

Have your say

on the council's priorities

Summer 2019

leicestershire.gov.uk



LeicsCountyHall



Leicestershire County Council

Rising demands ramp up budget pressure

The council is having to find more savings.

Taking tough decisions and saving £200m since 2010 has helped us stay in a good position. But tight funding, combined with increasing demand for services, means the county council has to find another £75m in savings over the next four years. Growing need for social care and special educational needs and disability (SEND) support – plus inflation – is set to drive up costs by £94m over the next four years.

We already have plans in place to make further savings. These include:

- Recruiting more in-house foster carers to reduce expensive placements
- Reducing adult social care costs by managing demand and reviewing contracts and personal budget allocations


- Generating more income from property investment and commercial activity
- Reducing back office costs through digital technology and simplifying processes

The future challenges, as outlined here, will lead to further reductions in spending.

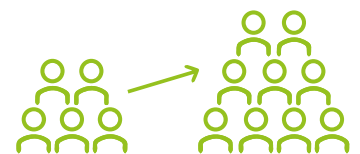
That means it is time to ask residents, partner organisations, businesses and others to help us shape plans and prioritise future services.

Inside you will find more detail about how we spend our money, the savings made so far and how we are delivering services differently, as well as further savings options. Please complete the questionnaire to have your say.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

600
children in the
council's care
set to rise by
13% each year 

Demand for
SEND support
set to rise by
22% over
five years



Leicestershire's population
due to grow by

107,000

between 2016 - 2041

driving demand for services
and the need for infrastructure
such as roads and schools

Your opinion counts

By showing us which services you value the most
you will help us plan for the future and push for change

Have your say online at leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities





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

It costs around 9p 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

priorities@leics.gov.uk

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Council leader, **Nick Rushton**, answers your questions



Q: I heard that austerity has ended so why the need to make more savings?

A: Local government still faces severe financial challenges, as reported in the national media. A significant question mark over future local government funding - which will be a decision for the Government - combined with rapidly increasing demand, means expenditure could exceed income. Savings are identified to ensure a balanced budget until 2020, but we need to look at all options to help protect services. That's why we are asking you to have your say.

Q: Why are you investing in large property projects?

A: Property investments are generating £4m income a year. With further planned investment, this is set to rise to £8m by 2022. The extra income is currently being ploughed into fixing and preventing potholes, and other front-line services, reducing the impact of national funding reductions.

Q: Why ask about future funding when you've said that a new single council for Leicestershire is what's required?

A: In my view, unitary local government works – and we've started a conversation about creating a new council fit for the 21st century, simplifying and improving services, and saving £30m each year, money which can be spent on protecting and improving services. A business case, setting out what this would look like and how it would work, is being developed. I want the county council to have a settled position but we also need to consider more immediate plans.

Q: The council's capital budget is the biggest it's ever been – why can't you use that to plug gaps?

A: Capital money is for one-off costs – we can't use it to sustain services as it would run out. We have a £400m four-year programme, but there are still shortfalls for potentially match-funded major highways schemes, building the social care accommodation we need, investing in efficiency projects and further potential special education needs and disability (SEND) projects.

Q: We've already seen support for special educational needs transport and children's centres decrease. Is it fair to reduce budgets further?

A: No it isn't, but we have to work within expenditure limits set by Government. That's why we want your views – so you can help shape plans and prioritise services. With growing demand ratcheting up pressure, more tough choices will be required.

Q: If your campaign for fair funding from the Government is going to generate more money, surely you don't need my views?

A: Your views will tell us which services you value the most. And we will use this information to shape future plans – this includes making service reductions, if required, and also deciding which services we can invest in, if the funding is available.

Try balancing the budget with our online tool



leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities

Tough choices ahead

Deputy council leader, **Byron Rhodes**, sets out our financial challenges



In Leicestershire, we've been ahead of the game. Saving £200m since 2010 has certainly not been easy – and tough choices still loom large on the horizon.

Government funding for councils has been cut. We no longer receive Revenue Support Grant and other grants are reducing or stopping - in real terms, we've lost £100m since 2010. But ongoing uncertainty about national funding for local government and growing demand for services is ramping up the pressure.

