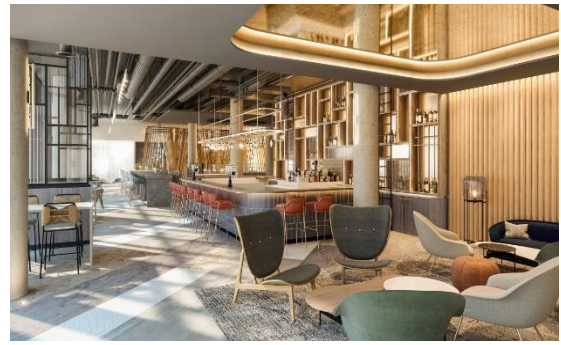
Pictures reveal for the first time how Leicester's newest hotel will look once it is completed. The 154-room Novotel is situated in the city's former Great Central Railway site in Vaughan Way, opposite Highcross. It is part of a £50m scheme which also includes six-storey Aparthotel Adagio, a five-storey office block and a new public space called Great Central Square. Works on the development, dubbed Project Medius, are expected to be completed by the end of 2019. Interior design consultancy Konzept ID has now revealed stunning visuals which show how the Novotel will look inside.

The Accor-owned hotel will feature light installations, sweeping statement staircases and a unique blend of classic textures and contemporary finishes. Konzept is responsible for the design and fit-out of public areas, which includes the lobby café and co-working space, as well as restaurant, bar, meeting rooms and gym. The interiors expert also worked alongside sister company, Leach Rhodes

Walker Architects, on the project's room implementation. Jenny Denton, director at Konzept ID, said: "The opportunity to work on a pair of new sites allows us to truly exercise our creative flair. "It's been an exciting project from the offset and we look forward to seeing the two buildings come to life." Ana Jorge, director of design and technical services at Accor UKI, added: "We are renowned for offering distinctive hotels in key locations and this new sites makes a fantastic addition to our portfolio." Project Medius is being delivered for Thurmaston-based property group Charles Street Buildings. The scheme makes up part of the ongoing regeneration of the city's Waterside area.



Restaurant (Image: Konzept ID)



Bar (Image: Konzept ID)



Bridal bedroom (Image: Konzept ID)



First floor breakout (Image: Konzept ID)

## Business News

### Leicester-based Octopus Energy named best in Britain at the 2019 Which? Awards

Leicester’s Octopus Energy has been named the best utilities brand in Britain. The green energy supplier, which only launched in 2016, claimed top spot at the 2019 Which Awards. It was the only energy firm to achieve top ratings across all categories in the consumer watchdog’s customer survey of energy providers. The recognition comes on the back of being named a Which recommended energy provider for 2018 and 2019. The annual awards were hosted in London by BBC business presenter Steph McGovern and Which? chief executive Anabel Hault, and honour the brands that deliver the best products and customer service in Britain.

Octopus Energy, which has more than 80 staff in Leicester, recently announced its commitment to the city by signing a five-year lease on new offices at 1 Colton Square, near the city’s railway station. The business – which supplies 100 per cent renewable electricity – plans to take on another 80 staff over the next 12 months. It sells gas and electricity to more than 650,000 UK homes and businesses across the UK. It originally chose Leicester as its base after considering 82 other cities, opening here three years ago with just one member of staff. The award came on the back of a recent survey which ranked Octopus as the best dual fuel supplier in Britain.

Chief executive Greg Jackson said: “We are very excited to be continuing to grow our current presence in Leicester, welcoming graduates into the world of work and boosting regional growth at

the same time.” Founded by technology entrepreneurs, Octopus said it was “redefining what is possible for customers and the system by using technology and data to deliver the best products and experience”. The business is backed by £7 billion fund managers Octopus Capital, which has invested £2 billion in UK renewable generation, and whose ventures arm has backed UK businesses such as Zoopla, LoveFilm, Graze, Secret Escapes and SwiftKey.



*Octopus Energy Business Solutions director Zoisa Walton with founder and CEO Greg Jackson*

### **East Midlands Chamber signs up to mental health pledge**

The representative body of businesses in the East Midlands has committed to a drive aimed at changing attitudes to mental health in the workplace. Scott Knowles, chief executive of the East Midlands Chamber, signed the "Time to Change" pledge, a social movement led by mental health charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, in front of staff and guests at the organisation's Chesterfield office. The drive now involves thousands of people in England and Wales and states the signing organisation will pledge to "change the way we think and act about mental health at work".

Mr Knowles said: "It is estimated that one-in-four workers are affected by anxiety, depression and stress. The average cost of mental health to business is over £1,000 per employee each year and most affected employees will give a different reason for any resulting absence. "Looking after mental health is clearly very important and offering the right support leads to a more positive workforce. Nobody is immune from mental health challenges and nobody should be afraid to articulate their concerns."

### **What to expect and how to get involved in the 2019 Leicester Business Festival**

Preparations are underway for the fifth annual Leicester Business Festival this Autumn, with applications now open for businesses that want to get involved. The annual fortnight of workshops, discussions and marketing seminars returns on October 28, with more than 100 events set to be included. Last year an estimated 1,200 businesses took part in 114 events, helping to raise the profile of the city and county on a national stage. Of the 7,000-plus people who attended, 20 per cent were from outside the region. Stand-out events included a High Streets of Tomorrow session, looking at how to thrive in local market towns; business breakfasts with local MPs; workshops looking at brand strategy; and even an interactive session on how Lego can improve problem solving, communication and performance.

The 2019 plans include getting more events into the wider county rather than just the city – last year 81.5 per cent of events were in Leicester – and a push for bigger venues to hold multiple events. Associate Events managing director Alister de Ternant said the Department for International Trade and East Midlands Airport were among those already interested in taking part, to share their expertise with businesses interested in importing and exporting.

This year the festival is chaired by Scott Charlish, head of East Midlands financial planning at wealth management firm Brewin Dolphin. He said, “It’s exciting time for the business festival having reached the big five-year mark. This is regarded as quite a milestone in business survival rate terms. “We’ve got lots of great plans in the pipeline for the festival, but right now, we would like businesses – large or small to get involved – and there are many ways to do so, whether this is partnering, sponsoring, running one, two or several events, or being a venue host. “I would encourage people to look at the website for more information: <https://www.leicesterbusinessfestival.com/>.

