

Community scheme is growing places

A TREE
FOR EVERY
PERSON



(L-R) Robert Ashman, county councillor for Forest and Measham, Louise Driver, National Forest Director of Operations, Kevin Feltham, council chairman and Blake Pain, cabinet member for the environment and green agenda

A nursery aiming to supply 20,000 trees each year – most of them destined for planting in Leicestershire – is to be developed in partnership with the National Forest Company.

Local groups and organisations will be involved in the exciting, community-focused initiative by helping to collect seeds and grow new trees to plant across Leicestershire and the National Forest.

They will help meet our ambitious plan to plant 700,000 trees – one for every person in the county.

Work on the site in Moira in North West Leicestershire is due to start soon, with phase one of the pioneering project involving establishing access, infrastructure, polytunnels and growing beds.

The nursery will offer opportunities for apprenticeships, volunteering and lifelong skills training and will form part of a wider hub project, including a visitor centre and gateway to the National Forest.

Councillor Blake Pain, cabinet member for the environment and green agenda, said: "Tree and woodland planting is a vital part of our response to the climate change and biodiversity crises.

"Creating our own tree nursery means our 700,000 target can take a huge stride forward, creates a valuable income stream for us and offers invaluable skills and training opportunities."

130,000 trees planted by end of spring

John Everitt, Chief Executive of the National Forest Company, said: "This tree nursery project represents an exciting collaboration between the National Forest Company and Leicestershire County Council, and we look forward to seeing the nursery grow local seeds into healthy trees that will be planted to benefit nature, communities and our wider environment."

Leicestershire is one of the least wooded areas of the country with around six per cent woodland – well below the national average of 10 per cent.

Trees and woodlands play an important part in cleaning up the environment, providing clean air, improving soil quality and reducing flooding.

The nursery – which will help to safeguard against national shortages of key species such as oak – is an important part of the race to net zero.

We're making progress by reducing the carbon footprint of food, making homes more energy-efficient and supporting communities – and will soon be generating renewable energy at a solar farm in Quorn.

We want Leicestershire to be net zero by 2045 - and given the huge challenge ahead, we need a team effort. Read more about our plans on pages 10 and 11.



Leicestershire Matters is sent to all residents in the county of Leicestershire.

It costs around 12p to print and deliver each copy.

To help save money on the distribution, we work closely with Royal Mail. We're sorry if you receive Leicestershire Matters just over the border in a neighbouring county – but by using standard postal routes we actually save £750 per issue.

Contact us

leicestershire.gov.uk

Our website focuses on the most popular things that people want to do online. So next time you need to find or do something with the council, go online at leicestershire.gov.uk

Email

leics-matters@leics.gov.uk

Twitter @LeicsCountyHall

Facebook LeicsCountyHall

Instagram LeicsCountyHal

TikTok @leicscountycouncil

General enquiries

Mon - Thur: 8.30am - 5pm

Fri: 8.30am - 4.30pm

Telephone: 0116 232 3232

Post

Communications Team,
Room 400, County Hall,
Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8RA

Welcome to Leicestershire Matters

Council leader, **Nick Rushton**, introduces our spring edition



Protecting the vulnerable and hefty investment in the support people depend on – that's what our budget delivers.

Unforeseen global issues such as war in Ukraine and rising energy costs make balancing our books challenging. We've spent a lot of time on it and asking people to pay more has been a tough decision. Not doing so would drastically reduce the money we can spend on social care, fixing roads and other frontline services. Being the lowest funded county compounds this and I'm looking forward to discussing this with the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, next month.

Our communities have welcomed guests from Ukraine with open arms. It's only right that we've stepped up to support those forced to flee their war-torn homeland and it was great to meet Ukrainian guests and sponsors when we planted a tree at

County Hall last month. We're also helping communities with £1.5m of vital food and energy support as the cost of living bites. We can't control the factors pushing up prices but we can support those who are feeling the impact the most.

Whether it's parkruns, ambitious net zero plans, congestion-busting road schemes, new family hubs, helping to celebrate the King's coronation or boosting skills, we're working hard for our residents. Find out more about these projects, and how you can get involved, in this edition. And if you're inspired by Livvy's heart warming story on page 13, and want to help us change lives, take a look at our jobs.

Nick Rushton

NICK RUSHTON

Scrutiny's spring spotlight

Adult social care, cancer treatment and road accidents are just three of the big items set to be in scrutiny's spotlight.

Through scrutiny, our councillors provide challenge, receive questions and petitions and play an important role in making sure local services are delivering for you.

Over the winter, our councillors have been taking a magnifying glass to our budget and providing challenge. More than half of our 55 councillors are involved in scrutiny issues and this spring and summer, they have a packed agenda.

