

## Vital help for families struggling with cost of living

Families across Leicestershire are feeling the impact of cost of living increases – and from energy costs to food vouchers, we're doing everything we can to help.

And this summer, there will be more support for people through the Household Support Fund.

The council-administered scheme will run until the end of September and offer vulnerable pensioners and families vouchers to help with fuel and food costs.

The £3.6 million fund will also pay for food vouchers for around 14,000 children who are eligible for free school meals, during the six-week summer holiday.

From August, we're planning one-off £100 payments for people in receipt of pension credit. More information about how to obtain this will be available soon.

Free places will also be available at holiday clubs over the summer for children eligible for free school meals.

We're able to offer these as part of the Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme, backed by footballer Marcus Rashford.

The free sessions include sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

In Wigston, Coalville, Loughborough and Hinckley, our volunteer-run 'community fridges' are continuing to support their local communities by

providing donated food for free to anyone who needs it.

We're providing people in hardship with furniture and electrical goods, plus emergency food and fuel support, and funding Citizens Advice to help them offer vital support. At the moment, this includes an extra £250,000 to bolster money and debt advice.

And by teaming up with district councils, we're securing money to install energy efficiency measures in those homes most in need of support. This means that over the next year, more than £3 million will be spent making Leicestershire's homes warmer, and tackling the crucial issue of rising energy prices.

Deputy council leader, Deborah Taylor, said: "Rising costs are impacting families so we're stepping up and making help available.



**Deborah Taylor**

"And with over £3 million being invested in energy efficiency, we're supporting people with growing energy bills while also helping Leicestershire become net zero."

Find out more about support at: [leicestershire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://leicestershire.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

£7.2 million  
over 12 months  
to support families

£3 million  
to make homes  
energy efficient

14,000  
CHILDREN  
benefiting from  
food vouchers and  
holiday clubs

11,000  
PENSIONERS  
receiving £100



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

It costs around 10p 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** @LeicsCountyHall

### 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 to Leicestershire Matters

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



We pride ourselves on providing the vital support residents and families need.

And that means stepping up when people are struggling with food and energy bills. But also thinking creatively and working closely with district councils on innovative projects designed to save money and cut carbon.

Our support extends to those fleeing war-torn Ukraine. People have witnessed unimaginable horrors and it is only right that we should offer them safety. We stand firmly with our Ukrainian friends. You can read more about how we're rebuilding lives, and helping people to live independently, in this newsletter.

A 70-year reign as monarch is a remarkable achievement and I was pleased to see communities across Leicestershire come together to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. From lighting beacons to holding street parties, we've all done Leicestershire proud by celebrating this once-in-a-lifetime occasion.

Reducing carbon is another issue requiring a real team effort. Whether it's transport or what we buy,

we all have an important part to play in creating a greener Leicestershire for the future, and I'd urge you to get involved in our consultation.

A growing county makes our green challenge even more important. Our capital pot may be half-a-billion-pounds, but it doesn't cover the cost of the infrastructure required. That's why we're drawing up bids to secure Government funding. And why it's crucial we work together with district councils, developers and others to secure the money to pay for community facilities.

Boosting the environment is also at the heart of two new schemes featured on pages four and five. A clever approach to better connecting rural areas is set to launch this summer, reducing the cars on our roads. And our resourceful 'park and stride' schemes are getting people walking to school while cutting congestion.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

*Nicholas Rushton*

NICK RUSHTON

## Leicestershire celebrates The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style

The county came together this month to mark Elizabeth II's 70-year reign with a series of special celebrations.

Around 300 street parties were held in all corners of the county over the Jubilee weekend and 70 beacons and buildings were lit and illuminated to pay tribute to Her Majesty The Queen.

There was dancing through seven decades at the Dance for the Queen event in Leicester's Jubilee Square and 70 people who celebrated their 70th birthday this year enjoyed a special garden party at Beaumanor Hall, hosted by Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Mike Kapur.

He said: "The excitement was building through the year for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with so many people marking this historic occasion in different ways, from planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme, to getting the bunting up in their

streets and communities.

"I was delighted to see how it culminated in such a special weekend at the start of June.

"I'd like to thank everyone involved for playing their part to make it such a memorable and enjoyable event."



# Making the county net zero

We've launched a major consultation on making Leicestershire a net zero county – and we need your help.

We want to hear what you think about our wide-ranging action plan which includes every day steps that can help us all reduce our carbon emissions and help protect the environment. Running until late July, our consultation focuses on:

- Reducing carbon emissions generated by transport
- Reducing energy use in buildings – plus improving energy efficiency and renewable energy generation
- Supporting businesses to go green and grow the low-carbon economy
- Supporting communities to tackle climate change
- Increasing the removal and storage of carbon in natural systems like soil and forests



**Blake Pain**

Councillor Blake Pain, cabinet member for the environment and the green agenda, said: "We're a green council. That's why we're consulting on our draft strategy and action plan, and joining forces with residents, councils, businesses, universities and others in the race to net zero.

