

Helping Leicestershire stay safe - and bounce back



We're working hard to control coronavirus rates, support businesses and keep Leicestershire moving – during unprecedented times.

Pandemics can change course quickly and as we approach winter under tighter restrictions, our public health leads are monitoring data, spotting trends and targeting hot spots. We're deploying extra mobile testing units where needed, taking enforcement action against premises which flout the rules, delivering leaflets to over 130,000 homes, sending out text messages to thousands of people and advising schools, care homes and work places.

Thanks to your help this has reduced cases in hot spots but mirroring the situation across the country, we're taking action to try to prevent the need for further measures.

A campaign called 'it's down to us', featuring local people and landmarks, has been launched reminding people that they play a big part in lowering infection levels. You can read more about the drive on pages 4 and 5 which urges residents – whether they're on the school

run, travelling to work, in the office or going out for a drink – to follow the latest guidance.

Giving businesses a helping hand and enabling people to travel safely are key strands of managing this health crisis. And millions of pounds of grants, 'pop-up' cycle lanes and skills training are enabling communities and businesses to get back on their feet.

A huge £750,000 cash pot, supporting small businesses to bounce back, has already given out £300,000 to 50 companies, with more awarded every week. Businesses from across the county in sectors covering agriculture, tourism, hospitality, creative and retail have benefited from grants – with much more to be awarded over the next few months.

'Pop-up' cycle lanes, 'park and cycle' facilities at our park and ride sites and wider pavements are boosting walking and cycling across Leicestershire and

making it safer to shop in town centres. Over £300,000 of Government money has been invested so far – and we're bidding for a further £1.2m to develop more schemes soon.

And by putting on extra public transport, and urging parents and pupils to cycle, walk or even scoot to school, over 90,000 Leicestershire children were able to return to the classroom in August.

Council leader, Nick Rushton, said: "These remain challenging times. And we're committed to doing everything we can to tackle the biggest health crisis we've seen in our lifetimes. It's vital that residents play their part – and I'd like to thank people for their continued support.

"Balancing our response to the pandemic and supporting businesses to recover is important. Companies are going through a torrid time and I'm pleased that our grant scheme is offering them a welcome boost."



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

It costs under 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

Welcome to Leicestershire Matters

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



The next few months will pose many challenges – and this edition of our residents' newsletter sets out how we're keeping residents safe whilst delivering the day-to-day services you depend on.

Clearly bringing down coronavirus rates is top of our list. We have a highly-skilled public health team – and by crunching the data, they're using their expertise to target hot spots and key behaviours. This insight means we can hone our response – generating better and quicker results.

Our economy is the bedrock of the county – and it's tough for businesses at the moment. That's why we've launched a £750,000 grant scheme which is helping small firms to get back on their feet. You can find out more on page 12. Our newly-revamped Snibston Colliery Park opens its doors this month - and is transforming the site into a vibrant place to live and visit. The regeneration of the wider site will not only attract more visitors to the area but also provide much-needed housing.

We're getting ready for winter – and our gritting team is gearing up to work round-the-clock to keep the county moving when the mercury plummets.

And as well as working 24/7 to ensure vulnerable people have the care they need, we're building new accommodation to boost independence. A housing complex featuring self-contained bungalows – which residents have helped design – is one of a number of new projects we've opened.

Across the county, we're investing to create more school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities – and more foster carers are joining our books, transforming the lives of very vulnerable children by offering them a stable home.

During difficult times, it's important to look to the future – I'd like to thank you for your support and for continuing to do Leicestershire proud.

NICK RUSHTON

Reshaping local government

A letter has been sent to the Government asking for an invitation to put forward unitary plans for Leicestershire.

The move would help to pave the way for an East Midlands devolution deal, boosting jobs, simplifying coronavirus recovery and increasing investment across the region.

Drawn up last year, a strategic business case concluded that a single unitary council – there is now a county council and seven district councils – offered a great opportunity to save money, reduce duplication and protect front line services, whilst giving a stronger role to town and parish councils.

Next steps hinge on the Government's expected White Paper setting out its plans for devolution and local government reorganisation.

Council leader, Nick Rushton, said: "Now is the time for change. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to simplify services, save over £30m a year and improve lives.

"Doing nothing isn't an option. Residents want easy access to effective, joined-up services – and be able to shape decisions that affect their

communities. The current set up is bureaucratic, expensive, outdated and confusing – and we must put residents first and shake up the system. Exploring unitary puts us in control of our future and is our opportunity to move Leicestershire forward.