Our cross-party committees will be focusing on:

- **Children and families:** Managing the growing demand for special educational needs and disability needs (SEND) support is key. This, plus home education and new plans for

one-stop hubs supporting families, will be the focus.

- **Health:** Concerns about delays to cancer treatment will be a key item.
- **Highways and transport:** Taking a fine-tooth comb to the latest road casualty figures and looking at plans to reduce the risk of flooding.
- **Adults and communities:** The Government's planned reform of adult social care, and what it means for residents, will loom large.
- **Environment:** Members will look at managing trees on highways and disposal of sofas, plus regular monitoring of key performance indicators.
- **Scrutiny commission:** The commission will take a wider look at SEND from a finance, service and transport perspective, focus on the next Youth Justice Plan and

continue to monitor financial performance.

- **In-depth:** Two five-member panels will be looking closely at future plans for Shire Grants and recycling and household waste sites, before making recommendations to our cabinet.

Scrutiny's role includes:

- Providing challenge – including holding our cabinet to account.
- Receiving questions and petitions.
- Monitoring the performance of services.
- Helping develop our budget and key council policies.
- Scrutinising the performance of other public bodies in the area such as the NHS.

Want to submit a question or find out more? Visit
leicestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny



If you would like the information contained in this newsletter in an alternative version such as large print, Braille or tape, or help with understanding it in your language, please call 0116 305 6274 or email leics-matters@leics.gov.uk

100% recycled

When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it

BUDGET

Reduce, reuse and recycle

Keeping children safe

Health visitors

Lightning fast broadband

Tree planting

Adult social care

Support for vulnerable at heart of budget

Protecting vital public services during tough economic times is prioritised in our budget – including major investment in help that residents depend on.

An extra £57m more for support, including home and residential care, is at the heart of the plan which will also see major capital investment of £509m, service cuts totalling £3m, £59m of efficiency savings and a 4.99 per cent Council Tax increase to ensure the books balance next year.

An extra £1m has been earmarked to offset the impact of service cuts and boost road maintenance, following better than expected Government funding earlier this year – this includes £100,000 to continue rolling out community speed cameras.

The budget, agreed last month, also features an extra £1m to offset the impact of service cuts and support priorities, such as keeping Leicestershire's roads in good condition.

Although councils fared better than expected in the Government's Autumn Statement, the financial outlook remains extremely tough, with our budget gap set to rise to nearly £90m by 2026.

Growing service demand is set to increase our costs by £70m, with rising inflation forecast to add another £91m by 2026/27. The National Living Wage increase drives up social care costs significantly and adds another £18m.

Our yearly budget is

£512 million

A 4.99 per cent Council Tax increase from April equates to £1.39 a week for a Band D home and generates £17.7m for front line services.

Find out more – and see how your feedback shapes our plans – at: leicestershire.gov.uk/budget

Councillor Lee Breckon,
cabinet member
for finance



“As the lowest-funded county council, we pride ourselves on doing the best we can with the money we have.

Our priority is ensuring vulnerable people continue to receive services they depend on, despite soaring year-on-year demand. And that's in line with what you told us in our consultation and is why we're investing £57m more.

And asking our residents to pay more is far from ideal, especially with rising costs of living. With inflation driving up our costs, a Council Tax rise significantly reduces the impact on front line services.

The longer term financial position remains critical. We're pushing forward with our fair funding campaign and looking forward to meeting the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, in the spring to press our case.”

Rural bus connects with its users

Our Government funded FoxConnect trial scheme is seeing a positive start.

Just four months after launching with £1.3m of Government funding, the flexible FoxConnect minibus transport service has made a positive start to its trial in south west Leicestershire.

Covering 18 villages and serving key destinations including Fosse Park, Magna Park, Enderby Park and Ride as well as Narborough and Hinckley railway stations,

FoxConnect has seen more than 5,000 passenger journeys, and the majority of users have given the service a positive rating through the app.

The service runs from 6am until 7.30pm from Monday to Saturday. You can book a journey through the app or on the phone.

Councillor Ozzy O'Shea, cabinet member for highways



Ozzy O'Shea

and transport, said: "This positive start for FoxConnect bodes well for it to be successful in the longer term, which should give us more confidence to try similar flexible transport models if more Government funding becomes available."



Where does FoxConnect cover?



You can travel between the villages on this map as well as to the key destinations for your onward journey

You can book a journey through the app or on the phone 0116 216 5555.



You can find more at foxconnect.co.uk

E-bikes boost pedal power

Our net zero commitment means we're ready to support people to change the way they travel.

E-bikes are becoming increasingly popular for many, including those who want an extra push when riding, and especially for hills and longer rides.