### **Richard III & Leicester City FC boost trade links between Leicestershire and Sichuan in China**

Leicester and Leicestershire have been strengthening their trade links with the province of Sichuan in southwestern China. As tensions over tariffs continue between China and the US, the county council hosted a delegation of officials from the province, which is home to around 90 million people. The region, about the size of Spain, has been twinned with Leicestershire since 1988, and the visit built on an agreement to boost trade and investment, as well as educational links and tourism between the two areas, which was signed last year.

County Hall said partnerships between the UK and China were worth “billions to the economy”. It has been reported that imports and exports between Sichuan and the UK are rising and 18 months ago had a combined value of around £735 million. Leicestershire firms with strong links to China include Norton Motorbikes in Castle Donington, and Next Plc, based in Enderby. Sichuan had a GDP of around \$600 billion in 2018, while Leicester and Leicestershire’s GDP is worth around £24 billion a year.

The delegation – headed by Mr. Deng Xiaogang, vice party secretary of the communist party of Sichuan Provincial Committee – took in a visit to the King Richard III Centre and Leicester Cathedral and a tour of the King Power Stadium before attending a dinner with Leicestershire business leaders.

### **Leicester and Leicestershire launch multi-million-pound investment push ahead of MIPIM 2020**

The spotlight is being shone on hundreds of millions of pounds of development opportunities across Leicester and Leicestershire. Major schemes including Leicester’s £80m Space Park development, the city’s 123-acre Waterside regeneration scheme and the Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park are among a host of sites being teed up for next year’s MIPIM property conference in France. More than 60 business leaders attended a presentation of the 2020 campaign at Leicester’s King Richard III Visitor Centre.

The need to promote the region on a global stage has been highlighted by new government figures suggesting the number of inward investment projects into the UK and the jobs created and safeguarded had fallen. Analysis of foreign direct investment projects by the Department for International Trade for 2018-19, suggests the UK attracted 1,782, compared to 2,072 in the previous 12-month period, representing a decline of 14 per cent.

In the financial year prior to the EU Referendum, some 2,265 projects were secured. MIPIM takes place in Cannes each spring and is a global shop window for the international property sector. Experts in construction, architecture, surveying as well as legal and consultancy services attended under a ‘Team Leicester’ banner in the spring and are now gearing up for 2020. This year’s Leicester and Leicestershire contingent was branded “Space for Growth’, centring on the Space Park

development which will one day include a production line for cost-effective satellites and workspace for spin-off industries.



*Team Leicester 2020 MIPIM launch. (l-f) Aaron and Joe Levy of Bradgate Estates, Rob McGuinn of MDA Consulting, Sir Peter Soulsby, Coun Nick Rushton, Richard Osborn of Excello Law, Mukesh Patel of Freeths, and Mark Oakley of Leicester City Council*

### **Private healthcare business Unlimited Wellbeing plans 50 new jobs with move from Notts to Leicester**

A private healthcare provider is moving from Nottinghamshire to Leicester with plans to create 50 new jobs. Unlimited Wellbeing is moving into temporary space in the Regus serviced offices opposite Leicester station next Monday. The business, which only launched in 2017, already has 10 staff and plans to take on five times that over the next couple of years. It offers private services such as employee health assessments and home assessments for busy people, sending registered nurses to carry out personal check checks, costing £99 per person or £149 for a couple.

Chief executive Sanjiv Corepal said he also plans to sell franchises in the business. It is currently based in Beeston, in Nottinghamshire, but he was attracted to move by Leicester's good links to London, a strong graduate pool and cultural diversity. The company has a turnover of around £250,000 which it hopes to build to £500,000 next year. With future outside investment he hopes to take that to £1.5 million the year after. Mr Corepal said the city was the perfect fit for the company as they seek to expand their services and geographical footprint. It follows in the footsteps of others than have moved to Leicester in recent years including Hastings Direct, IBM, PPL PRS and Octopus Energy.

He hopes to find a permanent Leicester base by the autumn. He said: "We are incredibly exciting about basing Unlimited Wellbeing in the heart of Leicester. I can't think of anywhere better to grow our business from. "It's a well-known fact that Leicester is one of the best cities in the UK to base a business. There is a great energy about the city and the people of Leicester are renowned for their hard work and integrity with productivity rates particularly high. It's important to us as we continue to grow, to know that we can access a high-quality workforce with a great work ethic."

"Geographically it keeps us in the heart of the East Midlands where we started but also puts us within an hour of both London and Birmingham where many of our corporate clients are based. Leicester also seems a bit more robust and settled than the rest of the East Midlands. The infrastructure for supporting a business like ours is there too."

## **UK's self-employed urged not to forget July 31st deadline for second payment to HMRC**

With 15% of the working UK population now self-employed, using the Self-Assessment system to pay tax is an increasingly common method of paying your tax bill. However, newcomers to the Self-Assessment system may be unaware that they are expected to make twice yearly 'payments on account' to their Self-Assessment tax account, with the next deadline at the end of July.

Taxpayers who are responsible for settling their own tax bill, rather than being taxed by an employer or pension provider through PAYE, are required to use HMRC's Self-Assessment system to calculate and settle their annual tax bill. Redfern explained. You may also be required to submit a Self-Assessment tax return if you are employed but have additional earnings, perhaps through rental property or a business you run outside your main PAYE employment. Similarly, if you wish to claim tax relief on expenses of more than £2,500 in any tax year, you need to do this by completing and submitting a tax return.

*Business Link*

## **Boots store closures 'right thing to do'**

Boots has confirmed it will close 200 stores with the chain's boss saying it's "the right thing to do" in the current tough trading conditions. Local pharmacy stores - where there is another store near by - will be most affected by the closures. The retailer said there would be little impact on staff, with "the overwhelming majority" redeployed to nearby shops. It is now deciding which shops will close but said most people would still be within a 10-minute drive of a Boots. The chain currently has 2,485 stores across the UK, employing about 56,000 staff.

The news comes the day after the chain opened the first of a new-style store aimed at drawing in more shoppers. The shop in Covent Garden, central London, features a YouTube studio offering video makeovers and an Instagram-zone where people can take pictures of their purchases. Parent company Walgreens Boots Alliance said on Thursday that quarterly sales at its UK stores had fallen slightly compared with the previous year. Analysts argue the chain has been slow to modernise, with a lack of investment in stores and high prices putting off shoppers. But Mr James - who was parachuted in last year to turn the company's fortunes around - said the retailer's focus was now on making stores "more differentiated and personalised, with the best brands at the best value". He said the Covent Garden store would set the new standards for its transformation plan.

