

The first **100** achievements of the Labour Group after coming back into power *Updated Jan 2011*

We have compiled this list of achievements as a useful reminder of progress since Labour took control of the council in May 2007. This is not a full list – we are bound to have forgotten or overlooked some things! We hope it is useful to remind you of what has been achieved and what there is still to do. The list contains many real improvements we have made for communities across Leicester under the leadership of Ross Willmott.

We will be renewing this list and hope that informs both debate and other Council plans in the future.

- 1.** Under a Labour Cabinet the city has launched the unique new ONE Leicester 25 year strategy to make Leicester Britain's Sustainable City. With Partners we led the development of the One Leicester identity – driving forward a new confidence and vision for the city
- 2.** Highcross: Ross Willmott the Leader of the Council along with Hammersons and Hermes Leicester opened Highcross in September – the UK's most exciting new retail development made possible by Labour Group
- 3.** Her majesty the Queen opened *Curve* this year – Britains's best new performing arts development
- 4.** Introduced the popular Cleaner City Street Cleaning team – delivering our pledge of cleaner streets with £200,000 of new investment
- 5.** Introduced City Wardens to tackle anti-social behaviour – delivering on our pledge of cleaner, safer streets
- 6.** Launched new Community Meetings with increased local budgets – replacing the failed Area Committees and giving people a real say in their local community
- 7.** Extended opening hours at Southfields and Belgrave Libraries – reversing cuts made under the previous administration

- 8.** Installed new lighting to improve safety on Victoria Park
- 9.** Funding two new Empty Homes Officers to help tackle the housing crisis, bringing empty homes back into use
- 10.** Banned burger vans outside schools
- 11.** Brought in a targeted free pest control service in parts of the city
- 12.** Launched a consultation on the future of the Exchange shopping precinct in Eyres Monsell – now progressing well.
- 13.** Improving security at Saffron Cemetery with £50,000 investment in new gates work to be completed this year
- 14.** Hosting the 2009 Special Olympics – the only city to host the Games twice
- 15.** Launched our strategy to bring 2012 Olympics benefits to Leicester
- 16.** Introduced 20mph zones outside schools protecting children from harm
- 17.** First new council houses built for 35 years under Ross's leadership.
- 18.** The Governance of Britain national consultation was launched in Leicester by Jack Straw MP, Secretary of State for Justice
- 19.** Braunstone Leisure Centre and Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium included in the official 2012 Olympics pre-games training camps guide
- 20.** 'Transforming Leicester's Schools' – launched a new action plan to improve the city's schools with £millions investment, which is set to rise
- 21.** Allocated funding for improvements to the building of the Leicester Asian Youth Association (LAYA)
- 22.** Major public realm improvements including pavements, verges and footpaths across the city including in Eyres Monsell, Saffron, Abbey, Humberstone & Hamilton, Coleman, and New Parks, and delivering pedestrianisation in City centre
- 23.** New Parks Library built and opened - multi million pound investment
- 24.** Doubled the number of Christmas trees in the city centre – and brought back the Ice skating rink as well as new lights on Humberstone Gate. Christmas is bigger and better with a Labour administration!

- 25.** Bringing in the new Tenants' and Leaseholders Forums – giving tenants new opportunities to influence service improvements and have their say.
- 26.** Saved the Shama Women's Centre from closure with £30,000 extra funding to make sure it could keep its doors open
- 27.** Launched the new Leicester Compact – a landmark agreement to promote joint working between the Council and voluntary sector
- 28.** Leicester is European City of Sport UK 2008 – a unique accolade in the UK and recognition of our commitment to sport
- 29.** Funding to sustain Leicester's festivals programme including Diwali and to support the development of new festivals
- 30.** Re-opened Cossington Street swimming baths after major improvements
- 31.** The Prime Minister launched the free bus passes for the over-60s in Leicester
- 32.** Opened the revamped St Margaret's Bus Station – giving real improvements to bus passengers
- 33.** Brought back the seamstress statue outside the City Rooms – celebrating Leicester's industrial heritage
- 34.** Brought the internationally renowned Attenborough Collection of Picasso ceramics to Leicester which attracted over 70,000 visitors – a record for an exhibition at New Walk Museum
- 35.** Invested £4million in care for the elderly and vulnerable to enable them to stay in their own homes
- 36.** Removed the Haymarket footbridge from Charles Street within weeks of coming to power – an eyesore and anti-social behaviour hotspot which had not been addressed under the previous administration.
- 37.** Bought the former city centre Post office to turn it into a new One stop shop for citizens to get information advice and help.
- 38.** Completed and opened Phoenix Square a £21.5 million Digital Media Centre with three cinema screens, exhibition space, flats, and digital production facilities