Our Safe and Sustainable Travel Team has been delivering training sessions for county residents who want to learn more about e-bikes, including answering questions, bike maintenance and tips on how to get the most out of riding your electric bike.

More than 300 people have benefited from the training, with each resident receiving a £300 voucher off an e-bike as part of the Government's E-bike Extension Fund.



Digging in to support our growing county

We look at three key projects helping to shape Leicestershire's growing economy and thriving local communities.

North and east Melton Mowbray distributor road



Work on the eagerly anticipated new relief road for north and east Melton is set to get underway very soon.

The road will support the creation of much-needed new homes, reduce congestion in Melton Mowbray town centre and surrounding areas and deliver jobs to the area. Advance work on the scheme is underway, with major construction work due to start this spring.

A511 Coalville growth corridor scheme



In the northwest of Leicestershire, a congestion-busting scheme on a stretch of the A511 between Ashby and Coalville has moved a step nearer with planning permission approved for a link road off Bardon Road to a housing development.

The initiative will see major improvements to eight junctions along the A511 and a dual carriageway between Thornborough Road and Whitwick Road.

After suffering from congestion for many years, the scheme will improve traffic flow and public transport and encourage walking and cycling. Work is set to start in late 2024.

Hollycroft Primary School, Hinckley



Deputy council leader, Deborah Taylor, marks the start of work

In Hinckley, work has started on a brand-new primary school next to a new housing development on the western edge of the town.

The £8.5m Hollycroft Primary School will have up to 210 pupils and will be funded mostly by the neighbouring housing developer, Bloor Homes.

It will be the first carbon neutral school in Leicestershire, with an 'A' energy rating.



**Councillor
Ozzy O'Shea,**
cabinet

member for highways and transport, said "We are very excited to see both of these significant transport schemes begin, and we will be working with our contractors to maximise any opportunities for more environmentally friendly work practices on these projects."



**Councillor
Pam Posnett,**
cabinet

member for broadband, said: "We're the first county in the country to roll out Gigahubs. By boosting broadband



Pam Posnett

access and speeds in rural areas, we're helping families, businesses and people working from home."

Running on a high



Join a parkrun at one of our country parks:

- **Market Bosworth,**
CV13 0LP
- **Beacon Hill,**
Woodhouse Eaves,
LE12 8SP
- **Watermead
Country Park,**
Syston, LE7 1PD

Find out about other local parkruns at parkrun.com

Two of our country parks now play host to brand new parkruns. We look at how taking part – however you want to – can benefit your physical and mental health.

Whether you're running or volunteering, parkruns have proven to be an important factor in improving mental health for many people. If you're looking to join a group of positive, friendly people and get out in the fresh air, being a part of the parkrun community is a great way to start.

Market Bosworth and Beacon Hill have joined Watermead as the most recent sites to host a parkrun. The weekly 5km event is popular across the country with thousands walking, jogging or running at 9am every Saturday.

Our 18 country parks cover over 1,300 acres of land including Snibston Colliery

Park and Bosworth Battlefield and welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Our brilliant rangers and volunteers give cover and support 365 days a year to keep these parks running.

Councillor Louise Richardson, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said:



Louise Richardson

"It's fantastic for our parks to play host to a parkrun. These events are so popular with anyone who wants to get active or volunteer. The benefits are so positive, we can't wait to see Market Bosworth and Beacon Hill parkruns thrive as more people take part."

Volunteering

Your community

Your opportunity



Volunteers at parkrun (left to right): Julie Davies, Jo Ryder and Lyndsay Jordan

Helping out at a parkrun is just one of so many ways you can volunteer. Whether you love gardening, supporting people or working in your local community, volunteering boosts mental and physical health, confidence and self-esteem.

Local charities and voluntary groups can also benefit from your expertise.

Visit leicestershire.gov.uk/volunteering for more info on our opportunities. You can also visit Voluntary Action LeicesterShire at valonline.org.uk or call 0116 257 50 50.

Mental health support

Looking after your mental health is so important but it often comes second to physical health.

If you need help for you or someone you are worried about visit startaconversation.co.uk to find support.

Specific support is also available for anyone who is affected by drugs or alcohol. Visit turning-point.co.uk/services/leicestershire



Supporting Ukraine

We've marked one year since the first Ukrainian guests started arriving in Leicestershire.

More than 500 households have opened up their homes to guests from Ukraine in the last year, providing a safe, welcoming environment for people fleeing the Russian invasion.

Ukrainian guests have been getting involved in their local communities. Whether supporting other guests in the county, volunteering or finding employment to support the scheme, the near 1,000 guests, who include more than 350 children, have been an inspiration.

Since Homes for Ukraine started, we have worked hard to support sponsor families, including teaming up with partner authorities in the county and

increasing the payment for hosts from £350 to £500 over the winter.