*BBC News*

## **Boots rolls out paper bags after plastics row**

Boots has started to replace plastic bags with brown paper bags in an attempt to cut down on the use of single-use plastic. The retailer is also introducing unbleached paper dispensing bags for prescriptions. However, prescriptions assembled at its central pharmacy will still be sent out in plastic packaging, a practice that has been criticised by customers. Boots says these bags need to be durable and the plastic is recyclable. The new paper bags will initially be available in 53 of its 2,485 stores, with all of Boots' outlets using paper by early 2020, and are aimed at customers who have not brought their own bag.

The bags will cost 5p, 7p and 10p - the current plastic ones come in two 5p and 10p sizes - and, as is the case now, profits from the bags will go to BBC Children in Need. The paper bags in England are not subject to the carrier bag levy, but they will be in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Boots



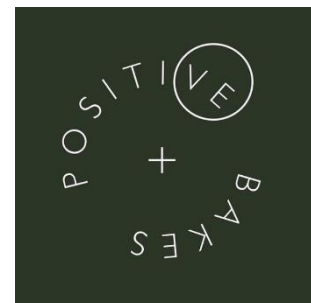
UK signed up to the UK Plastics Pact last year and said at the time it was "committed to reducing single-use plastic".

The change to paper bags - which are made from recycled brown paper and printed with water based inks - is intended to remove 900 tonnes of plastic from Boots' store operations each year. Its website shows that in the 1870s - when it started it out - products were sold in paper and wrapped in string. Other retailers, such as Morrisons, have introduced paper bags, while Waitrose is piloting a scheme where customers use their own containers.

*BBC News*

### **Owners of closed Leicester restaurant The Fish and The Chip announce details of new business**

Owners of closed city centre restaurant The Fish and The Chip have announced details of their new food business. Now, that new range has been revealed - and it's a sea change for the St Nicholas Place food firm which will now become a bakers. A post of The Fish and The Chip Facebook page says: " We are pleased to announce the wait is finally over and our first product range named Positive Bakes is ready! "The Positive Bakes range consists of 15 cakes and raw cakes which all have incredible flavour and big universal appeal. "The entire range is completely gluten free, vegan, dairy free, palm oil free, soya free and made using no refined sugars or GMOs.



"We proudly make all our products in our own dedicated production kitchen without any cross contamination risks and all our processes and packaging is completely sustainable and eco friendly. "We hope you'll continue to support us on our journey to make a positive impact on the world and shake up the food industry! We will be online soon so you can order our treats delivered throughout the UK direct to your door."

## **Transport**

### **Network Rail Major Improvement Works – August Bank Holiday 2019**

Network Rail are carrying out major improvement work on the East Coast Mainline over the August Bank Holiday Weekend; Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August. The route operates from London King's Cross towards Grantham, Peterborough, Lincoln, Newcastle, York and the east coast of Scotland. On Saturday 24th and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August, the line will be closed between Peterborough and London and no trains will be able to run in either direction. On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> there will be fewer services than usual and trains will also be diverted between Doncaster and Newark North Gate.

#### **East Midlands Trains services**

As there will be no services from London Kings Cross to the North, Network Rail expect customers who would usually travel on the East Coast Main Line will instead travel on East Midlands Trains services to/from London St Pancras. However, this is one of the busiest weekends in the year and the number of customers likely to come from the East Coast as well as those travelling to the various special events, football matches and sporting fixtures mean services are likely to be exceptionally busy.

Although Network Rail are doing everything they can to provide as many seats and services as possible the number of expected customers means **you should avoid travelling with East Midlands Trains throughout the August Bank Holiday weekend.**

If you do travel, you are likely to experience any or all of the following:

- Queues outside and inside stations
- Extended waits on platforms to board trains
- Exceptionally busy trains with some customers likely to stand for their entire journey
- Your journey may also take longer than normal

For more information on this and other engineering works taking place throughout the August Bank Holiday weekend, please visit [www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk).

### **£2bn plans to improve rail links between East and West Midlands**

Faster and more frequent services between Leicester and Birmingham and the return of direct services between Coventry and Leicester-Nottingham feature in £2 billion proposals to improve rail links between the East and West Midlands. The proposals include up to 24 extra train services an hour including two additional services an hour from Nuneaton to Leicester and Birmingham. The plans would bring 120,000 more people in Coventry/Warwickshire within an hour's journey of Leicester. Currently just 1 per cent of journeys between Coventry-Leicester are made by train. There could be two trains per hour in each direction on the Leicester-Coventry track.

If agreed by Government, it would be the first time Coventry has been linked directly with the East Midlands by rail since 2004. City Mayor Peter Soulsby said: "This project is a great opportunity to improve connectivity between the East and West Midlands, something which has sadly been overlooked for many years. "It will provide brilliant direct rail links between Leicester and Coventry – the two biggest cities currently not connected by a direct rail service and provide a true alternative to the car. "The faster and more frequent trains between Leicester and Birmingham will help release the economic potential of the whole Midlands area and will be greatly welcomed by all rail passengers."

The plans have been drawn up by Midlands Connect, a partnership with the Midlands Engine which is made up of 22 councils, nine Local Enterprise Partnerships, East Midlands and Birmingham airports, and eight chambers of commerce. The package of improvements, called Midlands Rail Hub, include 15 pieces of new and improved infrastructure and, if approved, would be completed in phases between 2024 and 2033. Midlands Connect has presented the suggestions to Whitehall in partnership with Network Rail with backing from 47 partner organisations.

A spokeswoman said: "Passenger journeys in the West Midlands are growing faster than anywhere else in the country and have risen by 121 per cent over the past decade. "However, rail capacity can't keep pace with this growth, leading to slow, infrequent and unreliable train services between the West Midlands and East Midlands. "With a combined population of more than 600,000, Coventry and Leicester are two of the largest cities in the country without a direct train service. "Passengers currently must change at Nuneaton, with an average journey time of 57 minutes for a 30-mile journey.

"Reinstating a fast, direct service would slash that journey time to just 38 minutes." Midlands Connect estimate improvements could have an economic benefit of £649 million a year by 2037. As well as taking cars off the road the plans could also add 36 new freight services a day, taking the

“equivalent of 4,320 lorries off the road and on to rail every day”. They would also link Leicester with HS2 services in the West Midlands.