"We can't tackle these challenges alone. Everyone in the county has a part to play in helping us to get to net zero by 2045.

"We can make a big difference and I would urge people to get involved. By having your say, you'll be shaping a cleaner, greener and healthier Leicestershire for future generations."

**The consultation is open until 26 July – visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/netzeroconsultation](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/netzeroconsultation) to comment and find out how you can make a pledge.**

Have  
your  
say

NET  
ZERO  
LEICESTERSHIRE

Since 2009, we've reduced our own carbon emissions by 75 per cent, and we're on track to reach our target of being a net zero council by 2030 – cutting carbon, reducing waste and boosting biodiversity is built into our services.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Illegal cigarettes seized

Leicestershire's Trading Standards Service has seized and destroyed tens of thousands of illegally imported cigarettes and packs of hand rolling tobacco which would have been sold in county shops. A specialist recycling company has disposed of the items. The tobacco became mulch used by landscapers and the cigarette plastic filters were shredded and put into concrete products.

### Full steam ahead for freeport

Plans to create an innovative, inland freeport are on track. The County Council is what is known as the accountable body for the East Midlands Freeport, which is on schedule to become fully operational later this year. It is expected to create around 61,000 new jobs and generate £8.9 billion for the economy over the next 30 years, playing a critical role in levelling up the region. Visit [emfreeport.com](https://emfreeport.com)

### In the right place

Thousands of children have secured a place at their preferred primary school this September. A total of 98 per cent have been offered a place at one of their top three school choices after we received 7,410 applications. Ninety-three per cent of youngsters have secured a place at their first-choice school, with four per cent being offered their second option and just under one per cent their third. You can apply for 2023 reception places from 1 September.

### Log your trees

We're aiming to plant a tree for every person in Leicestershire – and asking you to record any trees you plant on our interactive map. Every tree planted helps us reach our 700,000 tree goal. Trees and woodlands also help our ecology, improve air pollution and aid wildlife. Scan the QR code to record your planted trees.



► **Read about how we're boosting biodiversity** - page 5



# FOX connect

With public transport still recovering from the effects of Covid-19, we're exploring a fresh approach designed to better connect rural areas.

Later in the summer, three fully-accessible minibuses will be available to book through an app or by calling a contact centre, offering a modern, on-demand transport service between Leicester and Hinckley.

FoxConnect is a three-year trial, funded through our successful bid for £1.3 million from the Government's Rural Mobility Fund.

Operating within a designated area, it will include direct journeys to major employment sites such as Carlton Park, Next at Enderby and Fosse Park. It will also open up further travel options for villages including Stoney Stanton, Broughton Astley, Whetstone and Huncote.

The move comes as the bus industry emerges from the pandemic, during which it has had to survive on emergency support from Government and councils.

Our local bus network is run almost entirely by the commercial sector, limiting our influence. Unfortunately, along with many other councils, our bid for Government cash to boost the industry locally was turned down, but we're working with operators to see if we can secure future funding.



**Ozzy O'Shea**

Councillor Ozzy O'Shea, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "This is an innovative approach and it's something I'm really excited about.

"We have to do all we can to get people back on to public transport or we face a 'use it or lose it' scenario. If the trial works well, we want to roll it out in other areas as and when funding becomes available."

More details will be announced soon – keep up to date at: [choosehowyoumove.co.uk](http://choosehowyoumove.co.uk)



## Striding into school



**Children from Sherrier School in Lutterworth**

A new programme to get children walking safely to school has been piloted in parts of the county.

We've teamed up with six schools so far – with more to follow – to debut 'park and stride' schemes. The schemes allow children to meet in a nearby car park before making the five-to-10 minute walk to school, accompanied by their parents, carers, or guardians.

The initiative aims to reduce traffic congestion, boost activity and benefit the environment.

Councillor Ozzy O'Shea, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Park and stride is a way to tackle several problems together.

"Not only can they help reduce traffic congestion, kids also become more active and we can reduce air pollution near schools, all at once.

"I'm pleased we've got several schools onboard, and I look forward to park and stride coming to even more very soon."

If you would like to launch a park and stride scheme at your local school, please contact [choosehowyoumove@leics.gov.uk](mailto:choosehowyoumove@leics.gov.uk)



# Wildflower verges take root

A clever initiative – which transforms roadside verges within towns and villages into wildflower areas – is continuing to bloom.