Our staff have also worked hard to put in the help needed for the necessary checks and the welcoming of guests.



Deborah Taylor

Deputy council leader, Deborah Taylor, said: "I'd like to thank every sponsor household, our support teams at the council and every single person who has made guests feel so welcome in Leicestershire. I'm so proud of the way our local communities have rallied round to support those forced to leave their homes in such awful circumstances."



Tree planted to mark one year of Leicestershire welcoming Ukrainian guests

The special oak tree was planted at County Hall with (L-R) deputy council leader, Deborah Taylor, the chairman of the council, Kevin Feltham, leader of the council, Nick Rushton, guests and sponsors as well as representatives of the Leicester Ukrainian Club, 'Kalyna.'



(L-R) Guests from Ukraine Larysa Blyzniuk, Andrii Kravets, Myroslava Kravets and sponsor Mandy Motley

Myroslava's story

Myroslava and her son came to the UK last year and lived in Barwell with her hosts Michael and Mandy.

Myroslava said: "Our sponsors became my other parents. We lived with sponsors for about five months, shared good and bad, every step in a foreign country, processing all documents, school, hospital, bank, and much more.

"I found a job in Hinckley and we decided to move as it was easier for us to get to work and school. Again, all the necessary help with finding housing, processing all the documents with the local council and real estate agency, help with furniture and moving - all this was helped by the sponsors.

"In the local church we had the opportunity to meet Ukrainians, learn and practice English. Many Ukrainians and I personally went to college, gaining knowledge in various fields.

"I don't know how our life will turn out in the future, but I have to say that England is a wonderful and beautiful country, and the English are kind, sympathetic and pleasant people. We and our children are safe here and I am personally sincerely grateful to God and this nation for the kindness and humanity shown to all of us Ukrainians."

Special Events

There are lots of things to see and do this spring in our country parks, heritage sites, museums and libraries.

Snibston COLLIERY PARK

Ashby Road, Coalville,
Leicestershire, LE67 3LN

leicscountryparks.org.uk

[snibstoncollierypark](https://www.facebook.com/snibstoncollierypark)



The park's natural landscape is rooted in its mining heritage

and has a rich ecology. It has Green Flag status - the award for best green spaces in the country. It includes a 4km blue grade mountain bike trail and pump track.

New café opens

A new operator has taken charge of the Snibston Colliery Park café, which attracts cycling groups and families from across the area.

Grounds Café is bringing a fresh perspective by making Snibston its fifth location in the Midlands.

As well as drinks, snacks and new ideas at the environmentally-friendly venue, there may also be hire bikes and takeaway options in the future.

Council leader, Nick Rushton, said: "Our vision for Snibston Colliery Park has always been to involve the local community in the development of this important multi-use site – respecting the historic heart of Coalville, while securing long-term benefits for the area."

Grounds at Colliery Café is open seven days a week from 8am-5pm.

CT

CENTURY THEATRE

at Snibston Colliery Park

Book online at centurytheatre.co.uk
or call the box office 01530 27844
centurytheatre.co.uk
[@CenturyTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/CenturyTheatre) [@century_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/century_theatre)

Book now

Ceri Dupree:
Back to the Rhinestone
Sat 8 April, 7.30pm, £16

Drag queen royalty Ceri Dupree returns for a glamorous show of live vocals, specially written sketches and songs.

Award winning

Zoo Co presents Bossy
Fri 14 April, 11am & 1pm, £8-10

Multi-award winning Zoo Co presents this brand-new show featuring a captivating Caribbean soundtrack, and performed in BSL and English. You'll leave this show feeling pumped up and powerful.

Voodoo Room - 28 April

Paying tribute to the incredible music of Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Cream.

Bootleg Shadows - 3 June

For anyone who loves the sounds of the 60s and enjoys a few laughs.

★★★★★
Maverick
music mag

Talon: The Acoustic Collection - 25 June

Acoustic arrangements of the music of The Eagles and more.



Beaumanor Hall

A Victorian country house set in 34 acres of idyllic countryside, bursting with exciting events and things to do.

Woodhouse, Leicestershire, LE12 8TX

beaumanorhall.co.uk

Tel: 01509 890119

[@beaumanorhall](https://www.facebook.com/beaumanorhall) [@beaumanorhall](https://www.instagram.com/beaumanorhall) [@beaumanorhall](https://www.youtube.com/beaumanorhall)

Spring Fair

Sat 15 & Sun 16 April

10am-4pm

£3 entry (free parking)

Special event

Beaumanor's spring fair features an array of stalls from local makers, artisans and crafters.

