

Leicestershire matters

leicestershire.gov.uk

Autumn 2026

Be 'flood ready' this winter



Councillor Tilbury
with items to help
tackle flooding

Small steps can help to reduce your flood risk.

With winter fast approaching, it's time to think about how prepared you are for the risk of flooding.

Across Leicestershire, communities are already taking action to become more resilient and we've been supporting with local flood prevention projects through a £400,000 community grant scheme.

We've also been supporting people to show how you can take steps to reduce your own flood risk.

Practical items such as air brick covers and flood barriers for the front or back door can help, as well as innovative flood sacks that can protect properties.

Councillor Adam Tilbury, cabinet member for flooding, said: "We've diverted £2m of funding into helping to tackle flooding and it's been put to good use. We're supporting communities and local people to offer solutions to reduce the risk and impacts of flooding.

"There's always more to do and we're committed to helping, but we encourage everyone to check the risk in their area and take whatever steps you need to make to be prepared."

Out on the roads, part of the £2m has been invested in cleaning lower-priority drains more often and maintaining culverts.

Our highways team have also been continuing their annual drain-cleaning programme across the county, with around 140,000 roadside drains to maintain.

Find out more about flood risk and how you can prepare at leicestershire.gov.uk/flooding.

Grant scheme successes

Projects benefitting from the £400,000 community grants include:

- Air brick covers for East Goscote residents
- Puddle pumps to drain flood water in Newtown Linford
- Equipment to help tackle flooding in Bottesford

...with more projects to come.

Your garden can help!

Planting areas, rain gardens or permeable paving can all help absorb water when it comes to a huge downpour. Areas around your property that absorb water can help reduce the demand on drains and reduce your risk of flooding.





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

It costs around 13p 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

X@LeicsCountyHall

Facebook f LeicsCountyHall

Instagram i LeicsCountyHall

TikTok t @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

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

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Welcome

Dan Harrison, leader of Leicestershire County Council, introduces our autumn edition



Investing in our heritage, making every pound work harder and protecting the services you value are at the heart of our work and I'm proud to say we're making progress.

It is still early days, and big challenges remain, but we are beginning to see a more positive budget picture emerge. By spending smarter and paying off debt, we are making headway. Our flagship Better Leicestershire Programme is already underway and is a clear example of how we're putting the council on a firmer financial footing.

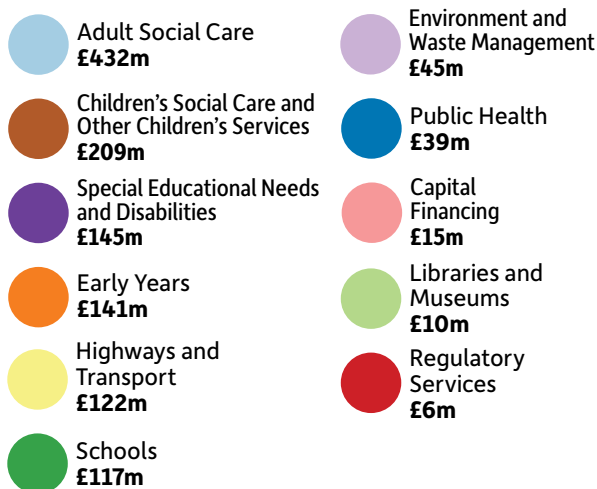
As the budget breakdown shows, care costs are our biggest area of spending, accounting for the majority of our budget. Every day, we help people to live independently for longer. On page eight, you can read about our popular 'extra care' apartments which offer the right balance of independence and tailored support. We're also expanding our life-changing home care

teams, helping more people while making our money go further.

Government plans to reorganise councils remain unclear but calls for devolved powers - and the extra powers and funding they could bring - continue to grow. That makes our relationship with business as important as ever. From helping local companies expand to regular conversations with business leaders, we are working hard to boost skills, create jobs and drive investment across Leicestershire.

I know autumn is a busy time of year but I hope you find a few moments to read this edition and see how we are working to support people, communities and businesses across the county.

Our budget breakdown: 2026/27



Building a better Leicestershire

We're planning for Leicestershire's future and understanding what matters most to you has never been more important.

From smarter spending and fixing potholes, to growing our economy and supporting children and families, we're working to strengthen our finances while continuing to provide the services people rely on every day.

The latest financial update shows the position is improving, including forecast savings of £4.8m this year against the budget set in February, reducing the need to draw on reserves.

A further £16m of debt has also been repaid, bringing the total to £43m since April.

Council leader, Dan Harrison, said: "This is about putting Leicestershire on a firmer footing.

"Our focus is on making sure people get the right support at the right time, while also protecting the council's long-

term financial position. These figures show that approach is starting to make a difference, but we know the pressures facing councils remain significant.