The project, a partnership with local wildlife charity NatureSpot, aims to boost biodiversity and wildlife by leaving wildflowers to flourish on urban roadside verges across Leicestershire.

More than 50 parishes have now signed up to the scheme, which involves volunteers and parishes giving their time to restore the verges, including the sowing of native wildflower seeds, and learning about the local wildlife within these important habitats.

We now have our highest number of designated wildflower verges – over 70 in total – which is more than the size of two standard football pitches.

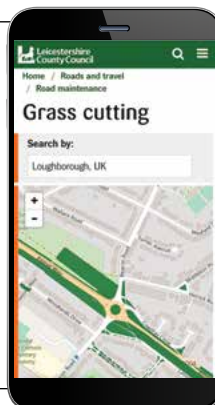
Councillor Blake Pain, cabinet member for the environment and the green agenda, said: “We’re playing our part in replacing the lost wildflower meadows of the past century and the response from parishes has been great.

“Conserving our natural environment is a really important part of the council’s work as we play our part in tackling climate change and encouraging others to join us.”

Parish councils keen to join the scheme next year can submit expressions of interest between July and September – contact our environment team at [environmentteam@leics.gov.uk](mailto:environmentteam@leics.gov.uk) or for more information, visit [resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/wildflowers](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/wildflowers)

## Grass cutting in your area

Our yearly grass cutting programme is underway. Check dates for your area by using our interactive map: [leicestershire.gov.uk/grass-cutting](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/grass-cutting)



Our survey said:

54 verges surveyed

by NatureSpot volunteers

18 volunteers contributed 335 hours

339 species identified

32 average number of wildflower and grass species on each verge

You can help record Leicestershire’s wildlife by logging sightings of plant, animal or fungus at [naturespot.org.uk](https://naturespot.org.uk)





# Shaping a 21st century county

Leicestershire is growing – and we're shaping the county of tomorrow by building strong, green and healthy communities, creating jobs and boosting skills and productivity.

We're a green council – on track to be carbon-neutral by 2030 – and joining forces with residents, businesses and partners to make Leicestershire a net zero carbon county by 2045.

Our capital pot totals over half-a-billion-pounds – our biggest ever. But it's also stretched to unprecedented levels. And with rising prices around the globe, pressure is ramping up.

With 180,000 new homes needed by 2050, and our population set to rise by 20 per cent in 20 years, it's crucial we support growing communities by putting the right infrastructure in the right place.

Council leader, Nick Rushton, said: "That's why we're working with district councils to plan for a future Leicestershire, and with developers and partners to lever money – £120 million over the last

two years – to pay for the infrastructure communities need now and in the future."

Councillor Peter Bedford, cabinet member for transformation and recovery, added: "We're at the heart of one of the fastest growing economies in the UK – and working hard to boost skills, create jobs and support businesses.



**Peter Bedford**

"From supporting innovative plans for a freeport, to creating top-notch business space, we're encouraging companies to invest in Leicestershire and make the county their home.

"Delivering innovation, excellence and value for money – that's what drives us. Whether you're a resident or a business, we work to make Leicestershire the best place to call home."



**Councillor Lee Breckon**, cabinet member for resources, updates on our budget

**“**We're delivering for our residents – from transforming lives to building for the future.

Taking tough decisions early means we're in a better position than other councils – but future challenges are mounting up.

"Put simply, the infrastructure needed for a growing county outstrips our capital budget. That's why we're drawing up bids to secure Government funding where possible and rolling out innovative transport ideas to boost rural travel.

"It's crucial we work together with district councils and others to secure the money to pay for community facilities.

"Other factors, including national reform of special educational needs and health support, ongoing recruitment challenges and the impact of Covid, are turning the screw on our already extremely stretched resources.

"This makes our campaign to get a fairer funding deal from Government even more important. And with the newly-formed F20 group of low-funded councils, we're teaming up to call for a £300 million temporary fix to level up local government finance. And as we negotiate with the Government over a County Deal, we're doing everything we can to lever more money and local powers for Leicestershire."

## We have:

- Spent around £100 million on 4,800 new school places in the last five years – including six new schools.
- Invested £15 million in new residential accommodation – helping older people, adults with learning and physical disabilities and adults with mental health conditions to live as independently as possible.
- Cut congestion at junction 23 of the M1 – thanks to multi-million-pound improvements.
- Created 200,000 sq.ft. of space for businesses – enabling companies to invest in Leicestershire.
- Completed a £3 million revamp of Snibston Colliery Park – combining Coalville's industrial heritage and natural landscape.