As a hub of inspiration for Mother's Day or Easter gifts, foodie treats and items for the home, it offers a great day of shopping in beautiful historic surroundings. For stall enquiries, email EventsAtBeaumanor@leics.gov.uk or call 01509 890119.

EAST EASTER Outdoor Activities

KIDS' EVENTS

at Beaumanor

Join Beaumanor's holiday activity club this Easter for exciting outdoors activities for children aged seven to 14. From high ropes and canoeing to mountain biking and climbing, there's something for every adventurer to enjoy. From £40 per child, per day. Childcare vouchers also accepted. Search 'Beaumanor' on Eventbrite to book or call 01509 890119.
beaumanorhall.co.uk/outdoor-activities



BOSWORTH

BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE
AND COUNTRY PARK

**Explore the stories behind
the Battle of Bosworth in 1485
and the death of Richard III.**

Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire, CV13 0AD
bosworthbattlefield.org.uk
Tel: 01455 290429
Open daily Nov to March 10am-4pm
and April to October 10am-5pm.

**Special
event**

Basket Willow Weaving Workshop

Sat 1 April, 9am-3.30pm. £60

Learn the ancient craft of willow weaving to create your own traditional frame basket perfect for Easter. You'll learn about willow and its properties while being guided on the art of traditional weaving. Book online.

**FREE
event**

Spring Fair

Sun 2 April, 10.30am-4pm

Celebrating all things crafty as we host a wonderfully eclectic range of stall holders and food vendors.



THE 1620s HOUSE & GARDEN at Donington le Heath

**Explore the historic 1620s
manor house with links to the
Gunpowder Plot, or unearth the
natural beauty of the gardens.**

Manor Road, Donington le Heath, LE67 2FW
1620shouse.org.uk Tel: 01455 290429
Reopens on 30 March. Open Thurs to Sun,
10.30am-4.30pm.

**Special
events**

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Sun 19 March & Sun 9 April,
4pm-6pm. £18.50

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea in the unique and relaxed surroundings of the 1620s barn and gardens. We're offering you a wonderful way to treat those closest to you this Mother's day and Easter.



Harborough Museum

The Symington Building,
Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7LT
harboroughmuseum.org.uk Tel: 0116 305 3627

**New
EXHIBITION**

We are Harborough

**Open until September 2023,
Tue to Fri, 10am-6pm and
Sat, 10am-4pm. FREE ENTRY**

This exhibition explores the wonderful diversity of communities from across the area. Ukrainians and their host families share their experiences of the district, gypsies and travellers dispel common myths, young people share what Harborough means to them through music, families share through song and heritage volunteers delve into the archives to share unique objects. Head down to the museum to see how much you really know about Harborough. Find out more about the 'We are Harborough Project' led by Culture Leicestershire visit cultureleicestershire.co.uk @CultureLeics



Other museums around Leicestershire:

Melton Museum



Traces the history of Melton and includes exhibitions on the world-renowned Stilton cheese and pork pie industries, and the history of fox hunting, with collections from the Bronze Age to present day.
Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1RB
meltonmuseum.org
Tel: 0116 305 3860
Open Tues to Sat 10am-4.30pm.
Closed Mon and Sun. FREE ENTRY.

**Special
event**

The Victorian Army – The Men and Campaigns

Tue 21 March, 2.30pm.

FREE for members, £3 non-members
The Friends of Melton Carnegie Museum present this talk by Jed Jaggard which explores war culture during the Victorian period.

Charnwood Museum



Featuring a wide range of exhibits reflecting the history, geology, archaeology and industries of Charnwood and the surrounding area.

Granby Street, Loughborough, LE11 3DU
charnwoodmuseum.co.uk
Tel: 01509 233754
Open Wed to Sat 10am-3pm.
Closed Sun, Mon and Tues. FREE ENTRY

The Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

A range of resources for researching local history and culture. Extensive collections, dating from early 1100s.
Long Street, Wigston Magna, LE18 2AH
recordoffice.org.uk Tel: 0116 257 1080



Love Leicestershire Libraries

With free WiFi, Leicestershire libraries are a great place to work, study and meet with friends or take the kids after school. Many libraries have varied opening hours with self-access technology giving residents flexibility to visit when it's convenient.
Find out about becoming a smart library member for free at leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries

ENVIRONMENT

NET ZERO LEICESTERSHIRE

As you'll have seen on the front page, we're thinking big and have a goal of becoming a net zero county by 2045.

Our newly-launched strategy sets out our priorities for the next five years and includes improving homes to make them more energy efficient, helping businesses reduce their carbon emissions and generating even more renewable energy.

To achieve this, it's essential we all work together – so we're joining forces with residents, businesses and other organisations to drive change.

