

County Councillors Report October 2026.

Leicestershire residents and visitors can enjoy free and discounted bus travel every Saturday until the end of December.

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Travelling by bus on all Leicestershire County Council supported services will be completely free on Saturdays from 3 October to 26 December, helping people explore more of the county, visit local attractions and enjoy days out for less.

The supported services start with LC ie LC13 is our local supported service that covers Groby and Ratby.

There's also 50 per cent off all journeys every Saturday on Fox Connect, the on-demand bookable bus service which allows passengers to book a journey via the app or by phone to travel to local centres, services and areas of interest.

With 11 operating zones across the county, it makes it easier than ever to reach local markets, seasonal events and shopping destinations from Monday to Saturday, 6am – 7:30pm.

We're pleased to be able to offer residents more opportunities to travel by bus for less this autumn and in the run-up to Christmas.

Whether it's enjoying a woodland walk as the leaves change colour, browsing the Christmas markets, meeting up with friends and family or discovering local museums and attractions, there's plenty to do and explore during the colder seasons.

These offers make it easier for people to access public transport, support local businesses, visit attractions and stay connected with their communities.

I'd encourage everyone to take advantage of these savings and discover the benefits of travelling by bus.

Local Government reorganisation update.

On 7 September 2026, Government confirmed that it is undertaking a review of a number of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decisions, including the plans for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

It is not yet clear how long the review will take or what impact, if any, it may have on the timeline for reorganisation in our area.

Government has confirmed that local elections will take place in May 2027. This means that Rutland County Council, Leicester City Council, district and borough council elections will go ahead based on existing boundaries.

We will continue to work in strong partnership across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland as we understand the impact of this announcement.

Thefts from motor vehicles in Ratby.

I have been made aware that thefts from motor vehicles are on the rise. Please make sure that you remove all valuables from your vehicles overnight. If you have a works van I appreciate it can be a pain but please take your tools out and don't let these thieves have an easy ride. The police have been paying special attention over the past months but can not be everywhere. If you have had an attempt or a break into to your vehicle or shed please report it to the police on 101 they need to know thank you.

This is the most likely reason your phone will get hacked

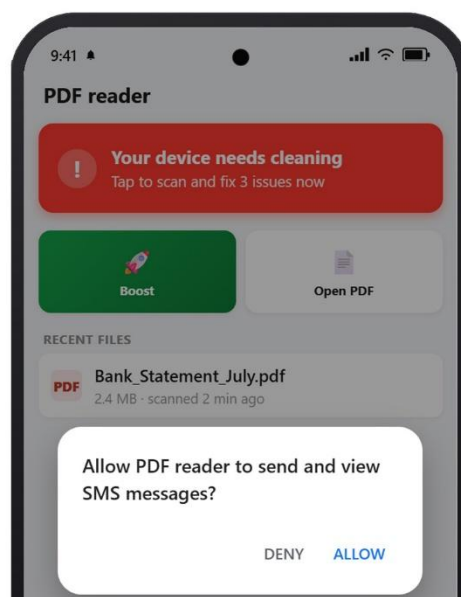
Tech Support experts explain how rogue apps can take over your phone, the warning signs to watch for and how to remove them

Persistent pop-ups, apps you don't remember installing or unexpected changes to your home screen can all be signs that something isn't right with your phone.

Which? Tech Support regularly hears from members concerned that their phone has been hacked. 'When we deal with cases linked to hacked phones, the vast majority of the time the problem can be traced back to a dodgy app,' says Conor Houlihan, Technical Support Adviser at Which? Tech Support.

These apps can bombard your phone with adverts, encourage you to install more unwanted software and, in some cases, make it extremely difficult to regain control of your device.

Below, we highlight the warning signs to look out for, how to get rid of a troublesome app and the simple checks that can help you avoid downloading one in the first place. The problems caused by downloading dangerous apps can quickly escalate, particularly if they encourage you to install additional software.



Rogue apps masquerading as simple tools, such as QR code scanners and PDF readers, are among the examples our Tech Support team comes across.

Downloading from the Google Play Store isn't an absolute guarantee of safety, as harmful apps have occasionally slipped through its checks.

We recently heard from one Tech Support member whose Samsung phone had started displaying 'constant pop-ups and adverts all over the screen'. The adverts encouraged them to call a number or install another app, while restarting the phone made no difference.

I think my Android has been hacked. There are constant pop-ups all over the screen, inviting me to either call a number or install an app. A Which Tech Support member says

Our mock-up above shows some of the warning signs to watch for. The alarming 'Your device needs cleaning' message is designed to encourage you to act, while the 'Boost' button offers a vague fix. The app also asks for permission to send and view SMS messages, which a basic PDF reader shouldn't need.

In more serious cases, a rogue app can replace your phone's launcher, the software that controls how your home screen and app drawer look and behave. Conor says the team has even encountered apps that imitate the Android Settings screen, making it harder for the user to find and remove the culprit.

Most of the cases our Tech Support team sees involve Android phones. Android allows apps to be installed from outside Google Play, while iPhones sold in the UK place tighter restrictions on installing software from outside Apple's App Store. iPhone users can still encounter scam apps and nuisance browser notifications, though.

What to do if you've been affected

If you're being bombarded with adverts or suspicious pop-ups, don't follow any on-screen instructions. Avoid calling numbers they display or downloading apps they prompt you to install.

If you think an unwanted app is to blame, try the following:

- **Check recently installed apps** – look for anything you don't recognise, particularly apps installed around the time the problems started. For a full list of what's installed on Android, go to **Settings > Apps**.

- **Use safe mode to remove troublesome apps** – safe mode temporarily disables apps you've installed, which can make it easier to remove the one causing problems. On many Android phones, you can open the **power menu**, then touch and hold **Power off** until the safe mode option appears. Once your phone restarts, go to **Settings > Apps**, uninstall anything suspicious, then restart your phone normally.
- **Check browser notifications** – if the pop-ups are coming from Chrome, tap the **three-dot menu**, then **Settings > Site settings > Notifications**. Block notifications from any websites you don't recognise or trust (see also: the easy way to get rid of annoying phone notifications).
- <https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/how-to-get-rid-of-annoying-phone-notifications-ajQ6w4Q6940q>
- **Act if you've shared sensitive details** – if you've entered payment or banking information into a suspicious app or website, contact your bank using a trusted number or its official app. Change the passwords for any accounts you think could be at risk, too.

Finally, I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather whilst it lasts. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and remind you that should you need my help or advice; I always pride myself on making myself available to residents. Remember I am only a phone call or email away.

Ozzy O'shea.

Always Working for you Locally.

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