## Our plans include:

- An exciting £3 million bid to roll out the Government's Multiply project – boosting adult skills and helping people secure jobs.
- Launching a flexible, bookable minibus – connecting rural areas and getting people to work.
- A bid of up to £50 million to improve a key route between the M1 and A46 in Charnwood.

# work & skills

Leicestershire

Get support  
with skills, training  
and employment.  
Call 0800 988 0308  
or visit  
[leicestershire.gov.uk/  
work-and-skills](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/work-and-skills)

## Supercharging broadband

Gigabit broadband is the future  
– and we're working to roll  
it out to communities across  
Leicestershire.

We're working with Building  
Digital UK on the exciting initiative  
which will involve creating around  
50 hubs in rural areas – including  
schools, libraries, recycling centres  
and offices.

The project is expected to be  
completed by 2024 and once  
these sites have been upgraded,  
the surrounding community will  
then be able to benefit. They  
can then sign up to community  
fibre voucher schemes with local  
suppliers to bring Gigabit-capable  
broadband to more properties.

Gigabit broadband is the fastest  
connection currently available  
and this project will help the  
Government connect at least 85  
per cent of premises by 2025.

For more information and  
updates visit [gov.uk/government/  
publications/gigahubs-key-  
information](https://gov.uk/government/publications/gigahubs-key-information)

### YOUR COUNCIL

# Keeping services on track

It's important key decisions and services are  
challenged – and that's the role of our scrutiny  
committees.

Over the last 12 months, the Scrutiny Commission and five other  
cross-party scrutiny committees have looked at over 120 reports,  
on issues ranging from four-year budget plans, care pressures, road  
casualties and inclusion in schools to tackling climate change and  
mental health. Over half of our councillors deal with scrutiny issues.

► **Budget** – With the pandemic posing many challenges, our  
Scrutiny Commission took a fine-tooth comb to our four-year plan.  
Concerns were raised about the rising cost of special educational  
needs and disability support, as well as the impact of inflation and  
the costs of funding key infrastructure needed for a growing county.

► **Care home quality** – Given the impact of the pandemic on  
care homes, our councillors were keen to look at the effect on  
care quality and on staff. As a result, they will now receive regular  
updates on care home ratings and they supported a review of care  
home fees in the spring.

► **Mental health** – Our Health Scrutiny Committee has taken an  
interest in mental health issues, both generally, and in relation to  
the pandemic. As well as seeking and receiving assurance that  
high-risk groups were being supported and known suicide locations  
were being monitored, they reviewed the options available to a  
patient at a time of crisis. They also heard about support available  
to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

► **What's next?** – On top of budget plans and a wide range of key  
health issues, scrutiny leads will also focus on new homes plans,  
learning disability support, home-schooling, river water quality,  
cancer screening backlogs and special educational needs transport.

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



**Michael  
Mullaney CC**  
Chairman  
of the Scrutiny  
Commission



**Rosita  
Page CC**  
Vice Chairman  
of the Scrutiny  
Commission

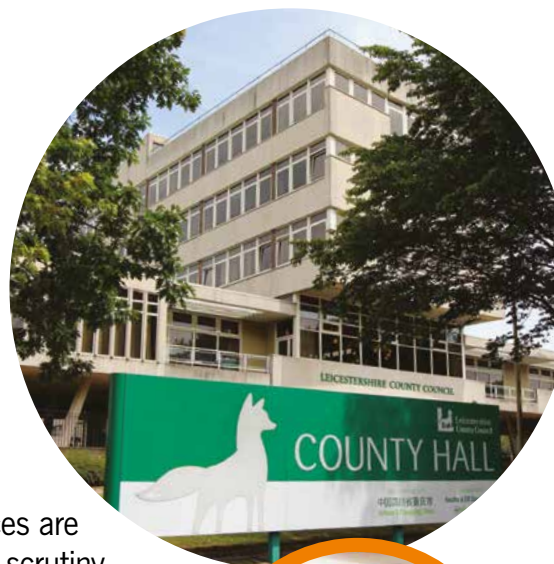


**James  
Poland CC**  
Commissioner



**Amanda  
Hack CC**  
Commissioner

For more information, visit: [leicestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny)



2,060  
WEBCAST  
VIEWS

121  
reports  
considered

34  
questions  
submitted by  
residents

46  
hours of  
public debate



**JOBS**

**START  
LEARN  
GROW**

**WITH US**



Leicestershire  
County Council



Whether you're just starting out in the world of work, hungry for new skills and training, or keen to climb higher on the career ladder – working for us will give you a role in delivering services that help and improve the lives of people in Leicestershire. **And we offer excellent benefits and exciting opportunities for every stage of your career journey.**

**START  
WITH US**

**We're a welcoming and supportive place** to take your first steps at work.

Our roles are diverse, and you can find one to suit your own skills and personal qualities. And, if you want to get a qualification while you work, check out our apprenticeships.