"It also means we can unlock a devolution deal and put the East Midlands on the map. We now need to wait to see the contents of the White Paper."

Keep up to date – sign up for email updates at leicestershire.gov.uk/future-leicestershire



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

100% recycled

When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it

Coronavirus compounds budget strain



Action to bring down the impact of coronavirus on our finances is working - but the pandemic will significantly push up the future budget gap.

Latest figures show the health crisis is forecast to generate £90m of financial pressure for the county council, from extra costs and loss of income.

Government has provided significant support but an £18m overspend is forecast this year and we expect the budget gap to increase from £39m to £50m by 2024.

We're in a good position compared to other councils, several of which are effectively about to run out of money.

To manage our overspend we have furloughed staff and reviewed capital projects and are implementing short-term spending controls to ensure we're focusing on priorities and stopping spend where possible.

This means we're not at risk of being unable to balance the books in the next few years.

Controls to ensure we're focusing on priorities and stopping

non-essential recruitment and spend are also now in place.

You will have the chance to have your say on our four-year budget proposals which will be published in December – keep up to date at leicestershire.gov.uk/budget

The key coronavirus costs for the council:

- ▶ **SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE:** Supporting the recruitment of new staff, paying social care providers in advance, increasing fees to providers reflecting additional costs.
- ▶ **KEEPING SERVICES GOING:** Higher waste disposal, IT and construction costs.
- ▶ **LOST INCOME:** Reduction in Council Tax, business rates and commercial income.

Councillor Byron Rhodes sets out our budget challenges



Coronavirus has exacerbated an already challenging financial situation. I'm pleased that the measures we're taking are working but the financial impact in future years is even more uncertain.

Even without further lockdowns, it is vital that we continue to reduce this year's gap to avoid an impossible challenge building up in future. The financial difficulties experienced pre-pandemic, relating to demand for services – and in particular for special educational needs and disability support – have not gone away and the mitigations have been disrupted by the crisis.

This means that focusing on our priorities is crucial. And that's why we're working

closely with managers to keep spending tightly controlled.

Thanks to taking tough decisions since 2010, we're in a better position than others – and not about to run out of money. And the action we've taken recently to curb spending means we can manage the financial position for now.

Government support has been significant but not enough. Without funding reform or a major efficiency initiative, more savings will be required including service reductions.

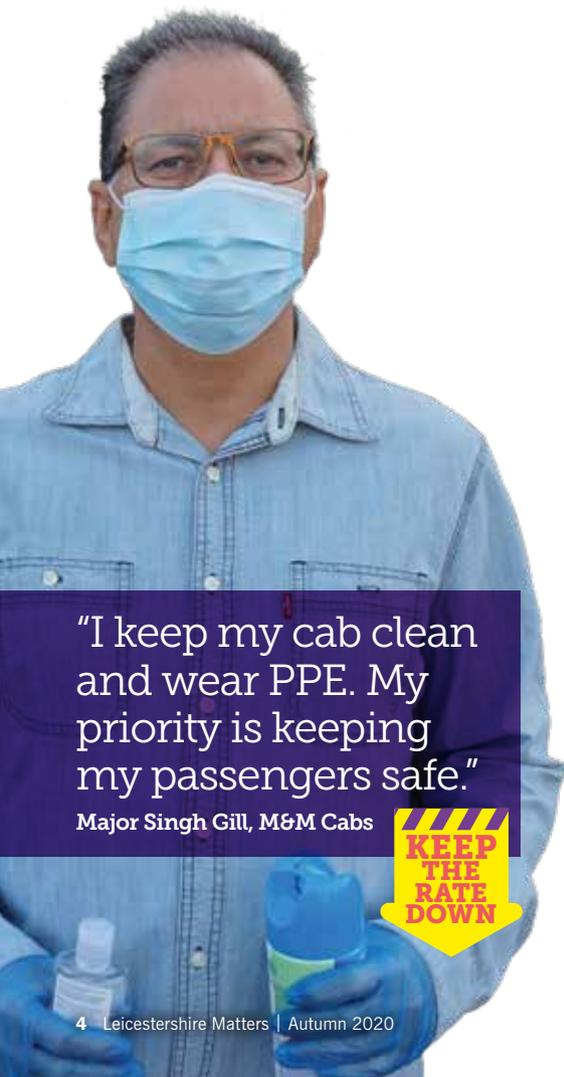
The ever-changing pandemic highlights how precarious the situation is – and the real risk of a return to greater lockdowns that would have significant financial consequences.