"Clearly, there's more work to do. But by spending smarter, we're reducing demand for more costly support, improving people's lives and building a better Leicestershire."

That approach is at the heart of our flagship Better Leicestershire Programme, which is set to save between **£32m and £60m** by 2031.

The initiative is already taking effect, with recruitment underway to expand home care teams. Helping more people regain independence is expected to save £3.4m by 2030, while supporting residents to live well at home for longer.



Councillor Harrison Fowler, cabinet



Harrison Fowler

member for resources and finance, said: "It's important that we put the council in the best possible position for the years ahead.

"And with projects such as Better Leicestershire – which contributes to reducing the longer-term budget gap – alongside paying off debt early and prioritising the services we know are important to residents, that's exactly what we're doing.

"I'm pleased our specialist social care recruitment is underway and shows how efficiency and improving lives can go hand in hand."

Help guide Leicestershire's future plans

Whatever future council structures look like, our focus remains the same: providing vital services, spending public money carefully and making sure priorities reflect people's real needs, hopes and concerns.

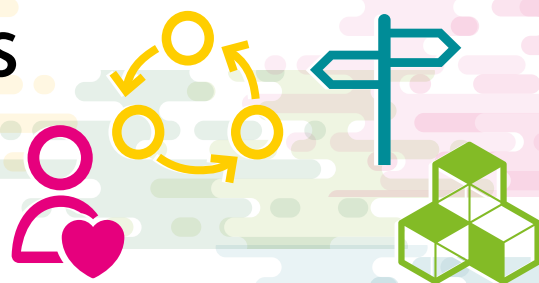
That's why we're running a consultation to shape our goals – and we want to hear what matters most to you, your family, your business and your community.

The questions cover a range of themes, from supporting children and families

to helping people live independently, keeping communities safe and connected, growing the economy and making sure the council is efficient and ready for what's ahead.

There's still time to get involved and help shape the best possible future for our county.

Have your say by Sunday, 1 November: leicestershire.gov.uk/big-priorities



Have your say on

**the big priorities
for Leicestershire**

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

We know how important **roads, health** and **travel routes** are to our thriving communities.

Helping to grow the county

Our expertise in transport and education is helping to shape the Leicestershire of the future.

Each area has a 'local plan,' which sets out where new homes, jobs and development should be. We give feedback on each one to ensure schools, bus services and roads are included in the proposals.

By shaping where new homes are built, and putting the right infrastructure in place to support communities and generate employment, we're building a stronger future for Leicestershire.

Input on growth and new housing plans means there will be new primary schools for the Broadnook and Garendon developments in Charnwood, whilst New Lubbethorpe Primary School in Blaby District has just expanded to accommodate the growing community.

Our views are also crucial in ensuring that developments are not located in the places that do not support sustainable growth across the whole county.

Councillor Dr. John Bloxham, cabinet member for growth, said: "Our work helps to make sure that growth is in the right place, with the right infrastructure.



John Bloxham

"It also means we can have a say on how much developers need to pay for key infrastructure, such as schools and roads, so the taxpayer doesn't foot the bill."

Real challenges, better services

From delays caused by roadworks to the information people receive when they leave hospital, scrutiny helps make sure communities' concerns are heard and acted upon.

Councillors put plans and public services under the microscope, uncover surprising facts and challenge organisations to improve the way they work for local people.

Here are three ways scrutiny has put residents first this year:

Pressing for faster, clearer action on water issues – representatives from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water were questioned about leaks, investment and repair times. Councillors also challenged them on the impact of new housing, preventative work and communication

with landowners, issues that can affect homes, communities and the local environment.

Challenging disruption from roadworks

– councillors heard the surprising figure that 37,000 roadwork permits were issued last year. They pressed for better coordination, enforcement and communication and raised concerns about abandoned equipment. These are all areas that can affect residents' journeys and neighbourhoods.

Helping people feel supported after leaving hospital – councillors called for patients to be given better information when they return home, so they and their families know what support to expect.

The result is greater transparency, stronger accountability and a clear focus on making services work better for you.

Four of our councillors are 'commissioners' and decide on priority issues for scrutiny:



Deborah Taylor CC
Chair of the Scrutiny Commission



Michael Mullaney CC
Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission



Andrew Innes CC
Scrutiny Commissioner



Dr Dee North CC
Scrutiny Commissioner

Want to ask a question?

Find out more:
leicestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny or scan the QR code.



Councillor Hamilton-Gray
celebrates 100,000 journeys

FoxConnect hits 100,000 journeys

Our on-demand bus service, FoxConnect, has now seen more than 100,000 passengers make a journey since its launch last January.

There are 11 zones across the county which help people get to work, school, medical appointments and local centres.

The buses are funded through Government cash and they've helped to connect communities.