Sir John Peace, who chairs Midlands Connect, said: “The Midlands Rail Hub is a cost-effective, evidence-led plan to upgrade our Victorian infrastructure to meet the demands of the future. “These proposals capture the enormous economic potential of the Midlands, with 320,000 new jobs estimated by 2030, mainly in professional services firms who depend on good rail connectivity to attract skilled workers. “This investment must happen alongside delivering HS2 in its entirety, from the West Midlands to the East Midlands and on to the north of England.

“The next Prime Minister of this country must not ignore the Midlands, the 10 million people who live here, or our £220 billion annual contribution to the UK economy. “Now is the time for the government to prove to the Midlands it is listening to us.” Following the submission of the Midlands Rail Hub Strategic Outline Business Case to the Department for Transport, Midlands Connect has requested an additional £25 million in funding to bring the project to “Outline Business Case” stage of development.

### **Funding boost will accelerate city’s work to clean up bus emissions**

MORE buses on Leicester’s busiest routes are set to be adapted to make them cleaner to run as part of the city’s efforts to cut air pollution. The Department for Transport has awarded the city council £980,000 from the Clean Bus Technology Fund to help it extend work to clean up exhaust fumes and cut harmful emissions from buses in Leicester. The city council is already working with local bus companies to fit the pollution filters to 158 diesel buses operating on the city’s main routes. This latest funding will see the council work with local operators First and Kinch Bus to see filtering technology retrofitted to 53 more buses.

It means that an ambitious bid to create a city centre clean air zone for buses – where all vehicles must meet the highest Euro VI standard for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions – will be delivered in early 2020, around nine months earlier than promised. Cllr Adam Clarke, deputy city mayor and lead on environment and transportation, said: “Tackling emissions from diesel vehicles is a vital part of our work to improve air quality across the city. “Our local bus operators have already made huge investment in cleaning up the emissions and reducing pollution from their vehicles. This latest funding will allow us to accelerate that work and fit clean air technology to over 50 more local buses.

“It means that we are meeting the highest European clean air standard for buses across the city and that we are on track to meet our pledge to deliver a citywide clean air zone for buses early in 2020. “While this is really good news, we know more needs to be done and we remain committed to moving the city’s bus fleet towards zero emissions over the next ten years, with plans already underway to introduce the first electric buses onto our Park and Ride services from next year.”

The Euro emissions standards for buses is are a technical measure defined by engine energy output in grams per kilowatt hour (g/kWh). The Euro VI standard for nitrogen dioxide is just 0.4g/kWh. As part of its successful bid for £8million of Government cash from the Transforming Cities Fund, Leicester City Council has also secured £1.6million to help replace diesel vehicles with ultra-low emission electric buses on the Park and Ride service between Birstall and the city centre. The project – which is expected to be delivered by autumn 2020 – will help further cut air pollution on the busy A6 corridor into the city centre.

## Openings and Closings

We wish all new businesses good trading and a warm welcome to Leicester City Centre!

### Open & Opening

#### **Lane7 will be opening new Leicester bowling alley at former city railway station**

Lane7 is launching in Leicester later this year, providing what it describes as a "unique bowling experience like you've never seen before". The station was opened in 1899 by the Great Central Railway, and in its heyday, the quarter-of-a mile-long, six-platform station had hosted the likes of the Master Cutler, South Yorkshire and Bournemouth, and Oxford and York expresses. The last ever passenger train left the station on May 3, 1969. Now, it is set to be revitalised as a leisure and nightlife destination.

According to Lane7 owner Tim Wilks, the 20,000 sq. ft venue will incorporate indoor and outdoor event space, street food concepts and pop-up events. He said: "The two-floor venue will provide a family-friendly offer by day before transforming into the city's 'go to' nightlife spot combining bowling with unique attractions such as mini-golf, darts, retro arcade games and pool tables." Lane7 already operates venues in cities across the UK, including Birmingham, Liverpool and Newcastle, and describes itself as "the UK's leading leisure and nightlife destination." Since opening its first site in Newcastle five years ago, the brand says it has experienced significant growth and is set to expand, with a further five locations opening in the next 18-24 months. It says that will make it the largest operator of its kind in the UK. Lane7 is set to open in Leicester this Autumn. For further information please visit: <https://lane7.co.uk/>.

#### **CeX (Complete Entertainment Exchange), Gallowtree Gate**

Cex, who buy, sell and exchange a range of technology and entertainment products are moving from its Granby Street store to a larger unit in Gallowtree Gate. The Haymarket Shopping store is to remain open. CeX is urging Leicester residents to go green and save by recycling their old gadgets, games, phones and films, and receiving cash in exchange. It expects to pay out more than £1,000,000 in the first year of the store. The company believes the best way to recycle something is to use it again.

It also encourages community groups to start collections as it is a great way to raise money for charity and help protect the environment. Three job opportunities are being created by the launch of the new store. CeX began in London in 1992 and has grown by offering what it describes as competitively priced, fully warranted, second hand products and introducing the "ingenious but simple" exchange concept. CeX has nearly 600 stores worldwide, including more than 380 in the UK, in addition to store in Australia, Italy, Spain, India, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal.



## **Tamatanga, Highcross Shopping Centre**

The Indian street food brand launched on Sunday 1 July in one of the new units created in the space previously occupied by House of Fraser. Intended to evoke a light-hearted and playful feel of the streets of India, the interior is bright and colourful, with plenty of seating, and eye-catching decorative details. From the home-cooked, street-style dishes, to cocktails, craft beers and lassis, the restaurant aims to offer "exceptional value". The concept is 'fuss-free and relaxed all day eating', and the promised vibe is laid-back and fun.



*Tamatanga in Shires Lane (Image: Peter Fothergill)*

## **Indian street food brand Mowgli reveals opening date for new Leicester restaurant**

Mowgli will be opening in St Martin's Square on Monday 12 August. Mowgli focuses on serving the kind of food that Indians eat at home and on their streets - food that is healthy, often vegan and always packed with fresh flavour. The brand was founded in Liverpool in 2014 by Nisha Katona - who was awarded an MBE for her services to the food industry in the New Year Honours list earlier this year. The self-described curry evangelist gave up her 20-year career as a full-time barrister to realise her dream of building an eatery serving food that Indians really eat.

Mowgli now operates two sites in its home city of Liverpool, and two in Manchester, alongside restaurants in Birmingham, Nottingham, Oxford and Sheffield. Nisha said "We will be opening in the most perfectly 'Mowgli-esque' St Martin's Square amidst the pretty Leicester lanes. It is exactly what we look for in a city: quirky, cool, Bohemian and full of foodie thrill seekers." Guests can expect to be welcomed as if they've just stepped into someone's living room. According to Nisha: "It's not a hushed dining experience, it's all about the smash and grab of addictive flavours."