Our fair funding campaign has secured a Government review. But there simply isn't enough money to go around the public sector and unfortunately, local government is likely to miss out, again. It's much more probable the NHS and police will benefit. The Government looks likely to delay fair funding reform until April 2021. Coupled with Brexit uncertainty, it's likely we'll only receive funding on an annual basis rather than a long-term plan.

If we were funded at the same level as the London Borough of Westminster, Leicestershire would receive £215m more a year. It is simply not fair that a resident in Leicestershire is paying double the council tax for a band D house compared to a resident in Westminster, and we're continuing to fight for reform.

No-one likes having to take money out of services and, where possible, we'll make efficiency savings. But legally, we must balance our books, so inevitably service reductions will need to be considered.

Innovative ways of working - such as providing services to other organisations and investing in property - are generating income. And we're exploring what a 21st century council structure could look like – to free up resources to invest in front-line services. This could save £30m each year, improve services, reduce confusion and duplication and get a better deal for residents. We are drawing up a business case to show how this would help prevent us having to pare back services. However, changes like this aren't in our control so we need to ensure there is a range of potential options to reduce cost or generate new income.

Local government's role is to support people – and every day we're transforming lives. The county council has a revenue budget of £370m and is responsible for delivering a wide range of services.

We face further challenges and tough choices – and are keen to hear your views. I'd encourage you to take the opportunity to have your say.

AT A GLANCE:

Annual revenue budget of **£370m**

Saved **£200m** since 2010

Government stopped Revenue Support Grant equivalent to **£100m**

If funded at same level as London Borough of Westminster, Leicestershire would receive **£215m** more every year

Government funding per resident per year	Extra funding per resident	Total extra funding
Kensington and Chelsea	+£505	£348m
Camden	+£439	£303m
Islington	+£427	£295m
Westminster	+£311	£215m
Surrey	+£147	£101m
Leicester	+£101	£69m
Oxfordshire	+£77	£53m
Nottinghamshire	+£71	£49m
Derbyshire	+£67	£46m
Northamptonshire	+£13	£9m
LEICESTERSHIRE (£702)		-

KEY SAVINGS

We've saved £200m since 2010 - and here are a few examples

£200m savings since 2010

2012

Saving £1.8 million each year on more targeted youth service

2013

Saving £5.3 million each year on changes to adult social care eligibility

Saving £1.6 million each year by reducing landfill waste and better energy use

2015

Generating an extra £1.2 million

each year by expanding services to schools, NHS and others

2016

Saving £0.5 million each year on community libraries

Saving £1 million each year on better management of health visiting contracts

2017

Saving £1 million each year on adult social care staff and management

Saving £1 million each year on in-house digital 'Quit Ready' stop smoking service

Saving over £4 million each year on improvements to highways operations

Saving £0.4 million each year on bringing household waste sites in-house

2018

Saving £2 million each year by moving to LED streetlights

Saving £1.2 million by enabling older people to live more independently

2019 and beyond...

Saving £0.2 million each year by using 'smart' library technology

Saving £1.5 million each year on the new 0-19 Family Wellbeing Service

Have your say

on the council's priorities

Complete the questionnaire by 8 September 2019

You can complete the questionnaire online at leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities

The council is facing financial challenges and wants to ask residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties to help shape plans and prioritise future services.

Scan the QR code to go to the online questionnaire



Your feedback will be used alongside other considerations (such as what we need to provide by law, the impact on service users and other income) to inform our decision making and help shape future service delivery within the budget available. We know that in many cases there are no easy choices and so public opinion is really important.

- Please read the supporting information within this newsletter before completing the survey.
- This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your time.
- If you have any other queries regarding the survey please email priorities@leics.gov.uk or call 0116 305 0002.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (including your comments) may be released to the general public in full under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any responses to the questions in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire will be held securely and will not be subject to release under Freedom of Information legislation, nor passed on to any third party.

Q1 - Service reductions

Q: To what extent do you think the county council should make reductions in the services listed below?

Please provide a response for each service in turn. Please select ONE box per row.

The amount spent on each service is next to each line and the percentage of the total is shown in brackets. Listed under each service area are examples of how the service could be reduced. Figures are simplified and include some funding sources outside of the core budget. Figures may not add due to rounding.

The council also spends £33m (8% of the total) on support services. This includes the cost of council properties and facilities (£10m), and information technology (£10m). Other support services include payroll, human resources, procurement, legal services and policy development which help to deliver front line services. The cost of support services is related to the scale of services we deliver.

