

# **County Councils Report August 2026.**

## **The Labour Government Devolution or I say Labour Land Grab would be more appropriate.**

In mid-July the government published its proposals for Leicester and Leicestershire. Its clear to anyone that this is politically motivated by a labour government in favour of Leicester City's Labour Mayor Peter Soulsby. Its clearly not a democratic decision of the residents of Leicestershire as no public consultation has been officially requested. With what's at stake to the County their should have been a referendum. This is nothing more than a land grab Labour have given a massive chunk of the County to the City taking away a vast amount of housing rates and business rates from the County Council. This will have a knock-on effect the County's Rate payers and services. The Conservative group at County Hall have arrange for a mass demonstration at County Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 1pm Prior to the emergency County Council meeting. Our Closest Neighbours Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe and Anstey have all been included in the City Land Grab. Groby Ratby and Fieldhead remain in the County. Rest assured I shall be fighting this proposal as your County Councillor and supporting a Judicial Review proposal by the Councils across Leicestershire.



Chief Executives of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Councils

Beatrice Andrews

*Deputy Director, Local Government Reorganisation*

***Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government***

2 Marsham Street

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20 July 2026

Dear Chief Executives,

Thank you for your continued engagement and hard work throughout this process.

As you know, the Secretary of State has decided to move forward with implementation of the two unitary proposal submitted by Leicester City Council. In doing so, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Secretary of State will exercise the power to modify the proposal to achieve the boundary change requested alongside their proposal, with the exception of the part parishes. This is, of course, subject to Parliamentary approval. We will now prepare the necessary Structural Changes Order, which will be shared with you in due course for review and any factual amendments. This letter provides information on the decisions Ministers have taken in relation to that Order, the additional information that we require from you by **17 August**, the allocations of grant for the new unitary councils, and the next steps in the process.

### **Overview of the Structural Changes Order**

As we have previously discussed, the Order will establish the new councils and abolish the existing councils. Your councils will remain responsible for services in your areas until they are abolished on 1 April 2028 and will be under a duty to co-operate with each other and with the new councils. The Order provides the transitional arrangements, with the core of that being elections to ‘shadow’ councils in 2027 and providing them with preparatory functions, including the preparation of budgets and plans, to enable the assumption of local government functions and powers on 1 April 2028. It will also provide duties to implement a Leader and Cabinet model, appoint statutory officers, and adopt codes of conduct and members’ allowances.

The Order will provide for matters that Ministers have decided upon following consideration of information in your proposals and your representations submitted in response to my letter of 19 May 2026. Some other matters have also been identified where we will need further input from you by **17 August** in order to finalise the Order and move through the stages described below.

Ministers have also noted that there have been a number of councils who have requested further time to respond on some matters, such as names and

councillor numbers. While decisions have been reached, having regard to proposals, representations and all other information available to them, to allow progress to be made, Ministers have been clear that they will consider any further unanimous representations (i.e. from all affected councils within the area of a new unitary) made by **17 August**. The final decision on what to include in the legislation is ultimately for the Secretary of State to ensure any new councils are well placed to go live.

