

East Goscote Annual Report

2023

The last 12 months has continued to be an immensely challenging time for Leicestershire County Council. With Leicestershire being the lowest funded County Council in the country the pressure that services face is acute, made worse by the effect of high inflation on costs. Despite that though Leicestershire has met those difficult, and at times unexpected challenges head on. We obviously couldn't have foreseen the Russian invasion of Ukraine but the way both Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council worked to ensure the necessary preparations were in place to welcome Ukrainian guests and meet their needs is something I think we can be proud of.

Leicestershire has a commitment to be a net zero county by 2045, a stretching target but one the County Council has shown in the past year it is serious about achieving. We've seen that in many things done since last May and I think its reasonable to say it runs through everything the authority does. One example is Leicestershire County Council recently took the lead on the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact, an agreement to work together between more than 40 organisations to get Leicestershire to be a net zero County by the middle of this century. It is obviously the case that no one organisation can make Leicestershire net zero on its own, so partnership working is essential and this pact formalises that.

In the last year the government announced plans for a devolution framework known as County Deals which came in three tiers. The first tier, which came with the most money and devolved powers is what the County Council bid for but unfortunately without the City of Leicester also joining the bid the government said it couldn't proceed, and the City refused to support the tier 1 bid. That means that the County has been forced to bid for a tier 2 deal, but that does not come with as much money or powers attached. I think its likely devolution will continue to be a discussion Leicestershire has to be involved with given that's the way so many other parts of the country are going now, and because of the finances which come with that.

In East Goscote I've been continued to work with the Parish Council and others on a wide range of issues in the past 12 months. These include speed monitoring in the village, traffic issues relating to the Redrow development off Melton Road, helping businesses in East Goscote, protecting green spaces in the village as well as a huge range of other matters for residents who have needed my help.

I'd like to finish this years report by thanking the Parish Council and Village Clerk Liz Pizer for all the work they do for the village. I work very closely with them and see the commitment they show to making East Goscote a great place to live. I'd also like to thank Borough Councillor Laurie Needham for the work she does for the village, as well as Ed Argar MP with whom I work closely for residents.

James Poland CC

James.poland@leics.gov.uk