**LEARN  
WITH US**

We've got workshops, training sessions, e-learning and much more to help you **boost your knowledge and fulfil your potential.**

From mental health first aid to unconscious bias training, there's plenty to inspire and motivate.

**GROW  
WITH US**

**You'll have a chance to advance your career** through promotion, secondments and internal vacancies, and you may be able to get professional qualifications. Our many long-serving employees prove that we're a top place to work long-term.

See our latest vacancies at **[leicestershire.gov.uk/jobs](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/jobs)**



# Looking for a new challenge?

## A flavour of our current vacancies...



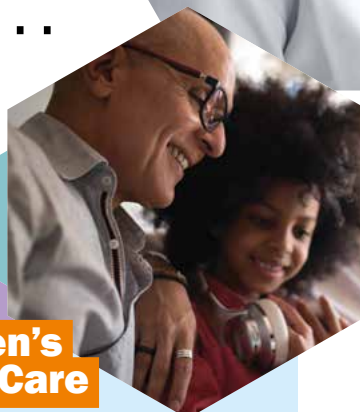
### Adult Social Care



Why not join our adult social care and health teams?

In adult social care our focus is to improve the lives of vulnerable people and their families. We help people do everyday things, be active in their community, and safeguard them from harm, as well as promote, maintain, and enhance their independence. It's an exciting time to join our growing team and help us deliver our long-term vision for adult social care in Leicestershire, that puts people at its heart. Visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/ascjobs](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/ascjobs) to see all our latest vacancies

### Children's Social Care



If you share our passion for making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families, come and join our team. Our staff deliver excellent services to children and families across Leicestershire, and we're committed to giving you the opportunity to develop the career you want and learn different skills. If you want to know more about the different roles and the training, learning and development available to our staff, visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/cfsjobs](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/cfsjobs)

### Catering



We are seeking school food assistants, cooks and supervisors to help provide high quality meals for schoolchildren across Leicestershire. We have a variety of job roles, all of which work around your schedule. This is a fantastic opportunity to give back to your local community by becoming part of a team which plays an important role in the healthy development of children across the county. Visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/cateringjobs](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/cateringjobs) for a full list of the roles available, or call us on 0116 305 0703.

## We're a caring employer

As a Race at Work Charter signatory, and a Timewise, Stonewall Top 100, Disability Confident, Mindful Employer and Menopause Friendly organisation, we want everyone to feel comfortable, confident and open about who they are. We offer extensive mental health and wellbeing support, enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption pay and flexible working to support a work-life balance – and discounts through our benefits scheme.



# Stay independent

We're working hard to support residents to live independently, now and in the future.

## ► Available now

### Technology at home

We've launched a new technology service to boost people's independence, improve their quality of life and reduce the amount of support they need.

The homes of elderly and vulnerable adults in Leicestershire are being fitted with equipment that detects falls and other risks inside and outside the home to help keep them safe 24-hours-a-day.

This technology provides residents, their carers, family and friends with the reassurance that help is available round-the-clock, seven days a week.

It allows people to be monitored by trained staff in case they should fall ill or have an accident so help can be quickly summoned, while reducing the pressure on 999 services.

For more information, or to find out if you would be eligible for support from the service, visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/care-technology](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/care-technology)

### Supporting carers

Do you look after someone, who couldn't manage without you, without being paid? Whether you care full time

or just a few hours a week, we provide advice for carers. Call 01858 468 543 during the week, email [maureen@supportforcarers.org](mailto:maureen@supportforcarers.org) or visit [supportforcarers.org](https://supportforcarers.org)

## ► In the future

A Government report has set out a 10-year vision for social care. Proposals are wide-ranging and include:

- A cap on the cost of personal care
- Help for those without their own assets to pay for care
- People who pay for their care can ask the council to help arrange it
- Support for the care system – including the workforce – and investment in accommodation and technology
- Joined-up working across the NHS and social care



**Christine Radford**

Councillor Christine Radford, cabinet member for adult social care, said:

"These national reforms will improve people's lives and we're working hard to deliver to the Government's tight deadlines.

"We want residents to continue to access the good quality care they need, when they need it.

"There's no doubt these plans will put extra pressure on our budgets, and this will be a real challenge, but we're making every effort to deliver value for money."

Plans are underway to work closely with people who use our services, and care providers, for a future public information campaign.

**Have your say**

## Our carers strategy

There are just a few more weeks to give your opinion on long-term plans to support carers across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The three-year plan is published at [leicestershire.gov.uk/carers-strategy](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/carers-strategy) or you can call 0116 305 0232 for details before the deadline of 17 July.



