

County Councillors Report December 2025.

The County Councils Unitary Proposals Finally Submitted to Government.

A plan for a brand-new council - putting residents first, empowering communities and reinvesting millions into frontline services that matter most – has been submitted to the Government.

Leicestershire County Council has now sent off its blueprint for 21st century local government which unites Leicestershire and Rutland under a single council and aims to preserve local identity while delivering smarter, more responsive governance.

Independently verified analysis shows that the plan will save around £40 million every year by cutting duplication and streamlining leadership - money that goes straight back into vital services for residents.

Transition costs are paid back within just a couple of years.

This is the right choice for our communities, our finances and our future. It's a historic moment for local government in our area and a chance to build a council that's leaner, more efficient and better equipped to meet future challenges.

Our plan features local area and planning committees, along the lines of the North Yorkshire Council model, liked by Government and recognised as a success.

We've worked with Scrutiny leads, local businesses and stakeholders to shape our final proposals, backed by a strong, cross-party majority.

Council leader, Dan Harrison

The Government wants to move away from 'two tier' local government and, in February, asked councils to work up final plans for change by the end of November. The Government will now consider proposals and consult on their preferred options next year.

Councillor Harrison added: "As leader, I remain opposed to any expansion of Leicester's boundaries and have called for a Government-funded referendum if such plans emerge. Re-drawing the map would mean destroying Leicestershire's history and identity. Our plan protects and recognises Rutland's ceremonial status, and is about empowering our communities and giving more power to people to take decisions locally.

"We're clear - this is about strengthening local democracy, not erasing history."

Read the plan

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/local-government-reorganisation>

I have carefully studied both the Districts plans for two separate authorities and the County's proposal for the one authority for Leicestershire and Rutland. I totally support the one council as splitting services like education, children and families and adults and communities would be more costly and would be disruptive to services that are already have excellent and Good Ratings. The Districts plan would split the County into a North and South unitary authority. one unitary would better funded than the other which again is not fare to the one that is receiving the lower funding.

Pension Fraud Warning.

As pension fraud continues to rise across the UK, authorities are urging savers, especially those nearing retirement, to stay vigilant against increasingly sophisticated scams.

In 2024 alone, over £17.5 million was lost to pension fraud, with victims losing an average of £33,848.



🔍 How are scammers targeting pension holders?

✗ Impersonation Scams:

Fraudsters hack email accounts or gather personal data to impersonate pension holders and redirect funds to fake accounts.

✗ High-Pressure Investment Fraud:

Victims are pressured into transferring pensions into high-risk or fake schemes with promises of guaranteed returns or tax-free cash.

✗ Early Access Scams:

Offers to “unlock” pensions before age 55 are illegal and often result in heavy tax penalties and total loss of funds.

🛡️ How to protect yourself:

✅ Secure your pension account

- Use a unique password (three random words is a good method)
- Enable 2-step verification (adds a second layer of security to your account by requiring a password and a second, unique verification method to log in)

🚫 Ignore unsolicited offers

- Reject any offers if you are contacted out of the blue

- Cold calling about pensions is illegal and likely a sign of a scam
- Always seek independent financial advice before making changes to your pension arrangements (check credentials, use the Financial Conduct Authority register to verify financial advisers)

⚠ Be cautious of investment offers

Watch for red flags like:

- Pressure to act quickly
- Promises of guaranteed high returns
- Downplaying of the risks of losing your money

🚫 If you're targeted or think you've been scammed:

- Report it to **Action Fraud**: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or call **0300 123 2040**
- Contact your bank or pension provider immediately
- Monitor your accounts for suspicious activity

🔗 Learn more: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors and residents for your continued support. After a difficult year for many families, I want to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a very Happy Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Remember if you need help or simple advice, I am only an Email or a phone call away.



Kind Regards

Ozzy O'shea.

Working for you

Cllr Ozzy O'shea

Tel 0116 2394336 or 07808585825

Email ozzy.o'shea@leics.gov.uk

Email: ozzyoshea@hotmail.com