### **Matters that Ministers have decided**

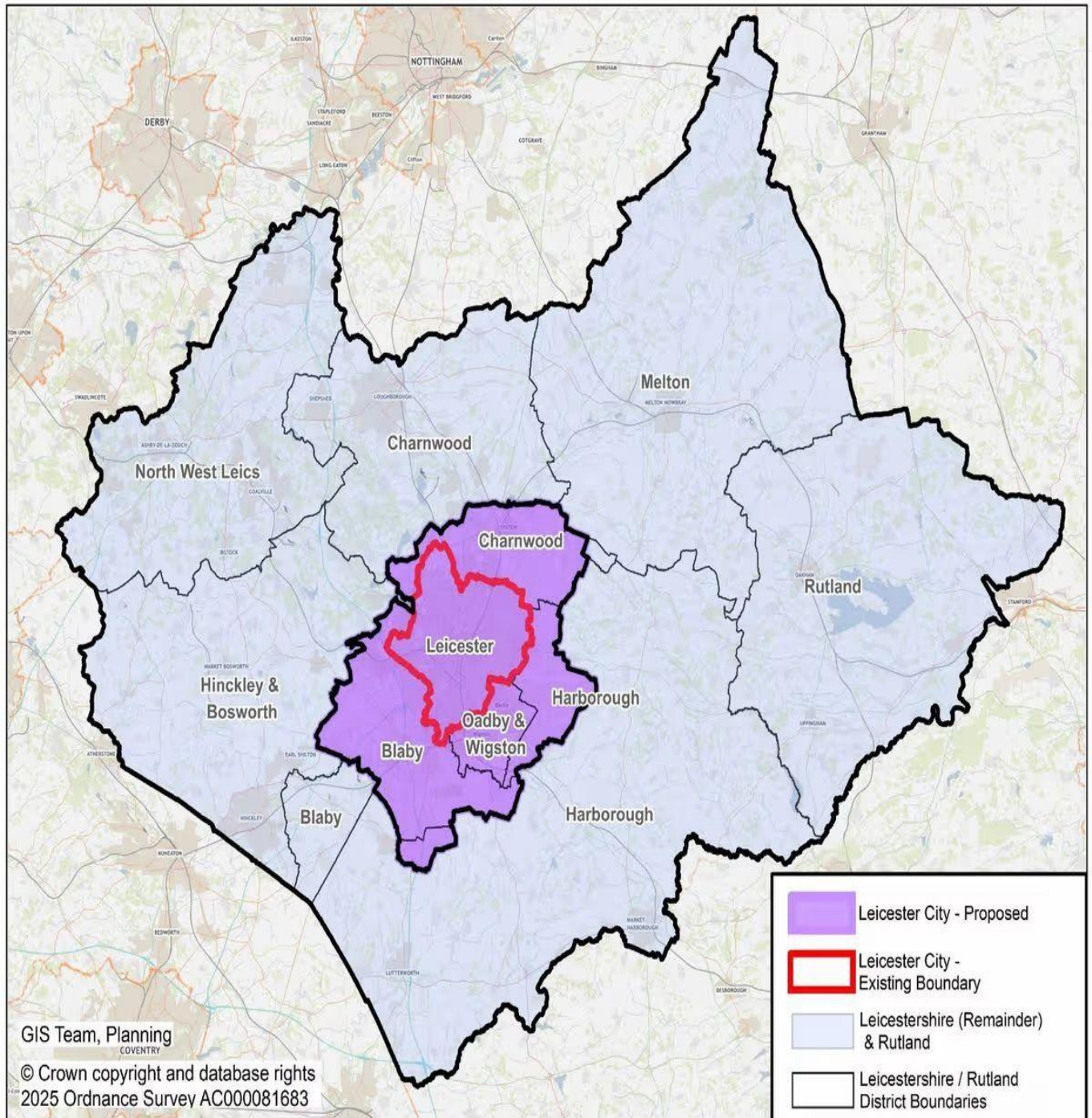
Ministers have now taken decisions on key areas within the Order and we are working closely with our lawyers to prepare a draft, which we anticipate we will share with you in September.

#### *Names and councillor numbers*

| The new unitary councils, and the number of councillors that will represent them, are to be: | Areas Covered                                                                                                                                                                                           | Number of councillors |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Leicester Council                                                                            | Leicester City Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, plus 16 parishes from Blaby District Council, 11 parishes from Charnwood Borough Council and seven parishes from Harborough District Council | 91                    |
| Leicestershire and Rutland Council                                                           | Blaby District Council less 16 parishes, Charnwood Borough Council less 11 parishes, Harborough District Council less seven parishes, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton                     | 94                    |



Borough Council,  
North West  
Leicestershire District  
Council and Rutland  
County Council



**Residents will know that I work closely with Trading Standards.**  
**Here are some of the latest Scams please Beware!!**

**Will Writing Scams**

 **Warning: Be Alert to Unregulated Will Writing Services**

Leicestershire residents are being warned to be on their guard of companies offering cheap Will writing and other legal services.

These companies are often unregulated but may give the impression that they are run by qualified solicitors, giving a false sense of trust. They are known to advertise online on TV shopping channels or in shopping centres. Once a consumer has made an enquiry, a representative may arrange to visit them at home.

 **What to Watch Out For**

During home visits, consumers have reported:

- Being pressured into purchasing more expensive wills
- Being encouraged to buy potentially unnecessary add-ons such as:
  - Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)
  - Property Trusts
- Experiencing high-pressure sales tactics, confusion, and excessive charges

In some cases, promised documents were never received, or arrived after the 14-day cancellation period. This made it difficult to cancel agreements or contact the company.

  **Concerns About Property Trusts**

Caution is advised regarding Property Trusts in particular. Some consumers were told these would protect their home from being used by the local authority to pay for future care home fees.

However, reports indicate:

- Homeowners later experienced difficulties selling their properties.
- Some companies charged fees of up to 2% of the estate.