	Reduce: A great deal	Reduce: To some extent	Reduce: Not very much	Reduce: Not at all	Don't know
Special educational needs and disabilities: £75m (18%) Provision of education and other services (including transport) for children and young people with special educational needs (£75m) <i>(Reduce the level of support offered to children and families with SEND)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people: £61m (14%) Funding care in residential and nursing homes for older people (£36m) <i>(Reduce the number of placements)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enabling older people to live independently in the community (£25m) <i>(Reduce services such as homecare and day services)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Children's social care: £62m (15%)

Children and young people in local authority care
(including fostering and adoption) (£39m)

(Reduce the level of support to children in care)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

☐☐☐☐☐

Children's social care and child protection (£23m)

(Reduce the level of social care support for vulnerable children and families)

☐☐☐☐☐

Learning disabilities: £52m (12%)

Enabling adults with learning disabilities to live independently
in the community (with services such as supported living,
employment and day services) (£28m)

(Reduce services for vulnerable people and their carers/families)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

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Funding care in residential and nursing homes for adults
with learning disabilities (£24m)

(Reduce the number of placements)

☐☐☐☐☐

Waste management: £29m (7%)

Disposing of waste and recycling (£26m)

(Reduced ability to dispose of waste sustainably)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

☐☐☐☐☐

Local tips/household waste recycling sites (£3m)

(Reduce service, e.g. reduce the number of sites and reduce the opening times)

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Healthy living: £26m (6%)

Smoking prevention, weight management, physical activity
and NHS health checks (£9m)

(Reduce support to people wanting to improve their health)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

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Children's health services (e.g. health visiting and school nursing) (£9m)

(Reduce support)

☐☐☐☐☐

Drug/alcohol addiction and sexual infection treatment (£8m)

(Reduce support and services for people who need treatment)

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Highways: £25m (6%)

	Reduce: A great deal	Reduce: To some extent	Reduce: Not very much	Reduce: Not at all	Don't know
Maintaining the roads and pathways (£15m) <i>(Reduce maintenance work and routine repairs, including potholes)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street lighting (£3m) <i>(Reduce maintenance, more part-night lighting and more lights dimmed or turned off where safety allows)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grass cutting on highway verges (£3m) <i>(Reduce frequency of grass cutting where safety allows)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety/traffic light maintenance, flood prevention and road safety education (£2m) <i>(Reduce the level of service)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter maintenance such as gritting the roads (£2m) <i>(Reduce frequency and/or coverage of road gritting)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Physical disabilities: £14m (3%)

	Reduce: A great deal	Reduce: To some extent	Reduce: Not very much	Reduce: Not at all	Don't know
Providing residential and community-based services to adults with physical disabilities (£14m) <i>(Reduce the number of placements and other services)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Family support: £11m (3%)

	Reduce: A great deal	Reduce: To some extent	Reduce: Not very much	Reduce: Not at all	Don't know
Early support to families and young people, including youth services and community safety (£11m) <i>(Reduce services to vulnerable families, children and young people)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public and school transport: £11m (3%)

	Reduce: A great deal	Reduce: To some extent	Reduce: Not very much	Reduce: Not at all	Don't know
Providing free or subsidised public transport for pensioners and disabled people (£5m) <i>(Reduce services where allowed)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing home to school transport, including personal travel budgets (excluding SEND) (£4m) <i>(Reduce services and support)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public bus service subsidies (£2m) <i>(Reduce the availability and frequency of services)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mental health: £9m (2%)

Provision of services for adults with mental health problems (£9m)
(Reduce the number of placements and other services)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

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Libraries, culture and parks: £7m (2%)

Library services - including mobile libraries and services to schools (£4m)
(Reduce number of council-run libraries, reduction in staffed opening hours, fewer books replaced)

Museums, records office and services to schools (£2m)
(Reduce the number of museums, reduce opening hours and reduce access to collections and historical records)

Country parks (£1m)
(Reduce service and maintenance work)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

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Adult learning: £5m (1%)

Adult learning courses and support (£5m)
(Reduce availability of courses and support for learners and apprenticeships)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

☐☐☐☐☐

Economic growth and grant aid: £3m (1%)

Grants and contracts to voluntary organisations, community grants, funding for businesses and social housing, and wider support for economic growth (£3m)
(Reduce money available)