## Refurbishments

### Costa coffee shop, Haymarket Shopping Centre

The Haymarket Shopping Centre branch of Costa has re-launched following refurbishment work. The coffee shop, in Humberstone Gate, was closed for four days whilst the changes were carried out. The Haymarket branch is one of nine Costa coffee shops in Leicester.



*(Image: Matt Short Photography)*

Customers can enjoy relaxing with a coffee in the brighter surroundings of the coffee shop, which has been furnished with new tables and chairs and new display counters. New decorative touches include artwork on the walls, and stylish lights and coffee cups suspended from the ceiling. As part of a new product offering, the store is now selling cheesecake and apple tart, along with all the usual food and drink options.

## Closed

### Patisserie Valerie, Highcross

Patisserie Valerie on the lower floor of the Highcross shopping centre has now closed. The cafe was known for its handmade cakes, gateaux and patisseries. The closure comes just six months after it was revealed that the national cafe chain had fallen into administration after failing to secure a financial lifeline from its banks, leaving it with no option but to call in administrators KPMG. Parent company Patisserie Holdings plc, which employed more than 3,000 staff nationally, had more than 200 stores across the UK, and operated under five different brands including Patisserie Valerie, Philpotts, Baker & Spice, Flour Power City, and Druckers Vienna Patisserie.

## Other News

### More details released about new sixth form opening in city centre

More detail has been released about a new sixth form opening in the city centre next year. The new Beauchamp City Sixth Form will open in the former BT call centre in New Albion House in Dunkirk Street, and in the adjacent Wellesley House in Wellington Street. The trust that runs the sixth form, Lionheart Academies Trust, has announced that the refurbishment will include the creation of 33 classrooms and 11 laboratories. The new sixth form will also include a learning resource centre, as well as ICT suites and private study spaces. Lionheart Trust also runs schools such as Beauchamp College in Oadby, Judgemeanow Community College in Evington and Humphrey Perkins School in Barrow-upon-Soar. The work to refurbish the buildings, being undertaken by construction company ISG, is set to start in November 2019, and the college is set to open its doors to students in September 2020. The new centre will provide 350 places for A-level students and will offer a full range of post-16 courses for Beauchamp students and pupils from other schools.

## Exhibition opens the book on classic Ladybird Book art

A major new exhibition opens at New Walk Museum on July 13 bringing to life the breathtaking work of artistry from classic children's books. The Wonderful World of the Ladybird Book Artists will showcase hundreds of examples of exceptional artwork by the illustrators behind the classic Ladybird Books for children. The stunning collection belongs to Ladybird Book expert Helen Day and enables visitors to explore the magical and vibrant world of Ladybird art from the 1950s to 1970s. Ladybird Books covered themes including history, the world and nature, technology and fairy tales, as well as the famous early-reading series of Peter and Jane. The evocative artwork will bring back childhood memories for many grown-up visitors and bring wonderful stories to life for the first time for younger guests.



Ladybird traces its origins to 1867, when Henry Wills opened a bookshop in Loughborough. The hundreds of original artworks by 14 artists include those of Leicestershire artist John Kenney, creator of Tootles the Taxi. Younger visitors can create pictures of their own in an artist's studio or join in the storytelling at a special reading village where they can let their imaginations run wild in a land of wonder, learning and play.

The exhibition is supported by a programme of events and activities suitable for children and grownups alike. On the exhibition's opening day, "How It Works...Ladybird Books for Grown Ups" takes place from 2pm at which authors Jason Hazeley and Joel Morris discuss their hugely-popular Ladybird books for grown-ups and share their passion for Ladybird and vintage commercial art. The pair are both writers on the hit films Paddington and Paddington 2, as well as numerous TV comedy series. Tickets cost £5 from the museum shop or on 0116 225 4920. The exhibition runs until September 1 and details of all events can be found by visiting [www.visitleicester.info](http://www.visitleicester.info).

## Unique Indo-French Afternoon Tea launches at Lilu

As part of their commitment to supporting local producers, Leicester Indian fine dining restaurant Lilu are launching a unique afternoon tea for groups. Available on Sundays for pre-booked parties, the new Indo-French afternoon tea is the result of a collaboration with local French baker, Nathalie Salles of Chouxlique.

"Chouxlique's pop ups at our sister shop, the Wigston Fields News and Deli, have been so popular that we wanted to find a way of showcasing her work at Lilu" says Pratik Master, "What could be more representative of Leicester than an unexpected melding of flavours from two different continents? We are committed to #SupportLeicesterLocal and we know that guests will be delighted by this exceptional quality afternoon tea."

The Indo-French afternoon tea will be available for booked parties of 15 or more each Sunday, starting on 14th July. The cost is £25 per head.

## City Centre Drug and alcohol recovery centre No.5 marks its first year of work

Since opening last year, No 5 based in Hill Street has received almost 8,000 visits by people seeking help and advice. No.5, opened in spring 2018, relocating alcohol services previously offered at the Anchor Centre in Dover Street, with newer purpose-built facilities housing a range of other support services. Joint funding of £600,000 from Leicester City Council and Public Health England was used to open up No.5, which was commissioned by the city council and the police and crime commissioner for Leicestershire, as part of a joint approach to tackle street drinking in the city centre.



The service is run by Inclusion Health Care CIC with support from peer-led recovery service Dear Albert, and now caters for about 120 service users who attend at least once a month, with about half of them attending at least twice a week to access support, advice and help. It provides services from organisations including substance misuse treatment service Turning Point, the Department of Work and Pensions, Restorative Justice and Inclusion Healthcare itself which provides GP services for socially excluded, vulnerable and homeless people. On average, 35 people every day come through No5's doors for treatment or help, some of it as a one-off and some as part of longer-term assistance.

Between April 2018 to March 2019, No5 received 7,932 visits from people seeking support and advice in some form, either as a one-off or for longer-term help. No.5 also provides support and referrals for One Roof's Winter Night Shelter from December to March and offers service users a safe place to stay during the day. In addition, it acted as a base for Inclusion Healthcare to deliver winter flu vaccinations to rough sleepers, by working closely with Leicester City Council's outreach team. In all 25 people were vaccinated – about 60 percent of the city's rough sleepers at the time – and attended No.5 for hot drinks and a hot breakfast. Volunteers at the centre have also offered IT advice and support, with plans to further expand services to include cooking sessions, mindfulness and relaxation, and art and craft workshops.