It's down to us to control coronavirus

KEEP THE RATE DOWN IN LEICESTER LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

COVID-19

Your actions are instrumental in limiting the impact of a second wave of coronavirus – and it's important you continue to play your part.



"I keep my cab clean and wear PPE. My priority is keeping my passengers safe."

Major Singh Gill, M&M Cabs



As we head towards winter, a new wide-ranging campaign – backed by the NHS, local authorities and Leicestershire Police – is calling on residents to stay safe and drive down rates by following the latest guidance.

The 'it's down to us' drive encourages us all to change our behaviour during the pandemic. The artwork, featuring local people and landmarks, underlines that the route out of this is in our control.



Lee Breckon

Councillor Lee Breckon, cabinet member for health, said: "Through targeted action and behaviour

change campaigns, we're doing everything we can to control the virus. We're in this for the long haul and the clear message is that it's up to us all to play our part."

Since March, we've been working round-the-clock to support people, keep the services that residents depend on running, take enforcement action and bring down infection rates. This includes:

- Analysing data on a daily basis to pinpoint hot spots and trends – and publishing the local figures each week
- Bringing in extra mobile testing units – in July in Oadby and Wigston, the testing rate was 12 times higher than the rest of the UK, helping cases to plummet

- Delivering over 130,000 leaflets to homes across the county
- Working with GPs to send out text messages to thousands of people – urging them to get tested if they have symptoms
- Supporting NHS test and trace – and successfully contacting 80 per cent of the 177 cases the national programme was unable to reach
- Taking enforcement action against businesses where there is a risk of a serious or imminent threat to public health

We've ensured vulnerable people have the support and care they need, including:

- Supporting people who have been shielded with food parcels and care
- Supporting schools to help them re-open after the summer

We also re-opened services our residents value and depend on, when it's been safe to do so, such as:

- Recycling and household waste sites
- Libraries
- Registration offices

YOUR COUNCIL DELIVERING YOUR SERVICES

5,500
people went to our
main libraries in August

82 per cent of residents said they
felt informed about coronavirus
and had the advice they needed

350,000
people visited our country
parks since March
...100,000 more than last year

200,000
people have booked slots
at our recycling centres
...That's over 11,000 per week

95,000
e-books and audiobooks
loaned since March



Mike Sandys, our director of public health, sets out his views

Well over six months in to a global pandemic – and my mantra hasn't changed. The key to getting this under control is in all of our hands.

Your sterling work over the spring helped to bring down rates – and I'd like to thank you for that. But this remains a long game and with stark warnings from the Government's chief medical and scientific officers, we need to remain patient and resilient. I know this is easier said than done and extremely tough when we're all yearning for life to return to normal.

For me, it's about doing the right thing. And we've seen a great response from people in hot spot areas who've heeded our advice – generating real results and driving down rates.

In some cases, the focus has been stepping up testing – and we've brought in extra units to make this as easy as possible where we can.

In some instances, we've taken enforcement action. Where we believe there is a serious and imminent risk, we've worked with district councils to gather evidence of non-compliance and issued orders and closure notices.

In others, it's been about recognising the importance of changing our behaviour. And embedding that

approach across every aspect of our lives. It's human nature to perhaps find it easier to adopt social distancing in the workplace for instance – but not be as diligent on the commute to work. Or to vehemently follow the rules on household mixing – but join in a crowded chat at the school gates.



rules 24/7. Or making it run throughout your life like the letters in a stick of rock.

As winter draws nearer – and the second wave appears to be here – it's even more important we do everything we can to reduce pressure on our NHS colleagues. Get a flu jab, reduce your contacts, self-isolate when you need to and avoid crowded areas.

So whether you're on the school run, travelling to work, in the office or going out for a drink, please do the right thing. The route out of this is changing our behaviour.

That's why we've launched our campaign – to urge everyone to think about social distancing, wearing a face mask, washing your hands and adhering to the

To protect yourself and others follow this guidance:



Hands

Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer



Face

Always wear a face covering when on public transport or in any confined public space



Space

Keep two metres apart from people outside of your household at all times

Get tested if you have symptoms:



High temperature



Continuous new cough



Loss of smell



Loss of taste

To keep up to date
with local restrictions and
advice visit **leicestershire.gov.uk/covidrestrictions**

New SEND schools open their doors

Plans to develop local provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are well underway – with some units and schools opening this autumn.

Foxfields School, built on the site of the old Oakfield Short Stay School in Blaby, is due to open after October half term and will create 50 new places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs.