Councillor Andrew Hamilton-Gray, cabinet member for transport, said: "FoxConnect has been a triumph since launching last year. It's enabled flexible and easy travel in some of our most rural areas.

"We also respond to feedback to make sure we're offering the right

services in the right places, so we're always keen to hear from you about your experiences."

More than 8,000 people are now regularly using the service, with average passenger ratings 4.8/5 over the past six months.

The FoxConnect team also work with community groups and parish councils to give in-person visits and give more information about the service. Find out more about where the team will be at choosehowyoumove.co.uk.

FoxConnect: what is it?

FoxConnect helps residents to travel between towns and villages in Leicestershire. It's an on-demand, flexible service where you can choose your pick up and drop off locations within the area covered.

Where is it?

The 11 zones are split across the county to offer the best coverage:

Harborough – Five zones

Charnwood and Melton – Two zones

North West Leicestershire – Three zones

South West Leicestershire – One zone

Get started with FoxConnect

- Book Monday to Saturday, 6am-7.30pm.
- Download the Leicestershire FoxConnect app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. A step-by-step guide is available at choosehowyoumove.co.uk/app
- You can also book by calling 0116 216 7756. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm. If you have any questions, or need help booking a trip, call our team on 0116 216 5555 or visit the website.

Find out more, view zone maps, planned events and learn about FoxConnect by visiting choosehowyoumove.co.uk/leicestershire-foxconnect.



Saturdays on us...

- **FREE Saturday travel** on all Leicestershire County Council supported bus services* • **50% OFF FoxConnect every Saturday***
- Find out more at choosehowyoumove.co.uk/public-transport/autumn-and-winter-savings
- *October to December

Funded by
UK Government



We're backing business

We're building skills, creating jobs and driving investment and are committed to making Leicestershire the best place to do business.



Dan Harrison at our business breakfast

With the UK's largest cargo airport, thriving life sciences and logistics sectors and London just an hour away by rail, it's easy to see why more companies are choosing Leicestershire.

Our goal is to work hand-in-hand with businesses by providing support and helping them navigate challenges.

Whether it's our Connect to Work initiative, apprenticeship scheme or bespoke travel planning support, we offer a range of practical help.

Our property team is helping businesses to set up shop and expand.

Here's an update on two schemes:

Feeding business ambitions

New business units in Market Harborough have helped a food manufacturer stay in the county.

Bramble Foods, which manufactures and distributes fine foods across the UK, have expanded into a new unit on our Airfield Business Park development.

The huge 67,000 square foot unit is helping the company – which currently employs 150 people – to grow.

With no other site suiting their needs, the new unit has helped to keep the local company in Leicestershire, instead of having to leave the county.

Councillor Harrison Fowler, cabinet member for finance and resources, said: "Helping to keep Bramble in Market Harborough means they can keep going from strength to strength.

"The other units will also benefit the local economy and bring income into the council to spend on our vital services."

Tony Foster, Managing Director of Bramble Foods, said: "This marks a significant milestone in the continued growth of Bramble Foods.

"On top of the additional space, we're investing in our people, improving the service we provide to our customers and creating the capacity to support the next stage of our journey."

Airfield is popular with local businesses due to great transport links, with the latest phase including a Costa Coffee drive-thru.



Councillor Fowler with Bramble's Tony Foster



In August, our council leader, Dan Harrison saw British engineering and innovation up close at JCB HQ in Staffordshire.



Leading the way for jobs

One of our sites in Lutterworth has created more than 100 jobs with the opening of two food and drink outlets.

Leaders Farm, off the A4303 roundabout with Coventry Road, saw McDonald's and Costa Coffee units open in the summer and they've proved an instant hit with customers.

The site has the potential for further development in the future, helping to meet demand for business and industrial space for local companies.

Both businesses will generate income for our property portfolio, which contributes nearly £8 million a year towards funding local services.



Councillor Harrison at Pianista Music Studio

Music studio hits right note for mental health

A piano studio has become one of the first Mental Health Friendly Place businesses.

Mental Health Friendly Places create environments where people feel listened to and connected. The programme has helped more than 250 community venues and sports clubs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Pianista Music Studio in Hinckley has joined the growing network of places that have been trained to help people talk openly about their wellbeing.

Dr Roberto Ponticelli, who runs the studio, said: "Music brings people together, but it's the relationships and human connection that matter most.

"Becoming a Mental Health Friendly Place gives us the skills and confidence to better support people and help them find the right help if they need it."

Councillor Paul Harrison, cabinet member for health, said: "We've already seen the positive impact the programme has had, and we're excited to launch this next phase with local businesses that want to put wellbeing at the heart of what they do."

Interested in your group or business becoming a mental health friendly place? Visit startaconversation.co.uk/welcome or scan the QR code.