Assistant City Mayor for Health, Cllr Vi Dempster, was among those seeing the service in action during an anniversary event at No.5 on Friday, June 28. She said: "Drug and alcohol problems can, and do, severely blight the lives of people from across the community, and services like this play a vital role in helping them get their lives back together. "Often the situation is complicated by physical and mental health problems, difficulties in keeping down a job or stable housing, and the strength of services like No.5 is the range of help on offer to tackling the often-complicated situations in which people find themselves.

"No.5 offers a discreet, but easily-accessible service close to the city centre, to ensure people who need help can get it." Wayne Henderson, director of specialist services at Inclusion Healthcare, added: "This is a unique service in Leicester for people who are homeless and have alcohol dependency issues. "Inclusion Health are proud to be delivering this service on behalf of Leicester. City Council to an often misunderstood and excluded group of people. "We work closely with our partner agencies to help those with alcohol and homelessness issues to improve their lives and reduce the negative impact alcohol has had on their lives".

Two regular service users at No.5 shared their stories of how they had been helped. One, a 42-year old man, has been accessing help from the city's alcohol services since 2008, as well as suffering with a range of mental and physical health problems, which have left him without work or a place to live. He attends daily harm reduction sessions at No.5, and since 2018 has worked as a volunteer helper



at the centre, also beginning a Peer Mentoring Course to help other service users. He has been free from alcohol for 12 months and regularly visits the gym.

He said: “My current health is improving; I have more energy to do things. Although I recognise I suffer with depression, with personal focus and the support of No.5 I manage it much better. “Since volunteering it has given me more structure in what I need to do in my pathway to recovery.”

Another long-term service user is a 46-year-old woman, who referred herself Turning Point for alcohol dependency after a stay in the Bradgate Mental Health Unit. She now attends twice weekly thanks to a recovery programme developed between Dear Albert and No.5.

She said: “I have managed to begin to save money and book a holiday with family. I have also joined the gym and to date lost 1st 4lb and feel much better for it. “I’m eating healthier, sleeping better and have much better awareness. Through taking action I feel like I’m getting my life back. “The group sessions that I have attended have helped me get my confidence back, learn about my illness and change my attitude.”

### **Igniting Tiny Sparks - The Importance of Music in Early Years development**

A national symposium to explore the importance of music and musical play within early childhood development was held at the Vijay Patel Building, De Montfort University, Leicester on Monday 24 June. The Spark Arts for Children, in partnership with Talent25, invited representatives from national orchestras, early years practitioners, managers and senior leaders and artists and musicians from across the UK. According to the Social Mobility Commission, State of the Nation report nearly a third of children across the UK are not ‘school ready’ by the time they reach five, because they have not developed the necessary skills and behaviours. This can have long term impact on a child, affecting future levels in reading, writing and maths. Music can support children to learn and develop the necessary skills.

The symposium explored the national landscape, reflecting on current practice and considering new developments sharing the latest research and innovative practice with talks from key note speakers Dr Jessica Pitt, Phd, lead researcher with Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC), Lecturer in Music Education at the Royal College of Music and Lead Tutor on the MA in Early Years Music at Birmingham University and Nicola Burke Associate of the British Association of Early Education and a core member of the London Early Years Music Network (LEYMN).

It also showcased and celebrated The Spark’s work delivered locally through *Tiny Sparks*, a music programme delivered in partnership with the Leicester City Council Children, Young People and Family Centres (CYPFC). Musicians, Dave ‘Stickman’ Higgins and Mellow Baku have spent 10 weeks in residency at 8 settings across the city. So far Tiny Sparks has worked with over 1,000 children and their families, with 98% of participating children showing an improvement in their language skills on the register of Stages of Confident Speaking.



*Tiny Sparks session at Little Willows Nursery credit: Pamela Raith Photography*

The Spark will be hosting a round table discussion in September to scope out a 3 year programme for the city and county with input from Tri-Borough Music Hub who are delivering excellence nationwide. Strategic leads / councillors interested in taking part in this conversation can call Adel Al-Salloum on 0116 261 6893. Tiny Sparks is supported by Youth Music and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

## Debenhams scraps Fosse Park store plans

Debenhams is not going ahead with its plans to open a new store in Fosse Park. The department store had planned to be the anchor tenant of a £135 million extension to the shopping centre, alongside Clarks, TK Maxx and Next. Doubts over the scheme had arisen after Debenhams went into administration last April. The business subsequently announced plans to close 50 stores, identifying 22 so far. The recently refurbished Highcross store in Leicester was among a number 'considered safe'. Planning permission for the Fosse Park shop was on condition that the Highcross store remained open.

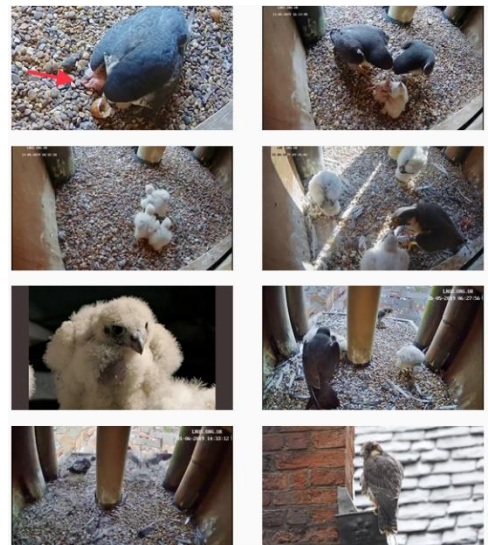
Mike Bell, senior asset manager at The Crown Estate, which owns a 50 per cent stake in Fosse Park said: "Following the news that Debenhams will not be taking a store at Fosse Park, we have been actively working with the local authorities on our future plans and engaging with the market to explore exciting new brands for the space when it opens in 2020. "We look forward to providing further updates in due course as we create a brilliant place for visitors, shoppers and the local community to enjoy." Clarks, TK Maxx and Next are still committed to the plans and the whole development is now more than 45 per cent pre-let with letting conversations ongoing. Work is now underway building on the former Everards brewery site next to Fosse Park, which will have 143,633 sq. ft of floorspace with additional mezzanine space of 162,190 sq.