A new 80-place communication and interaction school in Barwell, Fusion Academy, is also due to open in October.

Building new units and refurbishing others is all part of our commitment to invest £30m in SEND and create almost 700 extra places across Leicestershire.

The Department for Education recently announced that Bowman Academy has been approved and is due to open in Shepshed in September 2023. The new school will be on the St Botolphs Primary School site – with the primary school due to be relocated to the adjacent Iveshead site the year before.

Selected schools in towns such as Shepshed, Loughborough, Hinckley and Ashby are also either having existing space refurbished or extensions built. Thorpe Acre Junior School in Loughborough has been extended to provide a special unit for pupils with communication and interaction needs.

Existing schools, such as Maplewell Hall, are expanding further and will offer new communication and interaction post 16 specialist provision to 20 pupils.

Councillor Deborah Taylor, cabinet member for children and families,



Deborah Taylor

said: “We are extremely pleased that everything is progressing really well and that we are seeing more places opening up across Leicestershire. We recognise the growing

need for specialised placements and are continuing to try and meet that need as best we can.

“We are aware that there are children and young people currently supported some way from where they live and we’re working hard to open more specialist schools and units across Leicestershire to place these young people closer to home.”

More information on the council’s SEND provision at leicestershire.gov.uk/SEND



Inside the new Fusion Academy in Barwell



**YOUR
COUNCIL
DELIVERING
YOUR
SERVICES**

**YOUR
COUNCIL
DELIVERING
YOUR
SERVICES**



Christine Radford (centre-left) and Ruth (centre-right) visit the Markfield project with Affinity Trust and JWF Group Midlands

Improving lives through independence

Investing in adult social care is helping more people to live independently.

Over the past 12 months, around 90 people with long-term disabilities have moved into supported living services from residential care.

And a Leicestershire woman with a learning disability herself is helping to design a new development in Markfield.

Ruth is putting her stamp on four self-contained bungalows which help people with autism and other learning disabilities to leave hospital and live within communities.

Ruth said: "It made me feel really happy and positive. I'm glad the partnership is trying to make it perfect for other people, and I really hope that they love it."

Since moving out of hospital into her own supported home, Ruth has flourished and has enjoyed walking and cycling and has also been on holiday for the first time.

The bungalows have a garden and round-the-clock care from Affinity Trust and will be specially adapted for people with learning disabilities.



Christine Radford

Councillor Christine Radford, cabinet support member for adult social care, visited the site this summer and said: "We are so pleased that Ruth has played such a key role in this project from the start."

Councillor Richard Blunt, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We always aim to build the safest, most fit-for-purpose homes for our residents and getting someone's personal experience to help guide the build is truly priceless."



Richard Blunt

Rachna Vyas, Executive Director of Integration and Transformation at NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups, said: "Our patients are at the heart of everything we do and Ruth's role in shaping the new facility is testament to our commitment to help improve the lives of local people with learning disabilities."

Building work started in March and, despite the coronavirus pandemic, is on schedule with the new residents due to move in next spring.

We've also invested over £1m in an independent living scheme at Great Glen which opened in August.

Going for gold

We've received a national accolade from the Ministry of Defence for our support of the Armed Forces community in Leicestershire. The prestigious employer recognition scheme gold award recognises:

- Hosting public civic events to honour the Armed Forces
- Rehabilitation 'taster' work placements
- Creating an Armed Forces Network, providing peer support for our employees
- Displays of Armed Forces-related creative projects
- Continued support for the Royal British Legion



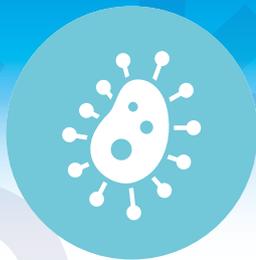
Louise Richardson

Councillor Louise Richardson, cabinet member for communities and Armed

Forces champion, said: "We're proud that our work has been recognised. We are committed to growing this programme of work and look forward to lots of exciting projects with our veterans, reservists, cadets and forces families in the coming years."



winter is coming



Keeping the roads safe

Although it's still only autumn our highways teams are preparing to keep the county moving over the winter months ahead.

When needed, our gritters and drivers spread roughly 170 tonnes of rock salt across major roads and key routes to ensure motorists can still get around.

And it's not just our crews who go out gritting to ensure a safer passage on the road network. Farmers also make a difference by clearing minor roads and rural routes with ploughs on their tractors – and a network of volunteer snow wardens clear paths and spread rock salt on pavements for residents.