With our new Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact, we're working with councils and others to speed up our journey to net zero – it's a great example of working together to speed up action. Signed last month, the pact underlines our commitment to tackling climate change and nature decline and brings

We're zeroing in on our plans to reduce carbon emissions in the county. We look at our new, ambitious next steps.

together voluntary, community and social enterprises, universities, education and research sector, public sector and others. We've also secured funding from Innovate UK to deliver our Leicestershire CAN Collaborate to Accelerate Net Zero research project.



Blake Pain

Councillor Blake Pain, cabinet member for the environment and green agenda, said: "We can't reach net zero on our own effort. Hopefully by encouraging our residents, partners and businesses to get involved, we will help shape a greener future for the county, and for generations to come."

If you want to get involved in tackling net zero or nature decline, sign up to the pact at: [leicestershire.gov.uk/netzero](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/netzero)

Our net zero plans...



Sustainable warmth:

Improving the energy performance of homes, reducing emissions and fuel poverty



Sustainable transport:

Installing up to 100 electric vehicle charging points across the county



Communities:

Supporting Environment Action Volunteers to take action in their communities



Sustainable food:

Reducing the carbon impact of food production, distribution and waste

RECYCLING

Charge up your battery knowledge

Your help can ensure all batteries are disposed of correctly.

Every day people throw out batteries – whether it's a classic AA battery, in a vape or even your electric toothbrush.

Wrongly disposing of batteries can cause a serious risk for your bin crews, waste management centres and at household waste and recycling sites. If some types of battery are damaged when processed, they can ignite or explode.

You can make a difference – disposing of batteries properly helps to reduce this risk to waste staff and stops those that can be recycled ending up in landfill.

Top tips to make a difference:

- Don't put batteries in your general waste or recycling bins.
- Take it out – remove any batteries from old or broken devices.
- Recycle then shop – many battery collection points are available at supermarkets.
- Visit our sites – we'll happily take your old batteries at our recycling and household waste site.

Want to know more?

Visit [lesswaste.org.uk](https://www.lesswaste.org.uk) to find out about disposing your unwanted items, including batteries. You can also visit [recyclenow.com](https://www.recyclenow.com) to search for your nearest battery recycling point.

Royal waiving for coronation

We're supporting your coronation weekend celebrations, with free road closure applications for street parties.

Applications usually cost between £450-£600 but to ensure as many neighbours and communities can enjoy the celebrations, including the Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday 7 May, all fees will be waived.

Hurry! Guarantee what you need from us for your event by applying before 31 March. Visit leicestershire.gov.uk/coronation for more information.



For all the latest info from us about the coronation in Leicestershire, visit leicestershire.gov.uk/coronation

1911-2023
**BACK
IN TIME**

With May's historic coronation on the horizon, we're heading back to previous celebration events in the county with these fantastic pictures.

What's on?

Lord Lieutenant, Mike Kapur, will be leading celebrations around the city and county. How will you mark the bumper bank holiday weekend?

Saturday 6 May

Enjoy the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty the Queen Consort on television.

Sunday 7 May

Take part in your community's Big Coronation Lunch, followed by a sure-to-be spectacular Coronation Concert on the BBC.

Monday 8 May

The Big Help Out is your chance to spend some time volunteering. Organised by The Together Coalition and including organisations such as the Scouts, the Royal Voluntary Service and faith groups, you can make a positive difference.

1902



Coronation of King Edward VII

One hundred and twenty one years ago, Loughborough joined the rest of the country in marking Edward VII's place on the throne. This was the first coronation in 64 years after Queen Victoria. This image shows Market Place on 9 August putting on a fine show.

1911



Coronation of King George V

Nottingham Street in the heart of Melton Mowbray saw local celebrations in 1911 for the coronation of King George V. Crowds of onlookers lined the streets with police officers escorting the walkers for the parade, which took place on 22 June.

1953



Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

2 June 1953 was, just like the 1937 coronation of George VI, a chilly and damp day, meaning only a few pictures are available. Ashby residents marched down Market Street despite the conditions 70 years ago. Thank you to Ashby Museum for the photo ashbymuseum.org.uk

Love makes a family



A loving home is all children in care desperately need – and sexual orientation is not a barrier.

The start of March is the annual LGBTQ+ Fostering and Adoption Week and it's the perfect chance for us to highlight how sexual orientation is not a barrier to being a foster carer.

'1, 2, 3, or more?' is this year's theme, asking LGBTQ+ people to consider adopting or fostering single children, or those in sibling group.

With over 700 children in our care desperate for a loving home, there has never been more need for more

LGBTQ+ people to consider adoption or fostering.

Recent research found that more than half of sibling groups in care are split up, sometimes due to a lack of foster carers or adoptive parents who can care for siblings.