Giving that extra care

With more than 250 apartments across six locations, 'extra care' housing is helping people live independently for longer.

Extra care allows people to live in their own flat whilst having access to on-site care and support 24 hours a day.

Residents have their own front door and living space, as well as access to both 24/7 support and communal space including dining areas, lounges, fitness, libraries and activity rooms.

Extra care is for people aged 55 or over who need some kind of on-site support to continue to live independently in their own home.

We help to fund care for people who are eligible through a financial assessment. The schemes also help to reduce demand on the NHS and social care as on-site support is available.

Councillor Michael Squires, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Extra care is a brilliant way for people to live. It gives people independence, a sense of community and the support they need.

"There are only seven schemes at the moment but we know they work both for the people who use them and for our social care services. That's why we're hoping to build more in the coming years."

Extra care schemes – where are they?

- Connaught House, Loughborough
- Waterside Court, Loughborough
- Gretton Court, Melton Mowbray
- Birch Court, Glen Parva
- Oak Court, Blaby
- St Mary's House, Lutterworth

Find out more by visiting **leicestershire.gov.uk/extra-care-housing**, or scan the QR code.



Supporting unsung heroes remains a top priority

Thousands of unpaid carers across Leicestershire will benefit from our new Carers' Strategy which will see better recognition, support and advice.

The most recent Census showed around one in 10 of the county population provides unpaid care.

Our new strategy strengthens support with a stronger focus on wellbeing, mental health, employment and reducing isolation.

A major priority is identifying 'hidden carers' earlier, particularly people who do not recognise themselves as carers and miss out on support, assessments and advice.

The strategy also targets young carers, working carers, parent carers and those balancing care responsibilities with raising children.

Michael Squires said: "We spoke to over 300 unpaid carers to shape this strategy. We've listened and acted to bolster the support we give to our unsung heroes.

"If you think you need support, talk to us. Contact our team so we can see how much help we can offer you."

Find out more by visiting **leicestershire.gov.uk/unpaid-carers**, or scan the QR code.



Councillor Squires at a recent carers event

JOIN OUR TEAM

At the **HART** of the action

Supporting people to live at home is all in a day's work for a dedicated care team now looking for around 25 new recruits.



Our Homecare and Reablement Team (HART) step in to help when someone returns home from hospital after illness or injury and help to prevent someone from being admitted to hospital.

Around 4,000 people receive this short-term, intensive support every year. By increasing the 100-strong team, we can help 700 more people.

Jessica and Mark from the HART team talk about the work they do:

How did you come to work for HART?

Jessica: I've always enjoyed learning about health and social care. And since being a child, I've had an interest in helping people, after watching my mum care and help people.

Mark: I didn't have care experience but joined a team helping Leicestershire people. I also completed my social care qualifications.

What's the best part of your job?

Jessica: Helping people who need

support, talking to them, helping them build confidence and listening to them when they are feeling lonely. Knowing I've helped them just a little bit, making them safe, and encouraging them to be independent feels rewarding.

Mark: Helping a person gain independence so they do not need any care going forward. It's a good feeling to be part of someone's journey to independence.

What would you say to someone interested in working in the HART team?

Jessica: The support from the team is amazing, they give fantastic advice which made me feel confident and learning while also enjoying the job. No specific experience is needed as you are supported and full training is provided.

Mark: It really is a job where no two days are ever the same. If you have a genuine desire to help others and are kind and caring, you'll find the job very satisfying. You don't need any

professional care experience, but of course, any care experience is useful – life experience caring for others is a useful asset.



Michael Squires

Councillor Michael Squires, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Jessica and Mark are just two of our fantastic HART team. Their work helps people to feel confident living in their own homes.

"They also prevent unnecessary hospital trips. Their work across the county is invaluable and we're always looking for people to join the HART team, so would encourage you to apply if you're interested."

If you want more information about the HART team and how to apply, visit leicestershire.gov.uk/reablement-support-worker or scan the QR code.



Find out more about jobs at leicestershire.gov.uk/jobs

Delivering for Leicestershire

Improving our roads

Every day, our highway teams work to keep people better connected and moving safely across a network of nearly 2,700 miles of roads serving towns, villages and rural communities.

From repairing potholes and maintaining streetlights to clearing gullies, cutting grass and gritting roads in winter, our teams work year-round to look after the county's highway network.

Read our graphics to get an insight into how we're delivering for you over a year:

10,000
potholes and highway defects repaired

Manage
77 new sets
of roadworks
every day

500,000 sq metre
road patching programme

Clean over
90,000
gullies a year


Run a fleet of
23 gritters

Find out more. Follow us on  and  LeicsCountyHall



Resurface up to
800,000 sq metres
of road every summer

16,000 school
transport journeys
completed a day

Clean **60,000 signs** and **9,000 bollards** a year -
and refresh road markings in **650 locations**

**Cut 24 million
square metres**
of grass a year

Look after
70,000
streetlights 

Maintain **740 bridges**,
and **56 footbridges**



Grit **1,300
miles** of road

Invest 
£88m a year
maintaining our roads

WHAT'S ON

There's lots to see and do this autumn in our country parks, heritage sites, museums and libraries.