Check which roads are gritted by visiting leicestershire.gov.uk/gritting

-  We have 23 gritters in Leicestershire
-  We have ordered 8,000 tonnes of salt for the coming winter
-  We treat the roads on average 60 times each year – but depending on the weather this can be up to 110
-  We receive continuous weather forecasts and monitor road temperatures 24/7
-  In a night, our gritters cover around 1,300 miles of county roads
-  There are 790 salt bins across Leicestershire to help residents clear slopes and footpaths

KEEP CYCLING SAFELY

Whether you've recently discovered cycling or you're a hardened bike commuter, the change in weather can make it difficult to stay motivated. Follow these useful tips to keep on pedalling through the colder weather.

Look after your bike: It will get dirtier during winter so a bit of extra care will keep it running smoothly.

Slippery when wet: Pay extra attention to your tyres. Good tread will help prevent skidding in wet or icy conditions, and inflating them slightly less than usual will improve grip.

Fingers and toes: Wearing a thick pair of gloves will make all the difference, but make sure you can still use your brakes and gear shifters. And a good pair of waterproof shoes or socks will help keep your feet dry and your spirits up.

Dress for the weather: Good quality breathable waterproofs are worth the investment and layers are a good option, so you can shed them if you get hot and sweaty. And for those long dark nights make sure you're visible with a good set of lights and hi-viz clothing.

Safety first: Allow longer for your journey in wet or very cold conditions, so you can take your time. If the weather is too bad, don't put yourself at risk.



More winter cycling tips at sustrans.org.uk



We're here to help you stay well this winter



With the coronavirus pandemic, it's even more important to look after your health this winter – and support friends, family and neighbours.

Getting a flu jab is a simple step you can take to help protect yourself, stop it spreading and reduce the impact on the NHS and social care.

Invitations have started to go out to eligible people:

- Pregnant women
- People aged 65 or over
- People aged under 65 with long-term conditions
- Carers
- Shielded patients and those in the same household aged 18 or over

Fifty to 64 year olds not eligible under any of these criteria will be invited from November onwards.

Children aged two and three, plus all primary school aged children and those in year seven, will be offered the nasal spray vaccination.

Find out more www.nhs.uk/flu

winter
is coming

Keep warm at home



YOUR COUNCIL DELIVERING YOUR SERVICES

The council's **Warm Homes** service helps vulnerable people to save hundreds of pounds on their fuel bills. The service is run in partnership with E.ON and Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland.

The project offers the fully funded installation of

first-time central heating to eligible homeowners and tenants. Eligible residents may be able to receive free insulation, energy efficiency advice and financial advice.

Find out more or apply by calling 0116 305 4286, or visit leicestershire.gov.uk/warm-homes-fund



COMMUNITIES

Blake Pain (left) and Trevor Pendleton (right) with Fleckney Parish Councillors Janet Earwaker (left) and Tina McDonagh (right)

Building a green county - by working together

Everyone can do something small to help our environment – and together we can make a big difference.

CARBON
NEUTRAL
2030

We're investing over £16m to tackle climate change. Solar panels, LED street lights, carbon-neutral industrial estates, wildflower verges and more are already generating results. And we need your help.

Climate change

Climate change is real and happening now. We're reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and have pledged to be a carbon-neutral council by 2030.

Alongside the larger actions needed, everyone can make some changes to the way they live to help reach our ambition of being a carbon-neutral county by 2050.

Biodiversity

Across the country, our plants, animals and wildlife habitats are in decline – because of the actions of humans – and we have a responsibility to change this.

And we want to conserve and enhance Leicestershire's distinct landscapes and wildlife for everyone to enjoy and preserve habitats and biodiversity.

Communities

We're committed to helping communities get on board – through projects such as the SHIRE Environment grant which provides grants to communities to reduce carbon emissions from community buildings, reduce waste or enhance biodiversity.

Waste

We need to reduce the amount of waste we produce – whether that's through more thoughtful buying, reusing things we'd usually throw away or recycling.

Travel and transport

We're encouraging people to walk, cycle – or even scoot – where they can and reduce the number of times they travel in a car alone. This can also save money and boost your health.

Local economy

By buying local, you know where your food comes from, you're supporting Leicestershire's economy and reducing the distance your food has to travel.

Flower power

By leaving wildflowers to flourish on roadside verges, we're improving biodiversity across Leicestershire. We have worked with parish councils – including Fleckney – to manage their verges and encourage native British wildflowers to bloom.