Many LGBTQ+ people think that they can't be carers. This couldn't be further from the truth. We will also help with training, support and a competitive allowance to foster carers.

Want to be a foster carer?

Learn even more about becoming a foster carer at our upcoming events:

- Thursday 16 March – online
- Tuesday 4 April – County Hall, Glenfield

Find out about the different types of fostering at fosteringleicestershire.com or call 0116 305 0505 to start your fostering journey.

Come and join us

Be the person to make a positive difference for us.

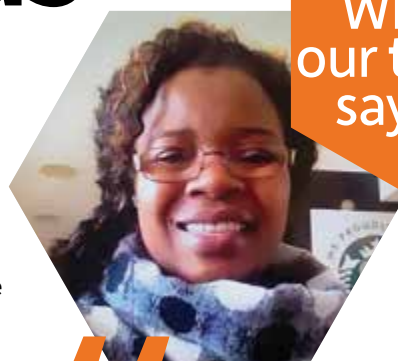
With various roles across our Children and Family Services, this is an exciting time to join us here at the council.

Whether you're supporting people in our Children and Family Wellbeing Service, working with parents/carers to help children and young people who aren't accessing mainstream education, or providing advice and support about special educational needs and disabilities, being a part of our team means you can make a strong, positive difference.

We're looking for inspirational people to come and join us to enhance the lives of children and their families in Leicestershire.

We know how important it is to have high quality training and support and we pride ourselves on training, learning and development opportunities to develop your career in such a vital service.

Interested in opportunities in Children and Family Services? See the latest vacancies at leicestershire.gov.uk/jobs



What our team says...

“The teamwork is amazing – we all care about each other. I feel right at home and like I've always belonged.”

Olivia, Children and Family Services Social Worker

Proud to value diversity

See more about working at the council at leicestershire.gov.uk/inclusiveworkplace



Family hubs to bolster support

We've been awarded nearly £1m from the Government to create 'one-stop shops' where parents and carers can access family advice and support services.

They will be a mixture of physical and virtual spaces, where people can access a range of guidance on issues such as social care, education, debt management, and mental and physical health.

Councillor Deborah Taylor, cabinet member for children and families, said: "We are delighted to receive this funding. The family hubs, whether in a building or accessed digitally, will be places where information, advice and support can be easily found in one place."

The physical hubs will be in existing buildings such as libraries and children and family wellbeing centres, where staff will be specially trained to offer and signpost to the right support.

The hubs are set to be up and running by spring 2024.

Find out more - email: familyhubs@leics.gov.uk

Funding to run holiday clubs

Funding is available to run free holiday clubs for children and young people this summer.

We'd like to hear from interested county schools, charity, voluntary and community sector organisations and other holiday activity organisations

Register your interest by Wednesday, 15 March at: active-together.org/holidaystogetherproviders

We work with Active Together to run the Holiday Activities and Food programme, which is funded by the Department for Education.

Free clubs for families receiving benefits related school meals will run again this Easter. For more visit leicestershire.gov.uk/HAF

YOUR LIFE YOUR WAY



Livvy's experiences are inspiring others

Livvy's life lifted by supported living

We're playing an important part in helping people live more independently – we take a look at one young woman's journey.

Livvy has been in supported living for two years. Part of our adult social care service, it helps people who have experienced physical or mental health difficulties.

There are 600 tenants in over 130 properties within supported living across Leicestershire.

Thriving in the environment, Livvy said: "Right from the start, everyone made me feel so welcome. The staff gave me valuable emotional support.

"I have emotionally unstable personality disorder and autism, so I love routines. I may have scars, but now I see them as a reminder of how far I've come on my journey."

Livvy is now "happy, healthy and living my best life."

Over two years, Livvy's incredible determination has seen her complete a learning programme and the Prince's

Trust 12-week programme. If that wasn't enough, she has also completed youth offender training and can now mentor. She is also aiming to complete a level three qualification in health and social care to achieve the goal of becoming a mental health nurse.



Christine Radford

Councillor Christine Radford, cabinet member for adults and communities, said: "I am thrilled for Livvy and wish her the very best. I'm sure she has a bright future ahead of her; using her experience to help others."

Livvy added: "My advice to anyone thinking about Supported Living is to go for it. If you saw me at the start of my journey compared to now, you wouldn't believe I'm the same person. Never give up – things will get better!"

For more information visit
leicestershire.gov.uk/supported-living

SKILLS FOR LIFE

Multiply

Residents are being urged to take their first steps back into maths by signing up for a new challenge.

Multiply – our brand new, innovative programme funded by £3m of Government money – aims to increase confidence with numbers.

The national numeracy challenge enables you to check your numeracy levels and improve your skills in real world settings, before you sign up for one of the hundreds of free courses on offer.