BOSWORTH

BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE
AND COUNTRY PARK

Sutton Cheney, Leicestershire, CV13 0AD
bosworthbattlefield.org.uk
Tel: 01455 290429

Bosworth Guided Walks

**Saturdays and Sundays in November
(until 23 Nov), 11.30am, from £3.**

Bosworth's knowledgeable guides are ready to welcome you to a guided walk this autumn. Learn about the War of the Roses and discover the fate of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, over 500 years ago. Approx 1.4 miles and 90 minutes duration.

**A tour with
a twist!
Night time guided
walk on 16 Nov,
7.30pm – 9pm.**

FREE The Langtons

**Harborough Museum, Adam and Eve
Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7LT
Running until 14 November. Tues – Fri,
10am – 6pm, Sat 10am – 4pm. Free**

An exhibition about the beautiful Langton villages and William Hanbury's plan to create Leicestershire's own Oxford University.
harboroughmuseum.org.uk

Country Parks

With plenty of autumn colour on display, the 'ber' months are one of the best times to visit Leicestershire's parks. Whether it's climbing high at Beacon Hill or exploring the rich colourful displays at Market Bosworth Country Park's arboretum, there's plenty to discover. leicscountryparks.org.uk



Manor Road, Coalville, LE67 2FW
1620shouse.org.uk Tel: 01455 290429

Christmas at the Manor

**Sunday 13 December, 11am – 3.30pm,
Admission + £3**

See the house dressed in Jacobean style décor for the festive season. Join in with carols, talk to volunteers and uncover Christmas customs from years gone by.

FREE Cut and Create: The History of Home Dressmaking

**Melton Carnegie Museum, Thorpe End,
LE13 1RB Until 23 December 2026
Tue to Sat, 10am-4.30pm.**

Featuring items of clothing, sewing equipment and dress patterns, this family-friendly exhibition uses objects to tell the story of the home dressmaker and the equipment used to create the latest fashions.

meltonmuseum.org
Tel: 0116 305 3860



Songster – Loughborough's Own War Horse Story

**Charnwood Museum, Granby Street,
Loughborough, LE11 3DU**

Thurs 19 November, 7.30pm, from £3
Author Alison Mott and illustrator Liz Waddell share the story of how they became involved in creating the picture book about a real horse from Loughborough who went to war.
charnwoodmuseum.co.uk 01509 233754



Book online at
centurytheatre.co.uk
or call the box office
01530 278444
centurytheatre.co.uk
f/CenturyTheatre
@century_theatre



Festival of Remembrance

**Fri 6 November,
7.30pm, £10 - £15**

Come together to honour those who have served, sacrificed and safeguarded our freedoms. Featuring The D-Day Darlings, Nottingham Military Wives Choir and Leicester Co-op Band, this special event promises exceptional live performances.



Bye Bye Baby

Sat 14 November, 7.30pm, £25

Experience this jaw-dropping tribute to the musical phenomenon 'Jersey Boys' and the timeless iconic music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.



Desford Colliery Band

**Sun 29 November,
3pm & 7pm, £14-£16**

Get into the festive spirit with the 2025 National Brass Band Champions who have pulled together a sparkling Christmas concert packed full of seasonal favourites.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

**Sat 5, Sun 6, Sat 12 and Sun 13
December, various showtimes, from
£18. Family tickets available and
discount for groups 10+.**

Step right up and enter a world of circus magic as Five Star Theatre bring this classic tale to life. With spectacular costumes, larger-than-life characters and an accessible performance (6 Dec), it's the perfect festive treat for all.

Beaumanor Hall

Woodhouse, Leicestershire, LE12 8TX
beaumanorhall.co.uk Tel: 01509 890119
@beaumanorhall

Festive GIFT FAIR

27 November - 4pm - 8pm
28 & 29 November - 10am - 3pm
11 December - 4pm - 8pm
12 & 13 December - 10am - 3pm
£3.50 pre-booked, £4 on the day

Get ready to step into the spirit of the season at Beaumanor Hall's Festive Gift Fair, a celebration of local craftsmanship, delicious food and unique gifts. Search 'Beaumanor Hall' on Eventbrite for tickets.

Twilight Wedding Packages 2027

- Venue hire
- Drinks and canapes
- Evening buffet



LATE AVAILABILITY
January - March 2027

Third Wheel Events presents:

Festive Frights - A Christmas Murder Mystery

Fri 4 December, 7pm, £59.95 per person

In this immersive experience, you'll join us at The Jingle Bells: The UK's premier awards dinner celebrating the season's finest entertainers. The pre-show dinner is your chance to find clues but will you come out unscathed?