Tina McDonagh, Fleckney Parish councillor, said: "We are keen to work with residents to shape how our village looks. These wildflowers will be a great habitat for species such as insects and hedgehogs."

Councillor Blake Pain, deputy council leader, said: "We're a green council – and take our climate and environmental responsibilities seriously. These new, more natural verges will encourage the growth of a range of wildflowers and provide habitats for wildlife to thrive."



Blake Pain

To find out more visit [leicestershire.gov.uk/environmentstrategy](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environmentstrategy)



Keeping people moving

YOUR COUNCIL DELIVERING YOUR SERVICES

Government advice is to walk or cycle where you can to help control coronavirus – so we are working on projects throughout Leicestershire to make walking and cycling safer and easier.

We've introduced temporary – or 'pop-up' – cycle lanes and improved existing lanes in a number of locations including:

- **Leicester Forest East** – On the A47 we've extended the existing cycle lanes in both directions.
- **Market Harborough** – Kettering Road's existing cycle lanes are being widened and temporary signals used to improve traffic flow.

We're also introducing 'park and cycle' facilities, allowing you to leave your car and cycle into the city. The new facilities, at Enderby and Meynell's Gorse park and ride sites and at County Hall in Glenfield, will include secure, overnight cycle storage.

The work has been enabled through a successful bid for around £300,000 of funding from the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund. We are now bidding for a further £1.2m to develop more schemes to encourage walking and cycling.

If you know of a street in the county that would benefit from more space for walking or cycling you can add your ideas to the Widen My Path website at widenmypath.com

Also over the summer, over 300 people took the opportunity to drop in to our travel clinics and find out more about cycling or walking to work and school.

The free events, held in Syston, Leicester Forest East and Market Harborough, featured travel advice, bike checks, security markings and electric bike trials.

Councillor Trevor Pendleton, cabinet member for highways

and transport, said: "Since the beginning of lockdown in



Trevor Pendleton

March there has been a huge increase in people cycling, and we want to support them.

By making it easier for people to walk or cycle safely, we're helping to make Leicestershire a greener, healthier and happier place to live."





Airfield Business Park, Market Harborough

Property investment boosts services

Frontline services are getting a multi-million-pound cash injection, thanks to our commercial property investments.

New figures show that we generated £7m over the last 12 months – an increase of just under three per cent. The money will go towards fixing and preventing potholes, delivering social care for adults and children and other frontline services, helping to mitigate some of the demand pressures facing critical services.

Councillor Byron Rhodes, cabinet member for finance and resources, said: “This continued good performance allows us to fund vital frontline services at this particularly difficult time with coronavirus putting additional burdens on our finances.

“Our approach of bringing new life to old commercial sites and building new workspaces is creating hundreds of jobs and boosting the economy – and signals that Leicestershire is open for business.”

Land and units are bought using one-off pots of money.

Our property portfolio includes:

- 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 when it opens in November.

- **Apollo Business Park in Coalville:** offering 40,000 sq.ft. industrial units and creating 120 jobs. Eight units have been let, with another four under offer.
- **Airfield Business Park in Market Harborough:** 80,000 sq.ft. of industrial units to let, creating more than 200 jobs. Eight out of the 12 units available have been let, with two more under offer.
- **Quorn solar farm:** Plans to build a 62-acre solar farm producing clean, green energy alongside 45,500 sq.ft. of small business units have been submitted for approval.

AIRFIELD BUSINESS PARK MARKET HARBOURGH

Business Profile

Thrift+, an eco-friendly firm selling unwanted clothes online, is hoping its new base at Airfield Business Park is a good fit for the future.



Joe Metcalfe, who started the company in 2017, moved to expand the business.

He said: “We are growing rapidly and needed more space. I also wanted it to be a modern development to match our own ethos as an innovative start-up. So Airfield Business Park was perfect.

“It was important to be close to a train station for those of us who live in London and I was excited for our warehouse to be near Market Harborough for places to go for team social events.



Helping businesses bounce back

Our £750,000 cash pot is offering a helping hand to small businesses through grants of up to £10,000. So far we’ve awarded £300,000 to 50 businesses. And new awards are being made every week. **For more details visit leicestershire.gov.uk/businessrecoveryfund**

Getting the foundations right

Despite the pandemic, new homes and places of employment are taking shape – and we’re making sure the right schools and roads are in place, and skills being developed, to help people secure jobs.

More than £210m is being ploughed into improving and maintaining Leicestershire’s roads and transport network, making it a great place to live and work.