## ✅ How to Protect Yourself

- ✓ **Check credentials** – ensure you are dealing with a regulated solicitor or legal professional. You can find one here 👉 [Find a Solicitor - The Law Society](#)



- ✓ **Avoid cold callers** – never hand over money, property deeds, or personal details to someone unexpected.
- ✓ **Be wary of pressure** – urgent deadlines or aggressive sales tactics are red flags.
- ✓ **Take your time** – legitimate professionals will never rush you into signing paperwork.

## 🚩 Report It

If you believe you've been targeted or are the victim of a scam:

- 🌐 Visit: [UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud - Report Fraud](https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/)  
<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

Or

- 📞 Call: **0300 123 2040**

## **Fancy A Day Out?**

### **The Surge in Fake ‘Days Out’ on social media – How to Spot Them and Stay Safe**

Fraudsters are increasingly using professional-looking posts on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to advertise non-existent events or heavily discounted tickets. Alongside the growth in legitimate promotions, there has been a worrying rise in fake or misleading adverts designed to scam consumers.



The posts often feature eye-catching images, convincing descriptions, and limited time offers to create a sense of urgency. In some cases, scammers impersonate well-known venues, brands, or even local attractions to gain trust and encourage quick purchases.

#### **Key tactics include:**

- **Eye-catching ads** featuring stunning destinations and low prices.
- **Fake business pages** with logos, reviews, and branding
- **Direct messaging** to collect payments quickly.
- **Limited time offers** to pressure people into booking without checking.

Once payment is sent, victims may receive no ticket or confirmation at all, fake tickets or itineraries, last-minute cancellations with no refund, or a trip that never existed.

#### **Scam Warning Signs Checklist**

Look out for these common red flags:



- ✓ Prices that seem too good to be true
- ✓ Messages claiming "limited tickets remaining" or countdown timers creating pressure to buy quickly
- ✓ Poor spelling, grammar or low-quality adverts
- ✓ Newly created social media pages with very few followers
- ✓ A lack of genuine, independent customer reviews
- ✓ Comments that seem repetitive or overly positive
- ✓ Requests to pay by bank transfer or unfamiliar payment methods
- ✓ Links that take you away from official websites
- ✓ Lack of contact details or booking information

## **How to Stay Safe**

Before making a purchase:

- ✓ Visit the attraction's official website or social media pages to confirm the event is genuine.
- ✓ Search for independent reviews rather than relying on comments attached to the advert.
- ✓ Purchase tickets directly from reputable retailers or authorised sellers whenever possible.
- ✓ Use secure payment methods, such as a credit card, which may provide additional protection.
- ✓ Take a moment to research before clicking on links to make a purchase

## **Report Suspicious Adverts**

If you come across a suspicious advert or believe you have been targeted by a scam:

- ◆ Report the advert to the social media platform.
- ◆ Contact your bank or card provider if you have made a payment.
- ◆ Report the incident to Report Fraud (details below at the end)



- ◆ Share information with friends and family to help prevent others from becoming victims.

## **Summer Doorstep Crime Warning**

As the weather warms up, rogue traders and doorstep criminals often become more active. Be cautious of anyone offering unsolicited home repairs, gardening work, or cleaning services. Never agree to work on the spot, pay cash up front, or feel pressured into making a quick decision.

### **Remember:**

Always use reputable traders.  
Check identification before opening the door.  
Do not let unexpected callers into your home.

If in doubt, keep the door closed and seek advice from a trusted friend or family member.

If you are concerned about a suspicious caller, report it to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice on **0808 223 1133** or **contact the police if you feel threatened.**

## **Useful tools and resources:**

- Check if something might be a scam here

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam)

- Check if a telephone number might be a scam here [www.who-called.co.uk](http://www.who-called.co.uk)

If you would like to report a scam, or you have been a victim of fraud, you can get in touch with the following organisations:

- Report Fraud – [www.reportfraud.police.uk](http://www.reportfraud.police.uk) or call on 0300 123 2040 to report fraud and cyber-crime.

- Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline - 0808 223 1133 for further advice and next steps.

- If you think fraudsters may have obtained your money, contact your bank immediately using the contact details on the back of your card or bank statement.

I hope residents have had a relaxing break if you have been away. If not and you about to go away, then I wish you a relaxing holiday. Please make sure you fully secure your property before going away.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank residents and councillors for your continued support. I am available at Parish Council meetings, or I can visit you if you need help or advice. Remember I am only an Email or a phone call away.

***Ozzy O'shea.***

***Always Working for you Locally.***

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