Includes three-course dinner and entertainment with themed dress-up encouraged.

Enquire now by emailing
beaumanorevents@leics.gov.uk



SAVE
THE
DATE

- **Holiday Activity Club**
Monday 15 - Friday 19 February
- **Wedding Fayre** 14 March
- **Spring Fair** 8 & 9 May

News in brief



Go ahead for Bosworth revamp

As part of our capital bid programme, £125,000 is being invested into Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park to bolster the accessibility of the site for visitors. From 23 November, a three-week programme of work will get underway, including:

- Resurfacing the car park
- Improving access to disabled parking and coach parking
- Modifications to the entrance
- Installation of EV chargers (2027)

We thank everyone for their patience during the closure and look forward to seeing visitors returning to our site in December. Check our website for the latest information before planning your trip.

Bookings open at Beaumanor Hall

Day and residential visits have now opened up for 2027/2028. From schools and scout groups to corporate companies looking to build connections as a team, there's a range of activities on offer. Perfect for developing skills, growing confidence and learning something new, our versatile venue with links to World War II is like no other. Whether it's themed academic learning like Victorian Christmas, or you want to create something bespoke for your group, we can help.

Visit beaumanorhall.co.uk/outdoor-activities to find out more or email Beaumanor.Activities@leics.gov.uk with group numbers today.

Festival fun at libraries



The Leicestershire Libraries Early Years Festival kicks off this November. Celebrating the activities and support offered to children aged 0-5 and their families, there's lots to get involved with. Enjoy Gruffalo Granny Story Times, Very Hungry Caterpillar Crafts, the interactive Dinosaurs Don't DJ show and much more at libraries across the county. Scan the QR code to view events and book your free child's place on Eventbrite.co.uk



Four country parks celebrate Green Flag Award

Beacon Hill Country Park, Market Bosworth Country Park, Snibston Colliery Park and Watermead Country Park have all received the award which recognise the best green spaces from around the world. The honour highlights the great work of the parks in their conservation efforts, visitor experience, accessibility and site management.

Musical star to kick off UK tour at Century Theatre

Twenty years on from Lee Mead's groundbreaking victory on the BBC series Any Dream Will Do, he's back on tour talking and singing his way through his colourful life on London's West End. Lee Mead - The Colours of My Life will open its UK tour at Century Theatre in Coalville on 23 September 2027. Tickets on sale now.



Branching out to help county trees

A one million tree-creation goal and managing more than 300,000 trees are at the heart of our new strategy.

Trees and woodlands are hugely valuable and our new tree plan will conserve and improve them while maximising benefits for our habitats across the county.

It sets out how we'll manage ash dieback a serious disease found across the country which threatens ash trees.

There will also be a programme of inspections and maintenance for the trees we manage located on highway verges, schools, country parks and other council land.

Councillor Adam Tilbury, cabinet member for the environment, said: "We know how important our trees are in helping to improve our air quality, wildlife and reduce flooding.



Adam Tilbury

"The new strategy will help but every tree you plant goes towards the one million goal so tell us when you do and show us you're rooting for Leicestershire."

What is Ash dieback?

Ash dieback is a serious fungal disease affecting ash trees of all ages and can kill them. It's an issue across the country, including here in Leicestershire. If the disease is severe, the affected trees may need to be felled as they can pose a safety risk.

Plant it. Count it. Grow Leicestershire.

We're responsible for:

321,000 trees

33% of our trees are along the highway

Trees within in our country parks **37%**

6% - woodland cover of Leicestershire, below the national average of **10%**

Help us on the journey to one million trees. When you've planted a tree, visit leicestershire.gov.uk/trees.

Watch out for hidden batteries

Whether it's children's toys and vapes or musical greeting cards and electric toothbrushes, more products than ever contain batteries.

Why does this matter?

These batteries, when crushed or damaged in bin lorries at recycling facilities or our waste sites, can spark dangerous fires that spread rapidly.

Hidden battery fires are increasing and most incidents are preventable by taking small steps.

Remember, if it charges up, lights up, powers on or takes batteries then try to remove the battery safely.

The battery should then be recycled or if it can't be removed, take the whole item to an electrical recycling point.

Never put batteries or items containing hidden batteries in your kerbside rubbish or recycling.

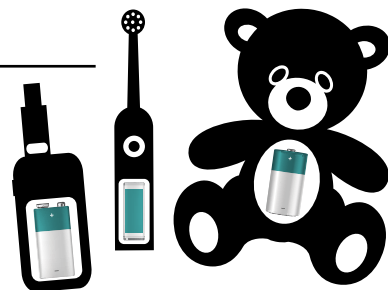
Councillor Adam Tilbury, cabinet member for waste, said: "Whether it's your district's waste lorry or our waste site, we all suffer from hidden battery fires. This costs us money and causes

delays in the services we offer.