## Care Technology

Leicestershire Adult Social Care

Since it launched in May, our new care technology service has been making a difference, offering support and reassurance to our residents.

197 referrals

68 installations

121 pieces of equipment installed

20% of referrals are for adults under 65 years of age

► For more information, or to find out if you're eligible visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/care-technology](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/care-technology)



# START A CONVERSATION



Looking after your mental health is so important, but it often comes second to physical health. Find out more about the different services available to all ages across Leicestershire at [startaconversation.co.uk](https://startaconversation.co.uk)

There are a range of support services available across Leicestershire to help you:

- ▶ **The Tomorrow Project** – Offers one-to-one, confidential, face-to-face support for anybody affected or bereaved by suicide. [startaconversation.co.uk/the-tomorrow-project](https://startaconversation.co.uk/the-tomorrow-project)
- ▶ **Harmless** – Provides support for anybody who currently self-harms, has thoughts of self-harm, or has been affected by self-harm, as well as support to friends and families. [startaconversation.co.uk/harmless-community-self-harm](https://startaconversation.co.uk/harmless-community-self-harm)
- ▶ **Mensoar** – Provides support for men (aged 18+) living in Leicestershire. The service provides a wellbeing hub, webinars and online weekly peer-support groups. [mensoar.co.uk](https://mensoar.co.uk)
- ▶ **DistrACT app** – Free to download to smartphones and tablets and provides trusted information and links to support for people who self-harm and may feel suicidal. [startaconversation.co.uk/distract-app1](https://startaconversation.co.uk/distract-app1)



**Louise Richardson**

Councillor Louise Richardson, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It is so important to realise that help and support is available to those who are struggling, and also to remind ourselves that we all have a part to play in offering hope and a listening ear to those who need it."

## Protect your family

Ahead of the summer holidays, children aged five-to-11 are being encouraged by the NHS to become 'vax heroes' and get vaccinated against Covid.

Following updated guidance that children could benefit from having the vaccine, it's been available to this age group since April. There are plenty of pop-up sites making it quick and convenient for you or anyone in your family to get up to date with Covid vaccinations.

Find out more at [leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine](https://leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine) or visit the drive-through clinic at County Hall in Glenfield which is open 10am until 6pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Age group times are:

- **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:**  
Age 16+ 10am-3pm, Age 5+ 3pm-6pm.
- **Saturday and Sunday:** Age 5+ 10am-6pm



## How do you feel about being active?

Our physical activity and sport partner, Active Together, is asking residents about their physical activity habits and future plans to identify how they can help people lead healthy, active lives. Complete the survey at [active-together.org/residents-survey](https://active-together.org/residents-survey) by Sunday, 10 July and you could win a prize.



# Rebuilding people's lives

**| We're playing our part in helping those leaving Ukraine**

Families and children fleeing the war in Ukraine have been arriving in Leicestershire – and we're playing our part in helping them rebuild their lives.

We are currently aware of up to 950 people expected to settle in Leicestershire under the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme.

We've teamed up with district councils, the NHS, police, East Midlands Airport and other partners to provide vital support and a safe place to live.

Help is available at a welcome point at East Midlands Airport from the moment people step off the plane.

Partners are working together to make sure refugees have access to vital services

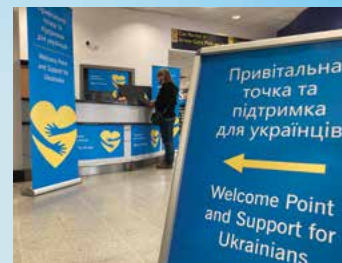
and support including accommodation, safeguarding, healthcare, education, translation, transport and employment, with us taking a lead on welfare and safeguarding checks.



**Deborah Taylor**

Deputy council leader, Deborah Taylor, said: "People leaving Ukraine have been uprooted from their home and experienced terrible trauma. Our commitment to supporting families and children is resolute and I'm pleased that partners came together so quickly to offer the wealth of support people need."

**More information is available at:**  
[leicestershire.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine)



## Leicestershire stands in solidarity with Ukraine

We're showing support for Ukraine in all the ways we can, following Russia's illegal invasion. We've shown our solidarity by flying Ukraine's flag outside County Hall in Glenfield and illuminating the building in the Ukrainian national colours of blue and yellow.





**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND SUPPORTED**

# We are. Family

Nearly 700 children in Leicestershire are in care, and our fostering team is on the lookout for people like you who could make a difference.