The work includes road and railway projects which help to reduce congestion, improve air quality and contribute to the council’s aim to tackle climate change, and supporting growth across the county.

These projects include:

- Further work to improve journey times and enable development along the **A512 and M1 junction 23** in Loughborough
- Work to develop junction and road improvement schemes along the **A511 between Ashby and Coalville**
- Pushing for better **rail lines and services from Leicester to Coventry** and Birmingham – plus full electrification and improvements to the Midland Main Line

Boosting skills and creating jobs – especially for young people – is at the heart of our approach. We’ve supported over 430 apprentices since April 2017 and are working with Leicestershire’s Virtual School to encourage our managers to recruit young care leavers as apprentices.



Deborah Taylor (front) with (l-r) John Coxon and Nick Heath and Ryan Wilkes from Willmott Dixon

Investing in the transport projects above will also help the county council to maximise the benefit of HS2 and support major regeneration plans, helping to unlock thousands of new jobs.

Councillor Blake Pain, deputy leader, said: “It’s never been more important to invest in Leicestershire’s future. And we’re doing just that. By shaping where new homes are built, focusing on the environment, putting the right infrastructure in place to speed up growth and generate employment – and supporting residents to get the skills they need to secure jobs – we’re building for tomorrow.”

More than £70m is being spent on new builds and extensions to schools around the county where extra places are needed.

That includes the creation of extra places in Ashby and Shepshed with further new schemes in Castle Donington, Loughborough, Coalville, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough.

In Ashby, a ground-breaking ceremony has taken place to mark work on the 210-place Holywell Spring Farm Primary School in Burton Road. The school is being created as part of a new 400-home

development being built in the area.

Councillor Deborah Taylor, cabinet member for children and families, said: “Developing more school places is a key priority of the council and this exciting new development will reduce pressure in the Ashby area. We want children to have access to first-class local schools and we remain committed to creating more places where there is growing demand.”

Hear from one of our apprentices



James completed an apprenticeship with us in 2016 and now works as a senior administrator. He said:

“ I can only praise the apprenticeship scheme at the county council. As an apprentice, I had many opportunities and experiences that have helped me since, both in my career and personal life. One of those opportunities was working in Germany for a month, something I never thought I’d be able to do! ”






County council-run
Country Parks

- 1 Snibston Country Park
Ashby Road, Coalville, LE67 3LN
- 2 Beacon Hill Country Park
Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8SP
- 3 Broombriggs Farm & Windmill Hill
Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8SR
- 4 Watermead Country Park
Wanlip Road, Syston, LE7 1PD
- 5 Market Bosworth Country Park
Market Bosworth, CV13 0LP
- 6 Bosworth Battlefield Country Park
Sutton Cheney, CV13 0AD
- 7 Donington Le Heath Country Park
- 8 Jubilee Wood
- 9 Sheet Hedges Wood
- 10 Burrough Hill Country Park
- 11 Sarah's Wood
- 12 Donisthorpe Woodlands
- 13 Saltersford Valley Picnic Areas
- 14 Bagworth Heath
- 15 New Lount Nature Reserve
- 16 Oakthorpe Picnic Area
- 17 Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail
- 18 Brampton Valley Way

Explore Leicestershire

See the best of Leicestershire this autumn with places to explore and great days out.



Snibston Colliery Park *Coming soon*

This autumn we will see the reopening of Snibston Colliery Park following a major investment to develop the site.

The new developments include heritage trails, an environmentally-friendly café, outdoor play area, picnic spots and a mountain bike cycling track.

The revamp will transform the site into a vibrant place to visit – and create a direct route to and from Coalville town centre making it easier for local residents and visitors to explore the area.

Once complete, the site will also feature solar panels and electric vehicle charging points.

Council leader, Nick Rushton, said: “Not only will this redevelopment make the park more attractive

for families, dog walkers and cyclists, it will also reconnect the site with the town. We want Snibston Colliery Park to be an asset for the community, which stays true to its mining heritage roots.”

We’re working closely with the Snibston Heritage Group to open up access to the colliery buildings and tell the story of Coalville.

A new home has also been found for the old railway track which is now being cared for by the Great Central Railway.



Visiting Beacon Hill?
Rest and refresh at our café in the lower car park, open Weds–Sun, 9.30am – 3.30pm.





BOSWORTH

BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE
AND COUNTRY PARK

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

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park is a unique day out for all the family. Re-live this famous turning point in British history - the death of King Richard III and the birth of the all-powerful Tudor dynasty.

Learn more about the Battle of 1485 with colourful displays in our award-winning exhibition and then take a break at the 1485 Tithe Barn.