Fosse Park West will be linked by a redeveloped food court. Along with £5 million being spent improving existing communal areas and parking spaces at Fosse Park, it takes the total investment to £168 million.

## Peregrine Chicks at Leicester Cathedral

The first chick was born on 1 May 2019, shortly followed by 2 other siblings. They were colour-ringed on 21 May 2019. During a very wet and very windy week or so, they gradually started to fledge, with the first chick to leave being almost blown off the ledge, rather than a graceful first flight on 11 June 2019! The poor thing didn't really cope in the weather conditions and ended up being rescued from outside a restaurant on Silver Street where it had been "grounded". The other 2 followed in the same wet and windy conditions, which made for a tense week for staff and members of the public keeping their eyes out for them to make sure they were coping (and if you couldn't see them, then you certainly heard them if you were in the area!)

If you would like to follow Leicester Peregrines check out their website - <http://leicesterperegrines.org.uk/>.



## Sport

### Leicester Tigers Club up for sale

Leicester Tigers has released a statement confirming an article from The Times, and said an "offer period" has begun. The club said that the move follows a lucrative investment in Premiership Rugby Ltd by CVC, which is expected to pump cash into the top clubs. The statement continues: "CVC's investment sparked several expressions of interest in the Tigers from new investors, prompting the Board to run a formal sale process in the best interests of the club, its players, supporters and shareholders. "Tigers is the most successful club of the professional era, winning more titles than any other English team. The club's games are the most-watched and best-attended in English rugby and the club has a 90-per-cent season ticket renewal rate.

"The club is ideally positioned to capitalise on the new investment coming into the game. "The payout to Tigers from the Premiership Rugby stake sale to CVC means the club has no net debt and can look forward to greater incremental revenues as CVC's marketing and commercial strategy gathers momentum and grows the game. "This makes the Tigers an attractive opportunity for an investor that shares the Club's vision, with the ability to grow commercial revenues and accelerate development plans to the benefit of players, staff and fans."

The move comes ahead of the Rugby World Cup, which traditionally leads to spike in interest. With big names like Jonny May and Manu Tuilagi contracted at Welford Road, Tigers are well placed to take advantage of that. The decision to put the club up for sale comes after one of the worst seasons in the club's history. It will also put pressure on head coach Geordan Murphy, who faces yet more uncertainty after a tough first season at the helm.

Peter Tom CBE, Leicester Tigers Executive Chairman, said: "CVC's investment in Premiership Rugby has created a unique opportunity – catapulting the sport into the public consciousness like never before and broadening its appeal to potential investors. "It is our duty as a Board to explore the Club's strategic options and assess the best possible ownership structure to benefit from the changes ahead on and off the pitch."

Simon Cohen, Leicester Tigers Chief Executive Officer, said: "The investment and changes in English Premiership rugby present a huge opportunity for the Club and a new investor. "As the most prestigious club in English rugby, this development will further support Leicester Tigers in its ambition to be the most successful club in England and Europe, to the benefit of our players, the Club and our loyal supporters."

## Awards and Accolades

### Gelato Village named best dessert parlour in the Midlands

Gelato Village won the title of best dessert parlour in the Midlands at the 2019 Midlands Food Drink and Hospitality Awards which took place on Monday 24 June. The business was opened by Daniele Taverna and Antonio De Vecchi in 2014. Hailing from Turin in Italy, the pair create authentic Italian gelato, with a unique sense of place. Leicestershire produce used at Gelato Village includes milk from Vine Farm Dairy and honey from The Bee Farmer. Gelato varieties which give a nod to Leicester's heritage include Alice Hawkins (lavender and white chocolate) and Richard III (fruits of the forest with homemade rose blossom essence).



Antonio and Daniele said: "We are over the moon to have picked up such a high-profile award. It is great that the judges were impressed by our use of the best quality seasonal and, where possible, local ingredients to make the best Italian gelato. "We will continue to always make the very best product for the people of Leicester to enjoy and hope award will encourage even more people to visit Gelato Village and to find out all of the great things our fantastic city has to offer."

The Midlands Food Drink and Hospitality Awards aim to recognise and reward the very best of food, drink and hospitality establishments in the Midlands. The event came from the Birmingham Food, Drink and Hospitality Awards which, due to popular demand, was expanded to include the whole of the Midlands. It features 31 categories, and this year, Leicestershire businesses were shortlisted in 10 of those.

## Festivals and Events

### City marks Armed Forces Week

The pipes and drums of the Seaforth Highlanders led a parade through Leicester city centre on Saturday 22 June to mark the start of National Armed Forces Week. Service personnel, veterans and cadets joined the parade, after taking part in a special service at Leicester Cathedral that was attended by the Lord Lieutenant, Mike Kapur OBE, the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr Annette Byrne, and the Chairman of the County Council, Pam Posnett.

A number of static displays and exhibits relating to the armed forces were set up on Humberstone Gate – while on Monday 24 June, a ceremony to raise the Armed Forces Flag took place in Town Hall Square. The flag flew until dusk on National Armed Forces Day, which was marked on Saturday 29 June.



Leicester has a longstanding relationship with local units of the armed forces, with both the Royal Lancers and Royal Anglian Regiments having been granted the freedom of the city of Leicester. Last year, the city and county councils re-signed the Armed Forces Covenant, which sets out the two authorities' relationship with the armed forces, and the services available to current and former personnel and their families. More information about the Armed Forces Covenant is available at [www.leicester.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant).

### Emeli Sandé and Keane are coming to De Montfort Hall

Hot on the heels of confirmation of the final Gigs in the Gardens performers, De Montfort Hall has announced two brilliant gigs for this Autumn. The Leicester venue is set to welcome one of Britain's best-loved bands, Keane, in September, and multi-platinum, award-winning singer songwriter Emeli Sandé MBE, in November. Keane will be coming to Leicester on September 25 as part of their UK tour, which coincides with the release of their new album, Cause and Effect. For further information please visit: [http://www.demontforhall.co.uk/index.php?cat\\_id=1&level=1](http://www.demontforhall.co.uk/index.php?cat_id=1&level=1).

## **Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera to open major UK and Ireland Tour at Curve in 2020**

The Brilliant Original production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom Of The Opera is embarking on a major UK and Ireland tour. Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> phenomenal year in the West End, The Phantom Of The Opera is widely considered one of the most beautiful and spectacular productions in history. Produced by Cameron Mackintosh and The Really Useful Theatre Company Limited The Phantom Of The Opera will open at Curve from Mon 24 Feb – Sat 21 Mar 2020. The romantic, haunting and soaring score includes Music of the Night, All I Ask of You, Masquerade and the iconic title song.