With nearly half the working-age population having primary school level numeracy skills, Multiply is a three-year project aiming to benefit both residents and businesses.

**FREE
courses**

The course are open to anyone aged over 19 who does not have a GCSE in maths at grade C/4 or above.

Councillor Christine Radford, cabinet member for adults and communities, said: “Numeracy has so many practical applications in everyday life - and boosting those skills improves lives.

“The £3m of Government funding means we can roll out this important project which will support people, communities and businesses.”

> Improved numeracy skills can help with:

- Budgeting
- Managing household expenses
- Supporting children with homework
- Improved employment prospects

> How do I sign up?

- Sign up for the challenge: nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge/lccdq
- Visit leicestershire.gov.uk/multiply to sign up for a course or contact us to discuss your requirements

> Where do courses take place?

The courses will be available across Leicestershire:

- in person or online
- at work or at home
- either on a part-time or intensive basis

work&skills
Leicestershire

Milestone for skills scheme

One thousand people have benefited from tailored support with skills, training and employment, thanks to a popular scheme.

Our Work & Skills Leicestershire project is open to anyone seeking employment or training – whether you’re unemployed, employed, a graduate, just left school or looking for a career change.

Offering help with CV and letter writing skills, job searches, interview techniques and much more, Work & Skills runs employment hubs at four libraries and also pop-up events in communities.



Peter Bedford

Councillor Peter Bedford, cabinet member for recovery and transformation, said:

“Work & Skills Leicestershire has already helped many people seeking a new direction in their working lives and I’m delighted it’s reached such a significant milestone.

“I would urge anyone who would like to find out more about what Work & Skills Leicestershire can offer, to get in touch, and take advantage of this free support.”

If you’re looking for help finding work, gaining skills and enrolling on training, get free advice and guidance from our qualified personal advisers. Visit leicestershire.gov.uk/work-and-skills or call us on 0800 988 0308.

work&skills
Leicestershire

1,066
people supported

50,000
Work & Skills website hits

163 people
into employment
or new role

Rogue builders Don't fall victim

Rogue builders cost customers thousands of pounds – make sure you're in the know to avoid being a victim.

The all-too-familiar story of rogue builders is one we have all read and heard about. From shoddy work, aggressive tactics or simply never turning up to carry out the work after receiving large amounts of cash, the effect on victims can be devastating.

Financial and emotional distress and needing to put right the terrible work of a rogue builder are just some of the consequences.

Our trading standards team recently prosecuted a rogue builder in the county and they are now highlighting the simple steps that can help prevent you becoming a victim of rogue builders.

Fallen victim? Report it.

Report a rogue trader or scam at leicestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Need advice?

If you need any advice, the Citizens Advice team can help. Call them on 0808 223 1133 or visit citizensadvice.org.uk. More information about fraud and scams is also available from Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk

Our Trading Standards team's top tips

- ✓ **Door knock? Be alert** – Anyone knocking on your door to offer their building services should be an instant red flag. We advise you not to deal with them.
- ✓ **Read, read, read** – A reputable trader will have online reviews and recommendations to help you make your decision.
- ✓ **Give yourself choice** – Get quotes from at least three different traders to check the market.
- ✓ **Get it in writing** – The work taking place, quoted and agreed final price should all be in writing.
- ✓ **Pay securely, leave a paper trail** – It's a lot better to pay by bank transfer or credit card rather than in cash.
- ✓ **Pressure is a red flag** – Don't feel pressured into paying all money up front before work starts.
- ✓ **Get a second opinion** – Speak to friends or family before handing any money over if you're unsure about anything.

Remember – it's better to take your time for a building project than commit to something you aren't sure about.

WIN DON'T BIN

Save time and money by making more of the food you buy.

Take the quiz:

LOVE FOOD hate waste

Leicestershire recycles

Leicestershire County Council

The Electoral Commission

*** REMEMBER TO**

- 1- Register to vote
- 2- Check my photo ID
- 3- Vote at a polling station!

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280

Get the latest council news straight to your inbox

Sign up at:

leicestershire.gov.uk/signup

Follow us on social media

Twitter Instagram Facebook YouTube TikTok

Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire matters

LATEST COUNCIL NEWS STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

Welcome...

Thank you for subscribing to our digital Leicestershire Matters which keeps you up to date with the latest news from Leicestershire County Council.

Budget proposals

Budget supports public services during tough economic times

Support for vulnerable people is at the heart of the proposal.

Read more

Plotting the future of public transport amid challenging times

Cabinet discusses cost-effective ways of supporting bus network.

Read more

Leicestershire matters by email

sign up for the digital edition leicestershire.gov.uk/signup