Bosworth's exhibition is open Sat – Weds, 10.30am – 4pm.

To help with social distancing, **tickets must be pre-booked** (including annual pass holders).

Book your tickets for the exhibition on the website or call 01455 290429.

Museums

Our county museums and the record office offer you the chance to open a window to the past to find out about your local history and heritage. Discover the Hallaton Treasure at Harborough Museum, see the famous two-headed boar at Melton Carnegie Museum, join in the animal activities at Charnwood Museum or unlock your own ancestry at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.



charnwood museum

Granby St, Loughborough, LE11 3DU
charnwood.gov.uk/charnwood_museum
Tel: 01509 233754

Open Wednesday to Saturday: 10am – 1pm,
no booking necessary but further details can
be found on our website

Harborough Museum

Symington House, Adam and Eve St,
Market Harborough, LE16 7LT
harboroughmuseum.org.uk
0116 305 3627

Opening times Wednesday to Friday
10am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 4.30pm
(final admission 3.30pm);
Saturday 10am – 3.30pm
(final admission 2.30pm).

Pre-booking is essential.

Book your tickets and find out more on our
website or by phoning 0116 305 3627

1485
Tithe
Barn

/1485TitheBarn

Join us at the 1485 Tithe Barn for hot drinks and refreshments in a setting like no other. Dine in and enjoy the rustic charm of the barn or take away and explore the rolling hills of the countryside.

Open Sat – Weds, 9.30am – 4pm.



MELTON
CARNEGIE
MUSEUM

Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1RB
meltonmuseum.org
0116 305 3860

Open Thursday to Saturday, 10am – 4.30pm.
Pre-booking is essential. Book online or find
out more by visiting our website or phone
0116 305 3860

THE
1620s
HOUSE & GARDEN
at Donington le Heath

Donington le Heath, Coalville
1620sHouse.org.uk
Tel: 01455 290429

Immerse yourself in our early 17th century experience and take a walk back in time in the wonderful, fully furnished house owned by a family who are living in the shadow of the Gunpowder Plot.

The 1620s House and Garden at Donington le Heath is open Thursday – Saturday, between 10.30am – 4.30pm and to help with social distancing, **visitors must book before attending the venue** (including annual pass holders).

The Old Barn Coffee shop is also open Thursday to Saturday 11am – 3.30pm for booked in ticket holders. Book your tickets on our website or call 01455 290429

The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

Open Tuesday to Thursday
9.30am – 12noon and 1.30pm – 4pm
Please telephone 0116 2571080 from Monday
- Thursday or email recordoffice@leics.gov.uk to
book a session, as these are currently limited.
Full details of our booking procedures are on
our website recordoffice.org.uk

**YOUR
COUNCIL
DELIVERING
YOUR
SERVICES**

Supporting coronavirus recovery



We're helping Leicestershire to recover from coronavirus – and our support extends to residents, communities and businesses.

Boosting our local economy is a key focus – and encouraging people to buy local, extending work clubs and promoting apprenticeships is at the heart of our work.

Whether it's building up digital skills to help residents secure jobs, continuing to roll out broadband, particularly to rural areas, or working with construction firms to bolster training, we're drawing up plans to provide the opportunities

everyone needs to bounce back from the pandemic.

This includes supporting the recently-launched Government Kickstart apprenticeship scheme offering work placements to 16-to-24-year-olds who are at risk of long-term unemployment.

And by working with partners, we're exploring how we can extend this scheme to maximise the chances of young people securing long-term jobs.

£1.5 million given to support 160 groups

250 applications

Grants of up to £25,000



Council leader, Nick Rushton, sets out the action we're taking



I'm very proud of the way the people of the county have come together to tackle the impact of coronavirus.

Local government has taken the leading role in keeping people safe, delivering food parcels and shielding and safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

We also reached out to support businesses through the Leicestershire Communities fund and we are expanding our support to small businesses via the £750,000 business support fund.

But we can and should be going further.

The county council is already a major player in the local jobs and procurement market, with considerable spending power.

I want to do all we can to ensure that the

economic bounce-back is swift – and this means investing in apprenticeships and getting people the skills and support that they need in the tough times that lie ahead.

Local authorities like Leicestershire can play a vital role in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises looking to recruit, and I will work with the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership to progress this much needed scheme.

We are also at the forefront of supporting green and climate action projects and want to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2030.

Coronavirus is everyone's problem. But by working together we can and will overcome it and a brighter future lies ahead.