



Full Council

**Tuesday, 27
September 2022**

**Matter for
Information**

Report Title: Civic Agreement Update with Leicester/shire Universities

Report Author(s): Philippa Fisher (Strategic Director)

Purpose of Report:	To provide an overview of the CIVIC University Agreement entered into between Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and University of Leicester and other partners in June 2022.
Report Summary:	The report sets out the background to the CIVIC University Agreement, what it means to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and the University of Leicester and the actions to date.
Recommendation(s):	That the content of the report be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service) (0116) 257 2602 anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Philippa Fisher (Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2677 philippa.fisher@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2) Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
Vision and Values:	Accountability (V1) Respect (V2) Teamwork (V3) Innovation (V4) Customer Focus (V5)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.

Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Civic University Agreement (June 2022)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has joined with 30 other institutions by becoming a signatory to a "Civic University Agreement" with the University of Leicester.
- 1.2. The Civic University Agreement sees the University of Leicester reaffirm its commitment to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland by pledging to put the economy and quality of life in the local community top of its list of priorities.
- 1.3. The Civic University Agreement for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland combines the collective strengths of the counties universities and civic institutions to make a greater impact by working together more closely with communities.
- 1.4. Through this agreement it is hoped that synergies are established regarding how to support local communities and aid the prosperity of Leicestershire, including the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. This will be delivered through a combination of aligning work that is already happening and supporting new joint initiatives.
- 1.5. The agreement also aims to help universities like Leicester build on the work that many universities are already carrying out in these areas, working alongside councils, employers, cultural institutions, schools and further education colleges.
- 1.6. The signatories of this agreement are committed to work together, in collaboration with our communities and partners, to address the priorities set out in the Civic University Agreement.
- 1.7. Signatories:
 - De Montfort University
 - University of Leicester
 - Loughborough University
 - Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
 - Leicester City Council
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Rutland County Council
 - Charnwood Borough Council

2. Background

- 2.1. The University in consultation with its partners and communities, including Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, have identified five themes, devised around key priorities for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and aligned to areas in which the participating universities have world-leading knowledge, expertise and best practice.
- 2.2. Joint theme groups have been established, comprising of academic and professional

experts from Leicestershire universities, in each of the five areas below:

- Education
- The economy
- Sport, health and wellbeing
- Environmental sustainability
- Arts, culture and heritage

2.3. The theme groups, in collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, are working towards the delivery of objectives in the agreement. This partnership will be overseen by a joint steering group, through which the Civic University Agreement can be delivered.

3. Actions and Next Steps

3.1. Since the signing and formal launch of the CIVIC Agreement on 28 June 2022, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and the University have worked closely together attending meetings to discuss opportunities based on the 5 key streams mentioned in the CIVIC Agreement.

3.2. The leads for each workstream shared with Oadby and Wigston Officers their aims, priorities and deliverables for each workstream. Officers then discussed the potential synergies with the work streams and the work and services being delivered as a Council.

3.3. Actions plans are currently being written, where both parties will focus on some quick wins and/or 'business as usual' but also two to three key impactful projects for the Borough going forward.

3.4. The council and University of Leicester will continue to consult as a constant throughout the life cycle of the CIVIC University Agreement, ensuring that there is regular engagement with local stakeholders and local communities to remain relevant and focussed on the issues that matter.

3.5. Each year, progress will be measured and objectives reviewed to ensure they align with the evolving priorities of the Council and the Borough.

4. Summary

4.1. Over the last three years the relationship with University of Leicester and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has gone from strength to strength, culminating in the University being awarded the Council's highest honour of Freedom of the Borough for their centenary year in 2021.

4.2. The foundation of this Civic University Agreement will continue the strong partnership between the Council and University of Leicester and the other universities signed up to the agreement.

4.3. Networks and relationships will be forged across the universities and other local key organisations that will support our communities. By coming together regularly and talking about the local challenges faced, it is hoped to identify new, better solutions and maximise the impact we have for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

4.4. The Council and university will pursue shared objectives and outcomes and undertake joint projects as part of this agreement.

4.5. To complement this report and give further details attached in **Appendix 1**.