- 39.** Leading the biggest ever Football Foundation, football facilities development project – with new football facilities in communities across the city. Worth over £11million
- 40.** Working on a new Climate Change Action Plan to make Leicester greener and more sustainable
- 41.** 10,000 trees planted across the city
- 42.** Marked the 21st anniversary of Nelson Mandela Park with a commemorative tree planting and junior sports festival
- 43.** Introduced a new while-you-wait renewal process for Blue Badges
- 44.** Bringing residents parking to South Highfields (behind the LRI) after years of campaigning from residents
- 45.** Reinstated the popular A to Z guide to services
- 46.** Allocated an extra £100,000 for summer play activities last year – a decision taken within weeks of coming back into power – leading to important provision in 40 locations across the city
- 47.** Success in our bid to introduce free swimming for under 16 yr olds
- 48.** Labour Cabinet initiated the Cultural Quarter by turning the derelict Bus depot into flourishing business units. The cultural Quarter is now coming to completion with *Phoenix Square, Curve and Orton Square* already successfully opened.
- 49.** New play area in Abbey Park
- 50.** Labour Cabinet is driving ahead the BSF programme with record investment from our Government for state of the art new schools in the city – this will bring over £350million of new money into our schools including Beaumont Leys, Fullhurst Community College, Judgemeanow Community College and Soar Valley College
- 51.** 2000 new jobs are being created with the opening of new business developments such as One Colton Square and Highcross helping to fight the economic downturn
- 52.** A Labour-led Council working with a Labour Government has delivered new NHS health centres in St Peter's, Braunstone, Westcotes, Highfields and Rowley Fields, Charnwood, City Centre, De Montfort University; new centre is on the way in Belgrave.

- 53.** Over £50 million of new money from the Labour Government for Leicester's colleges including Leicester College, Gateway, and Wyggeston and QEI – to support the development of sustainable buildings
- 54.** The Leicester Marathon has returned to the city's streets under a Labour administration
- 55.** Free evening city centre car parking at Christmas for 2 years running
- 56.** Brought back the Caribbean Carnival with lifeline funding
- 57.** Won successful bid for £150 million for primary school BSF
- 58.** Restored the Liberty Statue and opened the new road scheme at Upperton Rd
- 59.** Introduced a scheme that ensured that over 200 long term unemployed people got jobs at Highcross
- 60.** We have completed the new road on the Leicester Science Park – next to the NationalSpace Centre – the £60 million development is set create over 1,000 high tech jobs
- 61.** £60,000 to New Parks Club for Young People to make sure it avoided closure – the funding has led to complete refurbishment and reopening of the sports hall
- 62.** Given the go ahead for a new ball court at Coleman Neighbourhood Centre
- 63.** Opened the revamped Newarke Houses Museum
- 64.** Refurbished the Douglas Bader Centre for people with disabilities.
- 65.** Extra investment for extended opening of Jewry Wall Museum and Abbey Pumping Station
- 66.** Re-opened the Westbridge Place footbridge which links Castle Gardens to the riverside
- 67.** The new Taylor Road school built and opened
- 68.** Installed new CCTV at Gilroes Cemetery to improve security
- 69.** Increased opening hours at the Brite Centre Library, Braunstone and Highfields Library

- 70.** Funded Knighton Lane Artists Studio, enabling it to stay open and develop new links with the local community
- 71.** Plans developed with Regeneration Company and private sector to deliver major improvements to Leicester Railway Station - now on hold because of Tory Government cuts
- 72.** Opened the new Danbury Gardens Extra Care facility for elderly people – the Labour Cabinet has expressed its support for Extra Care housing for the elderly and has committed £3.5 million capital for the next scheme
- 73.** Introduced new and successful Community Legal Advice Centre with outreach advice work into communities.
- 74.** Installed new security fencing at Westcotes Gardens
- 75.** Gerry Sutcliffe MP, Minister for Sport, visited to celebrate Leicester's year as European City of Sport UK
- 76.** £25,000 of new funding to Leicester's Federation of Muslim Organisations (FMO) – allowing the FMO to set up its own office for the first time
- 77.** Introduced free evening parking for Christmas shoppers
- 78.** Labour Cabinet backed city centre retailers by suspending road works for the Christmas shopping period
- 79.** Major improvements to Stephenson drive in New Parks
- 80.** Alley Gates are being fitted to 147 locations across the city to improve security and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- 81.** CCTV systems have been installed and improved across the city
- 82.** £3m invested in Humberstone primary and junior schools
- 83.** Successful pilot to boost recycling, replacing green boxes with bags that can take all recycling.
- 84.** Created a new Economic Development Company with the County Council and Districts– to spearhead work to attract new inward investment to Leicester
- 85.** New investment to protect the city from flooding risks

- 86.** Making new international business links with Europe to bring investment to the city - met with Paris Chamber of Commerce -
- 87.** Increased the number of new pedestrian crossings in the city
- 88.** Planning permission granted for the Ghandi Statue on Belgrave Road, Statue now in place
- 89.** Reducing the amount of bottled water used inside the council – acting on our commitment to improve the council’s green record
- 90.** Ross launched re-organisation of council, saving millions of pounds to be re-invested in improving front line services.
- 91.** Funded new CCTV to improve security at Southfields Library
- 92.** Re-opened St Peter’s Tenants Association
- 93.** Working towards phasing out the use of plastic carrier bags introduced the *One Leicester Bag*
- 94.** Launched the H-JET jobs and skills project in Highfields to get local people into work – now developed multi access centres
- 95.** Great new signs for all our parks
- 96.** Funding free use of council leisure centres for the over-60s
- 97.** New funding which has expanded the graffiti removal team – creating a cleaner Leicester
- 98.** Removed the underpass at the railway station, putting people first and improving the streetscape.
- 99.** Multi million pound investment in Sanvey Gate road improvements underway
- 100.** Re-established Leicester’s regional and national reputation – which was left in tatters after four years of embarrassment and under achievement with the Lib Dems and Tories in power.

Compiled by the Labour Group.

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