To find the next generation of kind-hearted carers, the team will be on the road this summer at venues around the county. You can meet the team and ask your own questions about fostering. They'll be able to explore with you the right type of fostering for your circumstances. The full list is available at [leicestershire.gov.uk/fostering-events](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/fostering-events)

If you can't make it to one of our pop-up events, there are also monthly virtual sessions where you can hear from carers, and young people in care, about their experiences. Dates include 20 July, 11 August and 1 September, 6.30-8.30pm. To book, or to find out more about fostering with us, visit **FosteringLeicestershire.com**, email [fostering@leics.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@leics.gov.uk) or call our friendly team on **0116 305 05 05**.

**Councillor Deborah Taylor, cabinet member for children and family services, said:** "We have wonderful foster carers who provide loving and supportive homes for children and young people in care, but more people are urgently needed to foster.

"There is a wide variety of opportunities available. And we can discuss how fostering can fit into your life no matter your circumstances.

"If you have the space in your home and your heart, and the skills needed, go along to one of our pop-up events or sign up to a virtual event.

"You can make the difference."

## What you need to be a foster carer:

- ✓ You need to be at least 21 years old
- ✓ Have a spare room
- ✓ Be ready to make a difference
- ✓ Have plenty of love and encouragement to give!

## So, who can foster?

Well, you can be a foster care regardless of whether you:

- ✓ Are single/married/unmarried
- ✓ Are renting or a homeowner
- ✓ Are of any sexual orientation or gender identity
- ✓ Are of any ethnic or religious background
- ✓ Identify as having a disability
- ✓ Are employed or receiving benefits



# Let's explore!

*So much to discover this summer.  
Where will your next adventure take you?*

## Snibston COLLIERY PARK

Ashby Rd, Coalville, LE67 3LN  
[leicscountryparks.org.uk](http://leicscountryparks.org.uk)

The former mining site has been transformed to include a 4km blue grade mountain bike trail and a pump track where you can practise new skills, or grow confidence before taking on a trail. Whether

you're a cycling novice or a mountain bike junkie, Snibston Colliery Park offers a great outdoor experience. The natural landscape throughout the park is rooted in history and rich ecology. It has Green Flag status - the award for best green spaces in the country.

CLEAN  
GREEN  
LEICESTERSHIRE

**CT CENTURY  
THEATRE**  
AT SNIBSTON COLLIERY PARK

### Talon: The Acoustic Selection

Sunday, 24 July, 7.30pm

Experience The Eagles classics with breathtakingly beautiful acoustic arrangements plus their own personal favourites. Visit [centurytheatre.co.uk](http://centurytheatre.co.uk) or phone the box office 01530 278444 (open 11am - 2pm) to secure your tickets now.

### A Coal Miner's Story

Saturday 2, Saturday 9, and Sunday 24, July. 11am, 12.45pm and 2.30pm.

Snibston Heritage Trust presents colliery tours this summer where you can discover the life of a Leicestershire miner with a guided tour of the historic former colliery site. Tickets: Adults £2.50, Children under 16 - free (must be accompanied by an adult). Search 'Snibston' on eventbrite.co.uk to book your place today.

**BOSWORTH**  
BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE  
AND COUNTRY PARK

## MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, 20 and  
Sunday, 21 August

Sutton Cheney,  
Leicestershire, CV13 0AD

[bosworthbattlefield.org.uk](http://bosworthbattlefield.org.uk) Tel: 01455 290429

One of the UK's leading historical visitor attractions explores the stories behind The Battle of Bosworth in 1485 which resulted in the death of Richard III and the birth of the all-powerful Tudor dynasty, led by Henry VII.

The interactive, family-friendly exhibition tells the story of this dramatic and historically important event and invites you to follow the main characters through the battle, while exploring the weaponry, armour and strategy used.

**BOSWORTH  
DON'T  
MISS**



The two-day **Bosworth Medieval Festival on Saturday, 20 and Sunday, 21 August** features battle re-enactments by the Wars of the Roses Federation,

living history encampments to explore, falconry, musicians, medieval craft market, medieval cooking demonstrations and food tasting, hands-on games and competitions for children and much more.

Tickets for the festival are valid for the whole weekend, so visitors can come on either or both days for no extra cost. Buy tickets at [bosworthbattlefield.org.uk](http://bosworthbattlefield.org.uk) or by calling 01455 290429, or on the gate during the festival weekend.

### 1620s House & Garden

Donington le Heath, Coalville, LE67 2FW  
[1620sHouse.org.uk](http://1620sHouse.org.uk) Tel: 01455 290429

Explore the beautiful gardens, discover the house full of history, try the homemade cakes in the tearoom or join us for exciting events this summer including Much Ado About Murder on 24 July or Pirate Day on 4 August. See website for all event details.