"Your help to dispose of batteries safely can make a massive difference for everyone."

Find out more

Visit lesswaste.org.uk to find your nearest recycling point and further information on hidden batteries.



Here's a look back at the summer in pictures



£19.6m bridge for Zouch

Local schoolchildren joined us to open the new Zouch bridge – the structure replaced the old bridge, which was no longer fit for purpose, and is an important link between Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.



A battling success

A near-record amount of visitors enjoyed our biennial Bosworth Medieval Festival. Over 4,000 people came to our two-day event, which saw reenactments bring the Battle of Bosworth to life.

Volunteers Week 2026

Harborough Woodland Community volunteers won the Communities' team photo competition as they showcased their efforts in planting 55,000 trees..

People of all ages volunteer with the group, who benefit from a sense of achievement and improved wellbeing.

Want to tell us more about a volunteer project or team you are involved with? Email volunteering@leics.gov.uk.



Carl Abbott

Councillor Carl Abbott, cabinet member for communities, said: "It was great to see the work that Harborough Woodland volunteers have achieved. Their efforts to plant trees for Leicestershire is fantastic.

"We'd love to hear from your voluntary group to know more about what you do, and how we might be able to help."



Autumn checklist

There's a wealth of support that can help you stay warm and well this autumn:



Get your flu jab
nhs.uk/book-a-flu-vaccination



Warm homes – free advice and support to improve your home and save on heating bills leicestershire.gov.uk/warm-homes



Simple steps to get flood ready – leicestershire.gov.uk/flooding

GoLearn ready for another year

Apply now for 26/27 courses

More than 400 courses are available to adults as the new academic year gets underway.

Are you looking to learn a new skill, improve your confidence or wellbeing? GoLearn has the course for you.

GoLearn also offer courses including English, maths or digital skills to help build your confidence and work towards your professional goals.

Over 5,000 people enrolled in a course last year and had the choice of how to learn, with part-time, day, evening and weekend courses available.

Courses offer both in-person and online options with centres across every district in the county to help make sure sessions are local.

What's on offer? Courses include...

- Apprenticeships
- English and maths including a series of new introductory courses
- A range of digital skills with courses on AI and cybersecurity coming soon
- Support to get into or progress in work
- Apprenticeships
- Languages, including British Sign Language
- Family learning to support your children
- First aid
- Arts and craft courses
- Wellbeing courses

**FREE
courses***

Councillor Kevin Crook, cabinet member for culture, said: "Thousands of people enjoy learning on our courses every year and the variety is what makes GoLearn so great.

"There's a sense of pride for some people who are choosing to learn as they get older, and it highlights why we offer these courses.

"Whether you're trying something new to improve health and wellbeing or looking to gain some new qualifications, take a look at our courses and find the right one for you."



Did you know?
Our GoLearn services are rated **GOOD** by Ofsted.

What support is available?

There is Government funding available that means GoLearn can help to support you if you are eligible.

Some courses, including English, maths, family learning and some digital skills, are free if you've never previously attended those courses.

If you're unemployed, earn under a certain level, receive benefits or are on a low household income you can benefit from either 70 per cent or 100 per cent of the price of a course.

There's even support for eligible people for childcare and transport costs to help you learn.

To find out more visit **golearnleicestershire.ac.uk** or scan the QR code.



*Selected courses are free. Conditions apply - contact the GoLearn team for details.





Beaumanor stacked with opportunity

Chimney work shows commitment to historic hall.

More than £500,000 has been invested in refurbishing Beaumanor Hall's historic chimneys.

The 175-year-old site is home to a host of events, activities and occasions and is a core memory for many people who grew up in Leicestershire.

After structural concerns with the chimneys were fixed last year, work has taken place to refurbish and refresh ten of them, reducing the amount of maintenance needed for decades to come.



Councillor Kevin Crook, cabinet member for heritage, said: "We are absolutely determined to make Beaumanor Hall a

success and this work goes a long way to that commitment.

"It has such history, heritage and importance to Leicestershire people. It's a thriving venue that's open for business, and we're looking forward to seeing how we can help it to be even more successful."

Work started in the summer and the site has been open throughout the whole project, hosting school events, weddings, the annual summer fair and wedding fair.

With some chimney tops weighing around 400kg each, specialist teams are working to make sure they preserve their historic look.

Did you know?

Used as a former secret listening station to intercept encrypted enemy signals during World War II, Beaumanor Hall was built between 1842 and 1854 and was purchased by the County Council in 1974. The Hall and parts of the grounds are Grade II* listed.