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

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Regulatory and planning: £2m (0.5%)

Trading standards (£1.5m)
(Reduce business inspections and action against rogue traders)

Minerals and waste planning (£0.5m)
(Reduce services which respond to planning applications and deal with enforcement)

Note: Planning for household and business developments is the responsibility of the district councils

Reduce:
A great
deal

Reduce:
To some
extent

Reduce:
Not very
much

Reduce:
Not at all

Don't
know

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Q2 - Ways of working

The council recognises that it cannot just reduce services, but also needs to look at different ways of doing things as well. For example, the county council already works with a range of partners including district councils, police and health services.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following approaches?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
Working more with partners, such as the NHS, GPs, district councils, and police, to design integrated services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working more with private and public sector partners, including businesses, to support the local economy and jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handing over the running of specific services (e.g. libraries, museums, community centres) to residents, community groups and voluntary organisations where the alternative is to close or severely reduce a service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contract with the private or voluntary sector to deliver services when this is the most effective option	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue to find further efficiencies in processes, procedures and management including the use of new technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working more sustainably by utilising renewable energy, reducing carbon and helping protect the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reorganising local government to make substantial overall savings in overheads such as management and administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 - Council tax and other income

Growing demand for county council services - plus general price rises (inflation) - is increasing the cost of delivering services. Council Tax is the county council's main source of income and annual increases contribute towards covering these costs.

Assuming no further Government cuts, an increase in Council Tax about 1% above the level of inflation would help maintain services at a similar level to now (inflation is currently around 2%).

In recent years, Council Tax increases have been higher than ordinarily required to compensate for Government cuts.

Every 1% increase in Council Tax costs each household in a band D property an additional £1 per month. This amounts to £3m of income each year for county council services. The average band D Council Tax bill is currently £1,292 per year.

Government policy is to prevent councils from making increases that they deem to be excessive.

Q: People have different views about Council Tax levels. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?

The figures in brackets show what this increase would be next year for a household in a band D property.

Council Tax should be...

- ☐ ...increased **significantly above** the rate of inflation to improve services (4% - an extra £48 next year)
- ☐ ...increased **slightly above** the rate of inflation to maintain services (3% - an extra £36 next year)
- ☐ ...increased **in line** with inflation even if it means some service cuts (2% - an extra £24 next year)
- ☐ ...increased **below** inflation even if it means significant cuts to some services (1% - an extra £12 next year)
- ☐ ...**frozen** even if it means significant cuts to many services (0% - £0)
- ☐ ...**reduced** even if it means severe cuts to many services
- ☐ Don't know

The county council also has other opportunities to raise income for services, for example, by charging for services, investing in land and property and lobbying for more central Government money.

Q: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following approaches?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
More charging for services, e.g. for social care services, on-street parking, additional waste disposal services, admission to country parks and museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More investment in land, property and other assets as a source of income for services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting businesses and investment into the area to increase local business rates income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploring commercial opportunities to generate income for services (e.g. cafés in country parks, selling HR services to other organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campaigning for fairer funding levels from central Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 - Service improvement

If the council's financial prospects improved, through a significant efficiency initiative or increased income (for example, through improved funding from central Government) we would like to know about your priority areas for improvement. However, the scale of any possible increase is unlikely to mean we could improve all areas.

Q: To what extent do you think the county council should improve the areas listed below if the opportunity arose?

Please provide a response for each service in turn. Please select ONE box per row.

	Improve: A great deal	Improve: To some extent	Improve: Not very much	Improve: Not at all	Don't know
Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social care for adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social care for children and support to families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment and carbon reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Highways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public and school transport (excluding SEND)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries, culture, leisure, adult learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic growth, planning and support to businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure to support the economy and population growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of affordable and quality homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 - Other comments

Q: Please use the space below to let us know any comments and any specific suggestions for savings or improvements.

About you

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community and promote and advance equality of opportunity.

We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

Q6 What is your gender identity?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female
☐ Prefer to self-describe
(e.g. pangender, non-binary etc.)

Q7 Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8 What was your age on your last birthday?

Q9 What is your full postcode?

This will allow us to see what types of areas people are responding from. It will not identify your house.

Q10 Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q11 Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q12 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q13 What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only.