The Phantom Of The Opera tells the tale of a disfigured musical genius known only as 'The Phantom' who haunts the depths of the Paris Opera House. Mesmerised by the talents and beauty of a young soprano – Christine, the Phantom lures her as his protégé and falls fiercely in love with her. Unaware of Christine's love for Raoul, the Phantom's obsession sets the scene for a dramatic turn of events where jealousy, madness and passions collide.

The Phantom Of The Opera is one of the most successful musicals in history playing to over 145 million people in 41 countries and 183 cities in 17 languages. It has won more than 70 major theatre awards, including seven Tony Awards and four Olivier Awards. Tickets for The Phantom Of The Opera are priced at £62 – £10.

For further information please visit: <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/news/andrew-lloyd-webbers-the-phantom-of-the-opera-to-open-major-uk-and-ireland-tour-at-curve-in-2020/>.

## **Rathayatra Festival of Chariots celebrates ISKCON's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the UK - Sunday 14 July 2019**

The Hare Krishna Festival of Chariots returns to our City once again on Sunday 14 July 2019, this year, celebrating the monumental 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in the UK. One of the biggest processions in the Midlands, the vibrant festival will begin at ISKCON Leicester, 31 Granby Street with a tumultuous welcome ceremony called a *pahandi*, while the inauguration will commence at 11.30am in the presence of the Cllr Manjula Sood, and community leaders. Festival-goers from all over the country will hand-pull the 40ft chariot carrying the magnificent Deities of Lord Jagannatha (Krishna), his sister Subhadra, and Lord Balarama through the City Centre accompanied by music, singing, and dancing.

The lively procession, with spiritual sounds and instruments from all over the globe, will travel from the City Centre along the Golden Mile and into Cossington Park. At Cossington Park, there will be a variety of experiences for all the family, including mantra meditation, children's fun activities, a special exhibition on 50 years of ISKCON in the UK, and a free vegetarian meal. "This one day of the year when the Lord comes out of the temple to glance upon all people of the City is very special," says President of ISKCON Leicester, Pradyumna Das. "It gives us all an opportunity to recognise our true identity spirit souls in connection to God and go beyond colour, nationality and even religion. Our essence is spiritual and Rathayatra celebrates that by inviting and including everyone, sharing food and experiencing the Hare Krishna chanting."

The traditional Jagannatha Rathayatra is a celebration over 5000 years-old, observed in the ancient holy city of Jagannatha Puri in Orissa, India, making it the oldest street festival in the world. Devotees believe that if they get the honour of pulling the ropes of the giant chariot, carrying Lord Krishna, known as Jagannatha – Lord of the Universe, then at the end of this life, they will be granted a place in the spiritual world. Rathayatra in Puri attracts crowds of over 15 million people. This

ancient festival was first brought to Western shores in 1967 by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, Founder-*Acarya* of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Since then, this festival has become a popular cultural event in major cities around the world. Leicester is proud to host the second largest such celebration in Europe.

You can see highlights of Rathayatra in Leicester on this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QKiHm\\_uF-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QKiHm_uF-w)

### **One Giant Leap - July – October**

Take a trip to outer space and mark the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing! Summer events include a CreateACon in Space event for families and an intergalactic Outdoor Cinema. Don't miss a full programme of events at the National Space Centre, from family astronomy to a night in the museum – you can even see a piece of the Moon! The fun continues in October half term with 15 space-themed LEGO® brick sculptures dotted around the city – have your very own space race around the city to find them all! Luke Jerram's stunning Museum of the Moon returns to Leicester Cathedral, with each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture representing 5km of the moon's surface. Play retro computer games inspired by the moon landings on public screens in the city centre and be awed by a spectacular projection show on New Market Square. For further information please visit: <https://onegiantleap-leicester.co.uk/about>. Partners are, BID Leicester, MBD, National Space Centre, Inspirate, Interact Digital Arts, Side Fest Stem, Leicester City Council and Arts Council England.

### **BID Leicester presents... Jubilee Square Outdoor Cinema**



Would-be space travellers will be transported to a galaxy far, far away with our space-themed movie night on Friday 19 July in Jubilee Square, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landings. Admission is free and visitors can bring a blanket or chair, enjoy the food and drinks on offer and settle in for a night at the movies to remember. The film will be shown from 9.15pm and - weather permitting - is expected to increase footfall into the city centre in the evening. The cinema is part of a wider programme organised by the BID to commemorate the moon landing anniversary - find full details at [onegiantleap-leicester.co.uk](https://onegiantleap-leicester.co.uk).

## July 2019 Festival and Event Listings

Saturday 13 July – Monday 26 August	Billy Bates Funfair	Abbey Park	Various
Sunday 14 July	Rathyatra	Parade from Bishop Street, Gallowtree Gate, Cossington Street Recreation Ground	12pm
Thursday 18 July	Racing	Leicester Racecourse	Gates Open - 12.20pm First Race - 2.20pm Last Race - 5.20pm
Friday 19 July	Lancashire Lightning	Fischer County Ground, Grace Road	6:30pm
Saturday 20 July	Shree Guru Purnima Festival	Cossington Park	8am - 10pm
Saturday 20 July	Nelson Mandela Day Celebration	Nelson Mandela Park	12 - 8pm
Saturday 20 July	Neha Kakkar Live	Morningside Arena	7pm - 11.30pm
Tuesday 23 July	Cricket v Yorkshire Vikings	Grace Road	6.30pm
Weds 24th	Evening Racing	Leicester Racecourse	Evening Racing Gates Open - 3.30pm First Race - 5.30pm Last Race - 8.40pm
Friday 26 July	Cricket v Durham Jets	Grace Road	6:30pm
Sunday 28 July	Greyfriars Open Streets	New Market Square / Greyfriars	1 - 4pm
Wednesday 31 July	Evening Racing	Leicester Racecourse	Gates Open - 3.45pm First Race - 5.45pm Last Race - 8.40pm

For more information on Festivals and Events please visit: <http://www.visitleicester.info>

## Get in Touch

If you know someone who would like to receive this report, please send contact details to [gitte.magielse@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:gitte.magielse@leicester.gov.uk).

If you have news about your own business or industry for inclusion in these reports, would like further information or if I can help you in anyway, then please do get in touch. My contact details are as follows:

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