What's at Beaumanor?

Beaumanor Hall functions as a wedding venue, conference centre and destination for popular events such as craft fairs.

It also offers an outdoor education centre and activities including archery, orienteering, climbing, abseiling, high ropes and watersports.

What's next?

A consultation took place last year to find out how we can best utilise Beaumanor in the future, with the aim to help maximise the hall's income.

To find out more visit beaumanorhall.co.uk or scan the QR code.



Young carer pens experiences for new book



An inspiring teenager is supporting fellow young carers and making it her mission to tell others about the challenges they face.

Eighteen-year-old Rhianna is writing a book about her own experience caring for her dad, which she hopes one day will be published. Her goal is to help other children who care for loved ones.

Rhianna's work has also seen her win a Lord Lieutenant's Young Person of the Year award.

She spoke of her experiences as a young carer:

How did you know you were a young carer?

"I never realised I was a young carer until my sister's support worker mentioned it when I was about like 14 or 15. And obviously I'd been a young carer for years and years before that, I just never knew."

What support have you received?

"Leicestershire County Council sent a youth worker out to me and it just kind of excelled from there.

"Really I just had so much more support, whether it was one-to-one

chats, helping me pick my college course out, helping me with GCSEs and just giving me a space to kind of step aside from my caring role.

"That's made a 100 per cent big difference in my life."

How have you helped others?

"I've created presentations and delivered them in front of school staff to educate them on what to look out for if they think they might have a young carer within their school and delivered a presentation at a council event."

What advice would you give to people about young carers?

"I think the best thing that a person can do is just genuinely be there for that person if they need a shoulder to cry on. Just look out for them.

"You never know what someone's going through, so just be cautious and don't jump to conclusions because you never know what's actually going on at home."

Councillor Charles Pugsley, cabinet member for children and families, said:

"Rhianna is exceptional and her determination and positivity are truly inspiring.



Charles Pugsley

"As well as supporting her dad, she has worked tirelessly as an advocate for other young carers. We are incredibly proud of everything she has achieved and grateful for the efforts she is making to raise awareness."

How to tell if you're a young carer
If you're 18 or under and helping a family member at home with tasks like cooking, using the toilet, managing money, giving medication or housework, you are a young carer.

If you think you may be a young carer, or know someone who might be one, help is available, including access to support groups, Young Carers' Passports and support workers.

Find out more at leicestershire.gov.uk/young-carers, or scan the QR code.



School term dates retain tradition

Feedback from over 8,000 people has helped shape future school term dates.

Every five years, we have to consult on term dates for maintained schools and our most recent consultation saw thousands have a say on their preferences.

The confirmed dates reflect the consultation outcome and retain a one-week October half term from the 2027/28 academic year.

The July fortnight, a long standing tradition in Leicester and Leicestershire, will also be continuing for the next five years. This means our area finishes two weeks ahead of many other areas of the country.

Councillor Charles Pugsley, cabinet member for children and families, said: "We know just how important term dates are for families. Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you thought.

"Our final dates keep that traditional early summer break and mirror feedback from the majority of people who preferred a one-week October half term."

Find the term dates up to 2031/32 at leicestershire.gov.uk/term-dates

School place applications open

If your child is ready to start primary or secondary school, the window to apply is now open.

The primary to secondary deadline is **31 October**, while first-time primary applications need to be in by **15 January**.

Allocated school places will be announced on national offer days – March 1, 2027 (secondary) and April 16, 2027 (primary).

Last year saw 98 per cent of secondary and 99 per cent of primary applicants successful with one of their top three preferences.

Our top tips for applying

- Select up to five school preferences. We strongly recommend including your catchment area school
- Remember, choosing just one school will not increase your child's chances of securing a place there
- Get checking - boundaries can be different and in some instances you may live in a catchment with multiple schools
- Make sure you know whether you live in a school's catchment area by checking the school's website or phoning them. This is often a key factor in getting a place
- Check out school transport eligibility when researching schools

Apply online at leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions. If you're unable to apply online, call 0116 305 6684 for support.

Did you know?

The "**Leicester fortnight**" tradition started in the 1960s after a ballot of local workers organised by the Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce, with the holiday shifting from the first two weeks of August to the first two weeks of July.



Your reason to quit smoking is personal.

For some people, it's about improving their health.
For others, it's having more energy to play with their children or saving money.

Whatever your reason for stopping smoking, support can make all the difference.

QuitReady offers a free, confidential 12-week programme, helping people across Leicestershire become and stay smokefree.

We're here to help.

**Start your smokefree
journey today.**

 www.quitready.co.uk
 **0345 646 66 66**
 **Text READY to 66777**



Did you know?

You're three times more likely to stop smoking successfully when you receive support from a stop smoking advisor and use stop smoking medication.