THE  
**1620s**  
HOUSE & GARDEN  
at Donington le Heath





## Outdoor Activities at Beaumanor

Join our holiday activities club this summer. Exciting outdoor activities for children aged seven-14.

Dates and full activities schedule available online. £40 per day – childcare vouchers also accepted.




To book call 01509 890 119 or email [holidayclub@leics.gov.uk](mailto:holidayclub@leics.gov.uk)

Woodhouse, Leicestershire, LE12 8TX

[beaumanorhall.co.uk](http://beaumanorhall.co.uk)

Tel: 01509 890119

[beaumanorhall.co.uk/outdoor-activities](http://beaumanorhall.co.uk/outdoor-activities)

@beaumanorhall   



The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay is confirmed to visit Leicestershire during its final journey through England next month.

The baton's epic journey will include a visit to Loughborough, taking in the university, on the afternoon of 11 July, and to Market Bosworth on 21 July.

Council leader Nick Rushton said: "If the local response to the Olympic Torch Relay back in 2012 is anything to go by, I'm sure this will be another special occasion."

For more information on the Queen's Baton Relay, visit [birmingham2022.com/qbr](http://birmingham2022.com/qbr)

## Summer Reading Challenge 2022



This year's Summer Reading Challenge is teaming up with the Science Museum to create a science and innovation themed challenge which aims to spark children's curiosity about the world around them.

Thousands of four-to-11-year-olds take part in the challenge every year, which inspires reading or listening to six books, eBooks or audiobooks. This year, they will get the chance to join six fictional 'Gadgeteers' who use their curiosity to understand the science behind a whole range of interests, from fashion and music to cooking and technology.

With creative activities and illustrated resources, children can uncover the facts and innovation behind everyday objects, showing that reading and science are for everyone.

Children's writer and illustrator Julian Beresford has created the artwork and the book collection that accompanies the challenge highlights how imagination can unlock endless possibilities.

The Summer Reading Challenge starts on 2 July. To find out more, visit your local library or [leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries)

YOUR **LiBR@RY**  
KNOWLEDGE • DISCOVERY • ENTERTAINMENT



# Museums



charnwood museum

Granby Street, Loughborough, LE11 3DU

[charnwoodmuseum.co.uk](http://charnwoodmuseum.co.uk)

Tel: 01509 233754



## People at Work: Earning a Living in a Ladybird World

Open until 1 October, Wed to Sat, 10am - 4pm and Sun 1pm - 4pm.

FREE ENTRY

A new exhibition featuring well-known Ladybird Books transports visitors back to the working world of the 1960s and 1970s.

It looks at how occupations and attitudes have changed since the publication of the first title in 1962.

Visitors will be able to see original illustrations alongside personal reactions and comments from present-day professionals in the field.



*There's loads to see at our museums around Leicestershire*



### Harbrough Museum

The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harbrough, LE16 7LT  
[harbroughmuseum.org.uk](http://harbroughmuseum.org.uk)  
Tel: 0116 305 3627



### Melton Museum

Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1RB  
[meltonmuseum.org](http://meltonmuseum.org)  
Tel: 0116 305 3860

### The Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Long Street, Wigston Magna, LE18 2AH  
[recordoffice.org.uk](http://recordoffice.org.uk) Tel: 0116 2571080

# Grants to help transform lives



Grants of up to £10,000 are available for community projects which help disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Leicestershire.

Our SHIRE Community Grants Scheme has a total budget of £600,000, to support projects run by community groups, charities, not-for-profit enterprises and town and parish councils.

We want to support schemes that help older people, those with disabilities, special educational needs or mental health conditions as well as carers and those experiencing financial hardship, social isolation and poor access to services.

Small grants of up to £3,000 or larger

sums of up to £10,000 are available to help with costs including staffing, buying equipment and room hire.



**Pam Posnett**

Councillor Pam Posnett, cabinet lead member for communities, said: "We know there are many great organisations doing fantastic work to support their

communities, often with limited resources.

"The cost of living crisis is really biting and that means more and more people are turning to community groups for help.

"That's why we have been offering extra support this summer and there will be more funding to be handed out in the autumn."

We have been assessing recent grant bids and will re-open applications in July and then again in October. Applying groups must support Leicestershire residents.

More information can be found at [leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/shiregrants](https://leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/shiregrants)



Recycling is one way we can all play our part in reducing waste and moving towards becoming a net zero county. The more we get it right, the less recycling will need to be rejected. To find out more about what can and can't be recycled, please visit [lesswaste.org.uk/recycle](https://lesswaste.org.uk/recycle)



## Following these tips when recycling:



**Clean and dry your items**



**No nappies**



**Make sure bottles are empty**



**Put items in loose, not in bags**



**Flatten cardboard and keep it dry**