- ☐ White ☐ Mixed ☐ Asian or Asian British
☐ Black or Black British ☐ Other ethnic group

Q14 What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion ☐ Christian (all denominations)
☐ Buddhist ☐ Hindu ☐ Jewish
☐ Muslim ☐ Sikh ☐ Any other religion

Q15 Are you an employee of Leicestershire County Council?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q16 Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it, but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation.

- ☐ Bi-sexual ☐ Gay ☐ Heterosexual / straight
☐ Lesbian ☐ Other

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us.

After the consultation closes on 8 September, we will report the results back to the council's cabinet this winter.

You can send us your completed questionnaire using the Freepost address below:

**Leicestershire Priorities
Leicestershire County Council
Have Your Say
FREEPOST NAT 18685
Leicester
LE3 8XR**

Scan the QR code
to go to the online
questionnaire



You can complete the questionnaire online at leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with current Data Protection Legislation. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the county council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any personal information collected in this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the council's records management and retention policy. Information which is not in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

SPENDING

Where the council spends its money

Try balancing the budget with our online tool

leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities



£11m

Public and school transport

Includes transport to schools (excludes special education needs), subsidised transport (older and disabled people) and public bus subsidies

£7m

Libraries, culture and parks

£29m

Waste management

Includes local household waste sites and incentives paid to district councils to increase recycling and reduce landfill costs

£5m

Adult learning

£26m

Healthy living

Includes smoking prevention and NHS health checks

£33m

Support services

Includes property, IT, payroll and legal services

£61m

Older people

Includes residential/nursing homes, help to live at home and community support

£11m

Family support

Includes early help, supporting vulnerable families and youth justice/youth work

£75m

SEND

Education and services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, including transport

£14m

Physical disabilities

Includes residential/nursing homes, help to live at home and community support

£62m

Children's social care

Includes fostering and adoption

£52m

Learning disabilities

Includes residential/nursing homes, help to live at home and community support

£9m

Mental health support

£3m

Economic growth and grant aid

£25m

Highways

Includes road, path and verge maintenance, road safety (including signs and signals), street lighting, winter maintenance and flood prevention

£2m

Regulatory and planning

Includes trading standards, consumer protection, minerals and waste planning, coroners and registrars

This chart features some spend not normally included in the annual revenue budget - such as ring-fenced grants.

How we are working differently

As the lowest funded county in England, the scope to make savings is reduced - and our response to this challenge continues to be innovative.

SMART LIBRARIES



This April, 14 of Leicestershire's largest libraries embraced 'smart' technology, meaning they open to library users without being staffed. This allows libraries to be open for longer, so more people can use them at times convenient to them. The technology should provide savings of £230,000 each year. Syston Library has had smart opening hours for two years, and there has been a positive response from users.

GENERATING INCOME

Providing services to schools, councils, NHS and others is creating income for the council. Last year, this generated £2m and is set to rise to £4m by 2021. This includes school meals, HR, health and safety services and grounds maintenance.



**Leicestershire
Traded Services**

COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

In 2014, we asked people for their views on whether communities could run their own libraries. Based on this feedback, we agreed to continue to run 16 libraries, with support offered to enable community groups to run the remaining 36.

Currently 32 libraries are run by community groups. Twelve are now open longer and many run social initiatives like afterschool clubs and the Books on Prescription Scheme. The council provides library support officers and trainers as well as property and IT services.

Volunteers from Anstey Community Library and other local groups researched the soldiers listed on the village WW1 war memorial. Their final sharing day was filmed.



Find the video on our YouTube channel

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Rising demand - 22 per cent over the next five years - for SEND support means we need to find better ways to provide services. Supporting children and families is one of our main responsibilities and we're investing up to £30m to expand our special schools, build new ones and create new SEND units at mainstream schools around the county.

The new SEND places and support will provide a good geographical spread across Leicestershire which will not only ease pressure on our budgets but should also mean that families will have more support available, often closer to home.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Joining up a range of 'early help' support into one new-style service has reduced costs by £1.5m a year - and means we can offer more targeted and tailored support for vulnerable children and families.

The new service for 0-19-year-olds - launched in the spring - tackles problems at an early stage and by preventing problems growing, helps to reduce the need for the police or social care to get involved.



JOINING UP HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

More people are going home from hospital when they're ready to leave, thanks to council and NHS staff working together.

This joined-up approach has improved the situation for Leicestershire residents leaving the main hospitals - as well as community hospitals and mental health facilities.

Delays in 2017/18 were reduced by over 20 per cent, and this trend has continued in the past year.

Making sure that people leave hospital when they're ready, with the support they need, is a top priority. Not only does it free up vital beds in hospital, it's also better for the patient, helping people to stay independent for longer and reducing the risk of going back into hospital.

RECYCLING & WASTE DISPOSAL

In July 2017, we took over the running of 13 of the 14 household waste sites in Leicestershire from private firms. This has generated savings of £400,000 per year with a further £200,000 expected yearly through the sale of recyclable materials such as scrap metal.

Running the sites in-house will help us to save money, while continuing to support the public in recycling and disposing of waste.



PROPERTY INVESTMENT

We are investing in property to support the local economy - and generate income that can be used for front-line services such as fixing and preventing potholes, reducing the impact of national funding reductions.

Current investments are already supporting the council's budget by £4m a year. Plans are in place to double this in the next few years and we have ambitions to go further.



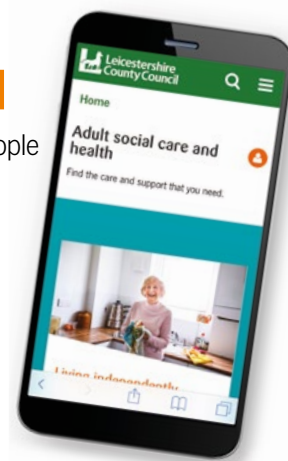
Apollo Court, Coalville

Examples include:

- A new 100,000 sq. ft building at Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park – creating a new HQ for tech firm The Access Group, it will create 500 jobs and £1.6m a year for the council
- Industrial units at Apollo Court in Coalville – creating 120 jobs
- Plans for a solar farm producing clean, green energy

EMBRACING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

We have created an adult social care online portal, giving people more opportunity to complete forms and access guidance online. This has seen an increase in self-service, reduced waiting times for setting up carers' payments, and savings of over £27,000 through a move away from paper forms.



SUPPORTING GROWTH

Leicestershire is growing. A bigger population will boost our local economy but we need more homes and more employment. It also means we need to put the right supporting infrastructure in place - new roads, schools and community facilities. The council is predicted to spend £600m over the next 20 years to support growth with the money coming from Government, developers and our own £400m capital programme.

Projects include a relief road for the north and east of Melton designed to reduce congestion. Work on the road – which also secured £49.5m of Government funding – is set to get underway next year.



Image from drone footage visualising the Melton relief road

WE ARE FAMILY



A hot meal at dinner time, knowing you'll be there to pick them up from school every day, someone to read them a book at night – our children in care aren't expecting their foster carers to be superheroes, just a normal person or couple there for them.

Many people discount themselves from fostering, but the truth is these children simply need a loving family environment to support them. If you are ready to provide that, you're well on the way to being just the type of person we're after.

You need to be over 21 years old, live permanently in the UK and have the necessary skills to take care of a young person during a difficult time in their life.

Even if you don't have a spare room, if you could take care of a child aged 0-2 years and be available to them full time, then let us know.

There are lots of different types of fostering – you could be more suited than you think!

Our foster carers receive an allowance of a minimum of £8,450 a year and specialist foster carers from £35,360.

How can I find out more about being a foster carer?

Fostering is a big decision for anyone – we know lots of people do think about it and have a lot of questions. So our friendly team hold regular 'find out about fostering' events at County Hall, Leicestershire (LE3 8RA) to dispel myths and cover everything you need to know about becoming a foster carer with Leicestershire County Council. You'll have the opportunity to hear personal stories from current foster carers too.

**Contact the team on
0116 305 0505, or visit:
FosteringLeicestershire.com**

LOOKING AFTER OUR CHILDREN IN CARE

There are 600 children and young people in care in Leicestershire. Not only is it better for children to be placed with a family, but every child placed with an in-house foster carer saves money to invest in services.

For children requiring specialist care, the savings are even greater. By placing the child with a specialist foster carer, instead of them having to go to residential care, not only is the support and care they receive better for them in so many ways, but it saves us money.

But the most important benefit is to our children in care. If they are placed with an in-house foster carer, they are more likely to remain in a stable placement for as long as necessary, which we know is the best thing for our children.